

Community and SMSC

# The Priory Ruskin Academy

## Term 4 Newsletter 2016/17

### A message from the Headteacher...

This term, I'm proud to be able to announce that once again Ruskin has been recognised by the SSAT as one of the top performing schools nationally for progress. This is a fantastic accolade and a real testament to the dedication of the staff, our students who take full advantage of the many opportunities afforded to them by the Academy and the support of parents.

As ever, Ruskin is proud of the many events it hosts for our students; we genuinely believe that a fully rounded school experience, enjoyment and engagement in all aspects of Academy life supports and deepens learning, helping us to year on year improve our standards. As our aspiring Oxbridge candidates learnt, academic excellence alongside a cultured, creative and community spirited mind sets them apart. This is why one of our key passions at Ruskin is reading, and this term has seen a number of events from reading week to visiting authors and World Book Day as well as encouraging our younger primary school guests to visit the library. I hope the students have a good Easter break and take the time to enjoy a great book!

Ms R Wyles

### Ruskin Students Visit Hogwarts



Year 9 Performing Arts and Photography students enjoyed a magical trip to the Warner Brothers studios for the Harry Potter tour on 7th March. They got the chance to walk up Diagon Alley, see genuine costumes, learn about animatronics, experience the use of the

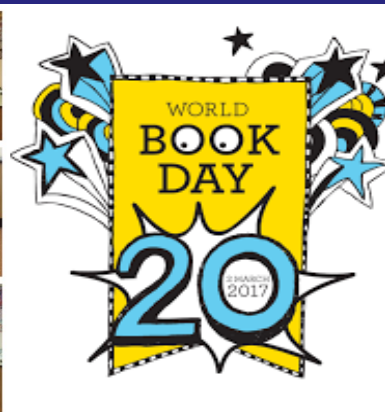
green screen and see hundreds of props used in the renowned films. By the end of the day it was clear to them that, although it is the actors who receive the glory, the hundreds of talented workers behind the scenes are actually the stars.

## Morris House Raise £200 for St Barnabas Hospice

Thank you to all who purchased a chocolate Easter Chicken, we sold all 200 of them raising £200 - with all the money raised going directly to supporting St Barnabas Hospice and the super work they do locally.



## World Book Day



Staff and students at The Priory Ruskin Academy marked World Book Day on Thursday 2nd March, enjoying a number of activities...and allowing staff to have a bit of fun too!

Staff came dressed up as famous book characters

and wrapped books were hidden around the Academy which, when found, students got to keep. All students were given vouchers for a free World Book Day book and new books were available to purchase at hugely discounted prices – just in time for our latest Reading Week which followed...

## Reading Week - Term 4



We did things a little differently for Reading Week this time. As is custom for Reading Week, students read for ten minutes at the start of every lesson but Mrs Alexander also set a different challenge...for students to design an alternative cover for one of their favourite books. Students really stepped up to the task set so a huge well done to everyone who took part.

House Results (ranked by number of entries)

- 1st place- Knight
- 2nd place- Hepworth
- 3rd place- Morris
- 4th place- Mackintosh

Tutor Group Results (ranked by number of entries)

- Miss C Foster (Hep)
- Miss E Dewar (Kni)
- Tie between Miss M Jallow and Miss L Callan (both Kni)

Top 3 students (their fantastic covers are featured opposite!)

- 1st Place- Libby Crisp (Hep)
- 2nd place- Lily Welch (Hep)
- 3rd place- Stefania Popa (Kni)



# Community: Students Help Rid the Manthorpe Estate of Litter



On Friday 3rd March, a team of community spirited Ruskin students (along with Mrs Scott and Mrs Geeson) pounded the pavements of the Manthorpe Estate to do their bit for the national 'Big Tidy Up' initiative (in conjunction with SKDC). Despite the abysmal weather, the group set off in high spirits and managed to fill several bags full of litter. A member of SKDC said, 'It's fantastic to see such enthusiastic young people engaging in this important initiative'.

Since 2008, the Big Tidy Up has mobilised more than half a million people in more than 25,000 groups to collect nearly 120,000 bags of rubbish. And this is just the start for Ruskin. Mrs Geeson is looking to arrange a regular litter picking committee to ensure we all take responsibility for our own Academy environment...it will also count towards students achieving their Ruskin Respect Award for Community.



## Comic Relief 2017



The Academy raised over £700 for Comic Relief on Friday 24th March. We are overwhelmed, once again, by the generous spirit of the Ruskin community - thank you everyone! The day was

coordinated by Knight House, who did a fantastic job selling red noses, running a super cake sale and challenging tutor groups to fill as many Smarties tubes as possible with 20 pence coins. A special mention must go to Miss Dewar and Mr Picton's tutor groups who both raised over £50 filling their smarties tubes - well done!

A huge thank you to Sainsbury's in Grantham who supported us with this fundraising event, donating copious tubes of Smarties and a

huge box of cookies to sell in the cake sale.



## Students Prepare for Competitive Oxbridge Entry

On Friday 24th March, Ruskin students from Year 11 and Year 12 headed to our sister school, The Priory Academy LSST, to attend an annual Oxbridge conference. Students were excited to attend this prestigious event, where they could meet current undergraduates and fellows from several disciplines. School liaison officers were present from both Oxford and

Cambridge university colleges, running workshops and answering any questions students had. Students were able to choose seminars and lectures about the different courses offered, what it is like being an Oxbridge student, how to prepare applications and how the medic tests are structured.

This was the first time that

Ruskin students have attended this event and is testament to the incredibly high standard these students are working to.



# Academy Ski Trip 2017



During half term students from Ruskin, along with students from the other Priory Federation Academies, travelled to Bardonecchia, Italy, on the annual ski trip. The trip was a huge success and the weather conditions for skiing in Italy were great, ranging from snow at the

start of the week to bright sunshine by the end of the week.

The group consisted of beginners and those who had skied before but by the end of the holiday the beginners were skiing down from the top of the mountain and had made fantastic progress over the week. The group had a great time, celebrating two 'milestone' birthdays, dining out at a traditional pizzeria and enjoying other activities such as ice skating. Some had such a good time they are already looking forward to the ski trip to Folgaria in 2018. If you are interested in joining us please see Mrs Esam or Mr Charles for a letter.



## Students Shine at Mayor's Charity Event



A talented group of dancers from The Priory Ruskin Academy took centre stage at The Mayor of Grantham's Charity Show on Friday 10th March. Billed as an evening of laughter, dance and show stopping songs, the event showcase the incredible talents of local people as well as raising money for the Grantham Carnival Events Group.

Twenty Ruskin students drawn from Year 7 to Year 13 performed their dance piece at the Guildhall, the performance being the culmination of months of lunch time, break time and after school rehearsals. They performed with so much passion and beaming smiles.

Miss Thompson, who worked with the group in preparation for their performance said, "There was fantastic feedback from the audience and parents and I could not have been more proud".

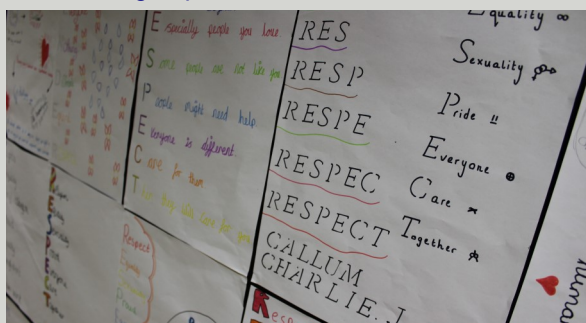


# Personal Development Day: Feb 2017

On Tuesday 28th February students at The Priory Ruskin Academy enjoyed a jam-packed PD Day, the second of this academic year. As always the timetable was planned to ensure each student had a rounded, age appropriate day focusing on all elements of personal development: from activities inspired by different cultures, sessions focused on the individual and keeping safe, happy and healthy as well as hearing from invited inspirational speakers. Students also took part in workshops designed to practically prepare them for their futures beyond the Academy with activities including: writing a CV & covering letter, budgeting and understanding the value of money and career pathways.



Cultural activities included: Exploring Korean Culture, African Dance, Exploring Celtic Culture and Understanding Japanese Culture and the Geisha.



Students explored one of our central values, respect. Focusing on sexuality and equality; portraying their thoughts through music, drama and movement.



From cancer awareness to road safety, The Amy Winehouse Foundation delivering session on self esteem & peer pressure to first aid with the British Heart Foundation, students were given lots to think about and discuss throughout the day.



Finally, with PD Day taking place on Shrove Tuesday, we couldn't have missed Food Technology sessions with Mr Esam making pancakes!

# Philosophy Club

Philosophy Club runs every Tuesday lunchtime and is open to students from Year 9 and above. The aim of the club is to provide a space for students to think and discuss the big questions; What is reality? Is there a purpose to human life? Is there a God? Are we really free? Students have also been introduced to the philosophical ideas of Plato, Aristotle, the Existentialists and the Sceptics, finding out about a range of philosophical thinkers who have shaped our view of the world today.

Due to the popularity of the club, we have introduced a new short course as an Introduction to Western Philosophy. Students attend ten lunchtime sessions, discuss a stimulus and write a short reflective statement on what they have learned from this philosophical idea. Students who complete

the programme will be awarded a certificate from Angela Hobbs, Professor of the Public Understanding of Philosophy at the University of Sheffield. This programme is now being extended and rolled out to Sixth Form as part of their enrichment curriculum.

Hamid Mahmood in Year 11, an enthusiastic regular to the club, said, "In Philosophy Club we gain a more adept knowledge of the society and the world around us. It is a great experience that changes your viewpoint of the world that surrounds you."

Mr Shorrock, who facilitates the club, said, "Learning about Philosophy is about learning skills in critical thinking, debating ideas and problem solving. There are big benefits to students in being able to do these things well."

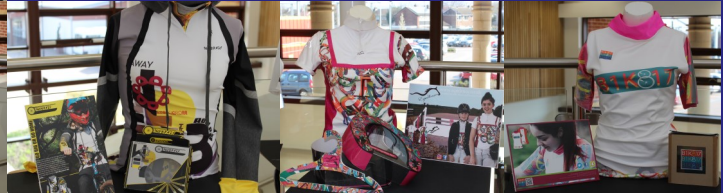
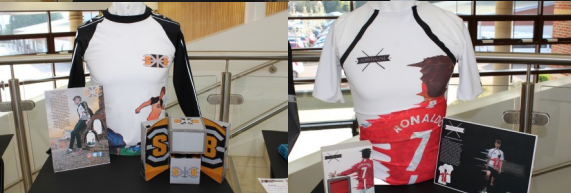
## Focus On: Product Design



Year 11 Product Design students have showcased some of their quite incredible coursework as they near the end of their GCSE. Their coursework, which makes up 60% of their final grade, was centred around healthy lifestyles and they chose to make a piece of active or sportswear complete with packaging.

The students have designed everything you see from start to finish; they have drawn the graphics on computers, created the logos and branding, printed, cut and sewn every garment as well as conducting a photoshoot and using Photoshop to develop their brand advertisement.

After such a positive GCSE experience, many of the students are choosing to continue their Product Design studies in Sixth Form next year....we can't wait to see what they make next!



## Orbis Motus: Classical Music With a Twist

As a reward for their outstanding progress in Music this year, and also as an opportunity to gain Ruskin Respect Award points towards 'Creativity', 7B1 were treated to a trip to St. Wulfram's church to see a live performance of 'Orbis Motus'. The show itself was produced by the 'Guildhall Producers' who were made up of eight 13-14 year old students from the King's School and The Priory Ruskin Academy (Jacob Wand: stage manager and Nathaniel Johnson: Designer/Technician.) Together, they have worked to find a creative and original way of showcasing the best in classical music.

The show is based around Amadeus Fink, an MI6 agent in hot pursuit of the evil Silencio who is determined to rid the world of music altogether. As Fink travels around the globe, we see images of landmarks and hear musical pieces connected to the countries in question. The music was performed by the extremely talented Manchester

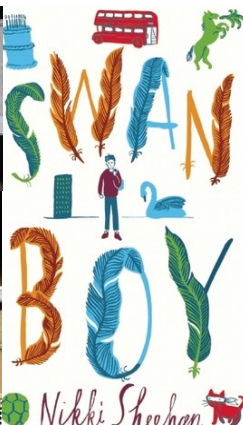
Camerata, who did an outstanding job of bringing each and every piece to life. The pieces included Sam Smith's 'Writing's on the wall' and 'Flight of the bumblebee,' composed by Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov to name but a few.

As a finale to the concert, the students had collaborated with the musicians to create their own piece which, of course, had a twist to it. The audience were asked to use their phones to record this original piece of music. Upon finishing the piece, they were asked to play the recordings back on their phones. The sound from multiple phones filled the church, bringing modern technology and classical music together in a creative and magical way!





## Students Benefit From Visiting Author Workshop



Year 8 and 9 students spent an amazing afternoon in the company of Nikki Sheehan, author of *Who Framed Klavis Cliff* and *Swan Boy*. Coordinated by Mrs Geeson, in partnership with KGGS, Nikki visited to talk about her books and writing process and, with her contagious creativity and imagination, inspired our students to collectively start to create their own story.

It was fantastic to see the brainstorming of ideas come together with Nikki really challenging students to think beyond the obvious and be really inventive. The workshop was followed by an insightful Q&A session: How long did it take you to write *Swan Boy*? (7 weeks but about a year of editing), What animal would you like to be? (A horse) and When did you decide you wanted to be a writer? (at the age of about 7 when she had a poem published in a magazine). And Nikki's biggest piece of advice for any aspiring authors out there? "Read, Read, Read and Write, Write, Write – just keep on writing!"

## Harlaxton Primary Hundertwasser Workshop



This term saw students in Year 5 from Harlaxton Primary School visit Ruskin to work with Miss Maloney to design and make a mural for their school library. The students looked at vibrant paintings by Hundertwasser for inspiration.

They then developed their own designs from life

drawings to add to a very colourful and stripy background. Miss Maloney also worked with them to make posters and bookmarks to encourage students to read. Thanks to the creativity, talent and hard work of all of the Harlaxton artists the resulting mural is an absolutely stunning masterpiece!

## Charity Hip Hop Show a Huge Success

A huge well done to Jamie Jessop, who along with his friend Alfie, raised €1320 in Ireland and £112 in England for Tuam Cancer Care Centre in Co Galway, Ireland.

Jamie sadly lost his Grandad to cancer last September and he wanted to raise money to help the fantastic charity that supported his Grandad throughout his illness.

A talented dancer, Jamie decided to organise a Hip Hop show to

raise money. Jamie coordinated the entire event, from the dance routines, music, lighting, and raffle. The show was a huge success and the total raised was phenomenal.

Jamie had the opportunity to visit the centre to present the cheque and thank them personally for the support they had given his Grandad. Whilst there, he found out that the money he had raised had funded sixty-six complementary therapy sessions for local people who are suffering

or recovering from cancer. The centre also provides counselling to families and children who have been affected by cancer.

This exemplifies true Ruskin spirit - well done Jamie.



# Avery Lodge Wishing Well Event

Year 9 Health and Social Care students were invited to visit Avery Lodge Care Home and listen to a presentation by some of the care home staff and residents about their 'Wishing Well' initiative. The programme allows residents to make wishes relating to any activity they miss, or would like to try out, and the team enjoy trying to make this become a reality.



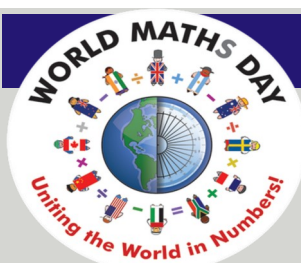
Many of the stories were really moving and it demonstrated how important it is for carers to get an understanding of their residents, finding out their life stories and getting to know the things they would really like to do.

The students had chance to talk to each of the residents and then had to present their findings to the rest of the group. The students were then given the opportunity to look round the care home and ask questions about working in a care environment.

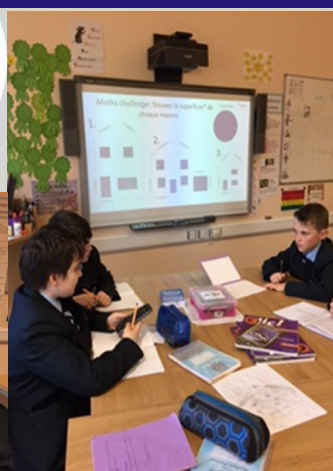
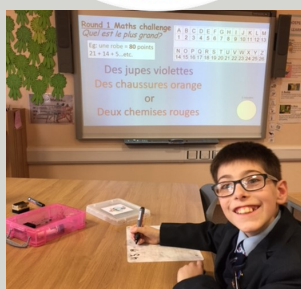
## Key Stage 3 Sewing Bee

The Sewing Bee Club is a popular club for budding fashion designers or for students who simply enjoy making things! Is it currently attended by a group of predominantly Year 8 students who have been making applique cushions and bags, with more advanced students making their own clothes from commercial patterns.

Mrs Spencer is hoping to launch the Sewing Bee Club to Year 7 students in the Summer Term so please look out for further details of days and times.



## World Maths Day



Sunday 12th March was World Maths Day. Never wanting to miss an opportunity for our students to further hone their Maths skills, Ruskin celebrated it on Monday 13th March!

Teachers of Key Stage 3 students intertwined Maths into their normal lessons, with the aim of raising awareness of the use of maths in a wide range of subjects. Staff set students short Maths tasks to complete, incorporated generic Maths activities which could be adapted for all curriculum areas and some departments, such as Science and Modern Foreign Languages, even developed their own bespoke activities to coincide with topics being delivered.



# DofE: Students Well On Their Way to Qualifying Expedition

On a wet and windy March weekend, nineteen Ruskin students set off to complete their twelve mile Duke of Edinburgh practice expedition. Weighed down with their expertly packed rucksacks (inclusive of bin bag lining - thanks for the tip Mrs Greenfield!) the students completed the tough hike in good spirits and with dogged determination. They even managed to learn to whittle wood, firelight and cook on a fire. Well done to everyone!

The next practice expedition will take place in the beautiful Vale of Belvoir on the 20th/21st May, with students completing the hike in small groups and navigating themselves from their designated starting point to their campsite. They need to be totally self sufficient and this final practice will be as close to their qualifying expedition as possible.

The Academy is always looking for volunteers to help with expeditions. If you are interested in helping please contact Mrs Greenfield.



## Thank you from Ruskin DofE



A few weeks ago we shared this advert on Facebook and we are delighted to confirm we have received over £4,000 worth of second hand outdoor equipment donated to us by several individuals and outdoor education facilities. A huge thank you to everyone, with an extra special thank you to the Anderton Centre in Manchester. This is massively helped us out and we are now able to offer much better expedition experiences for students. We received 6 man tents, walking boots, sleeping bags and cookers.

## Ruskin Raises Over £940 for Rotarian Action Group Against Child Slavery



Students at The Priory Ruskin Academy were delighted to present a huge cheque for £942.86 to the Rotary Club of Grantham, in support of Rotarian Action Group Against Child Slavery. The total amount was raised through the combined efforts of bag packing in ASDA over

the busy Christmas period as well as a coffee morning hosted at the Academy earlier this year. We are delighted to have raised such a fantastic amount for such a worthy cause. A huge well done to Ruskin students for their hard work and grateful thanks to ASDA in Grantham and to everyone who contributed at both of the events

## Lord Norton Visits Ruskin



On Friday 24th March, Lord Norton of Louth visited the Academy to speak to our Sixth Form Law students as part of the "Speakers for Schools" programme.

Lord Norton, who has been described as "the United Kingdom's greatest living expert on Parliament" and "a world authority on constitutional issues", spoke to students about the role of the House of Lords, followed by a questions and answers session for the students to gain specific insight into their area of interest.

Ruskin student, James Cotterhill, said, "Lord Norton possessed a vast wealth of information on the political topics that he seemed happy to share and help the room gain further understanding of these."

Keep up with the latest sports news on twitter by following @ruskinsport

## Sports Digest Term 4

Well, what a term in The Priory Ruskin Academy PE Department! This term has seen Ruskin sport achieving successes never previously encountered.



Our competitive netball teams have been developing extremely well over the past three years and the Year 9 girls have surpassed the successes of previous year groups. The girls had a very challenging game against a KSHS team (that included two county players) to decide the district league

winners. With an incredible team performance the girls won the game 18-16 and were crowned district league champions.

The Sixth Form football squad made an incredible step forward this season, moving from one team in the B league to a team in both A and B leagues...this was always going to be a difficult season. Going into the final game of the season the B team had no wins to their name, however, in the final game against Spalding Grammar, they rallied together to take the first win with a 2-1 score. The A team also finished the season on a high in the first ever 'Old Boys' game. After a 1-1 draw in normal time the game went to penalties and was won by the current Year 12/13s in sudden death.



Year 8 team are having a very good run of fixtures and have a great chance of being crowned district league winners with one game to play against Carre's Grammar.

In girls' football, Year 7 qualified for the futsal county finals and finished second in the county, a great result from a team showing true potential.

Rugby this term has seen a number of county tournaments. Year 7 boys put on a great display in

the annual 7s tournament finishing runners up in the plate competition and followed this result up a week



later at the county 12 aside tournament finishing an incredible third in the county after beating Spalding Grammar in the 3rd/4th position playoff. Year 8 boys finished the county 7s tournament bringing home

the plate after improving their game greatly throughout the day, whilst the Year 9s qualified for the cup competition and were knocked out at the semifinal stage by Carres.

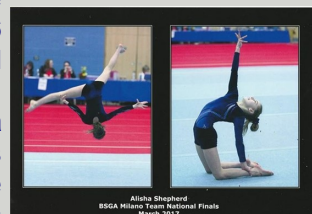
Ruskin badminton teams have continued their successes with the U12 boys and girls and U16 boys winning their league competitions. Winning the leagues enables these teams to compete at the national league finals on 20th/21st May at the Badminton National Centre of Excellence, Milton Keynes. This is a great opportunity and Ruskin are hoping to go one better than last year when the U16 boys brought home the silver medals.

Ruskin gymnasts have trained hard throughout the year and competed in the Milano National Finals in Stoke on Trent. The Academy was exceptionally well represented with particular success being seen on the vault. We also saw a superb set of results from the Grantham Schools' Floor and Vault Competition;

U13 girls Isla and Neeve Pexton 2nd and 4th, U16 Girls NC Molly Hubbard 4th and Abbie Phillips 3rd, U16 Girls AC Alisha Shepherd 3rd, U13 Boys Toby Doughty 3rd and Joe Taylor 1st, U16 Boys

Lucas Kokocinski 3rd, Tom Charley 2nd and Kyle Davidson 1st.

Next term will see the PE Department move onto the summer sports of athletics, cricket, tennis and rounders.



## England Netballer: Coaching Sessions



In March, as a treat for working extremely hard this year in training, Ruskin's netball teams had an hour long coaching session with

Natalie Panagarry. Natalie is an England Netball player and is currently playing for Superleague team Loughborough Lightning. The girls benefitted from a session which focused on attack, specifically

driving towards the ball and change of direction, which they hope to use in their upcoming matches.

Miss Dewar said, 'Natalie commented on how well the girls listened and how dedicated and driven they are to improve. Fantastic work by all involved as always!'





# The Priory Ruskin Academy

## Term 4 Newsletter

### KEY DIARY DATES FOR TERM 5

#### Students Involved:

ALL	18th April	Term 5 2016/17 Begins
Y9 Art	20th April	Trip to Yorkshire Sculpture Park
Ticket Event (open to public)	22nd April	Strictly Come Dancing Final
ALL	24th-28th April	Reading Week
Ticket Event (open to public)	27th April	SOS Fashion Show
ALL	2nd May	Author Visit (Evening Event - Details TBC)
ALL	2nd-5th May	House Rounders and Tennis Competitions
Sixth Form	5th May	Quiz Night
Y10	8th May	Photography Trip
Y7 Knight	8th-12th May	Trip to France
Y8	9th May	Trip to Holocaust Centre
Y7 Mackintosh	15th-19th May	Trip to France
Y10 Art	16th May	Trip to The Deep
Year 7 Morris	22nd-26th May	Trip to France
ALL	26th May	Term 5 2016/17 Ends
ALL	5th June	Term 6 2016/17 Begins

