



RUSKIN A PRIORY ACADEMY ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

Christmas 2019 Community and SMSC

A message from the Headteacher...

Season's greetings! At Ruskin, we have been very much enjoying getting into the festive spirit; each House and the Sixth Form has enjoyed a resplendent Christmas lunch and the Year 7s have been truly initiated into the Ruskin family, attending and participating in the Carol Service at St Wulfram's Church. This year the service was outstanding; moving, graceful, and full of hope and a sense of joy. The performers were exceptional; from the clarity of the speakers, to the serene beauty of the choir and choristers, I was full of absolute admiration and pride for Ruskin and the quality and compassion exemplified by all. In the spirit of the season, it was also wonderful to extend our Ruskin family occasion to six primary schools from Grantham; their choirs were fabulous, exuberant and confident; it is no mean feat singing in front of 800 people!

The Carol Service was also a focal point for our charitable work; this year we have again collected donations for the Grantham Foodbank, which along with our Rotary shoe box appeal, really helps those in need. I would like to thank students and parents for their generosity and support.

Alongside our commitment to promoting the arts in all its forms, we proudly promote sports and sporting achievements. We are blessed with superlative, selfless staff at Ruskin and this is absolutely the case in sports; led by Mr Gunter, the team show unwavering dedication to promoting sports and inspiring our young people to reach their full potential. Ruskin's place in the top 1% of state schools for sport is an absolute testament to the team of staff and the players.

After an incredibly busy term, we are now all ready to enjoy the seasonal holidays. Thank you all for your continued support of the academy, and I wish you all a very merry, peaceful Christmas and a prosperous new year.

Ms R Wyles

Ruskin: 'Top 1% of State Schools for Sport'

The nation's leading publication for sport in schools, School Sports Magazine, has released its top 100 state schools for sport in England...and Ruskin has placed 26th. This means Ruskin is in the top 1% of state schools for sport nationally. School Sports Magazine rankings are based on performance of competitive school teams across all age groups in a wide variety of national competitions.

Mr Alan Gunter, Director of Sport at the academy said, "This national recognition is testament to the hours dedicated to sport at Ruskin before school, at lunchtime and after school. I am proud of the broad and comprehensive range of extra-curricular clubs our exceptional PE department offers and the culture we have fostered that genuinely encourages student participation regardless of experience. The commitment of our students, their parents, staff and supporting coaches have all contributed to the successes Ruskin enjoyed in 2019 and we look forward to continuing our journey in 2020".



Don't forget to follow us on Twitter and Facebook for up-to-date news and events!

Twitter: @prioryruskin Facebook: The Priory Ruskin Academy



Over 150 students attended the Year 7&8 Disco on 2nd December - raising over £500 for a student led initiative!

Art Department Delivers Stunning Christmas Display



Ruskin's Art department have been busy once more as they transform the main foyer for Christmas this year. This year's front of school display was inspired by the classic idea of stained glass windows and the contemporary structure of geometric design. Staff and students worked tirelessly to hand cut a huge quantity of decorations from recycled board...which is no mean feat when each decoration required double the designs to create a final sandwich of cardboard and colourful film. The final display, once Mr Webb and Mr Martini spent a few hours up a scaffolding, is a kaleidoscope of colour that not only looks beautiful but also constantly changes as it moves and responds to the environment it's in. We look forward to see what they are planning next!

Sixth Form Run General Election Campaign

Year 13 Politics students organised an academy mock general election as part of their work on elections and voting system. This was run in parallel with the national general election campaign and students got to choose between the parties contesting the seat for Grantham and Stamford. Charlie T, Year 13, was our returning officer and designed a system of voting which included both First Past the Post (FPTP) and also the alternative vote (AV) where the voters can express preferences. Sixth Form students led the political parties involved in fighting the campaign.

As part of events, Sixth Form students and staff were invited to a lunch time Q&A session with local general election candidates. Students' questions included university fees, the NHS, tax and the candidates' positions on Trident. Our poll returned a big win for the Conservatives (48%) followed by Labour (23%), the Green Party (18%) and the Liberal Democrats (11%).

A fun and enlightening exercise in helping students understand British democracy and encouraging them to recognise the purpose and process of voting.



Orangutan Foundation Fundraising: From Wreath Making to Treat Sales

The Geography Leaders are celebrating a hugely successful first term fundraising for the Orangutan Foundation. In just one week from Monday 2nd – Thursday 5th December they managed to raise an amazing £739.58. This was raised through the hard work of Mrs Geeson, who organised a brilliant evening of wreath making at the academy, and donated all takings to the

Foundation, as well as a week long bake sale. We would like to thank all students who baked goodies to sell, both the Geography Leaders and Year 7 students who showed such passion in volunteering their time for the cause, and managed to raise over £100 each day for the charity. We would also like to thank all students and staff for their generosity in buying the cakes

and so many of whom donated extra money above what they had bought. This money alone can protect over 500 acres of rainforest in Borneo, helping to reverse the desperate situation facing this most fragile and threatened of habitats and extends the academy's contribution to an equivalent of over 1,100 acres protected in total.

Year 7 Choral Speaking

In their English lessons, our Year 7s have been working on improving their group work through developing their choral speaking skills. Each class was given a variety of poems to choose from and then they organised themselves in to groups of various sizes, before putting together a performance of a poem of their choice. 28 students were selected to present their poems in a 'Grand Final' and from this, there were two winning groups: Connie, Tia and Emma from 7P2 and Oliver, Bobby, Shae and Mia from 7B3. There were some really original performances this year, from raps to role plays and all of the students seemed to really enjoy some creative festive fun!



Cadets Travel To Cenotaph for Remembrance Sunday

On Remembrance Day cadets from across The Priory Federation of Academies Trust travelled to the Whitehall Cenotaph in London to commemorate the contribution of British and Commonwealth military and civilian servicemen and women. To the rousing beat of a

marching band, cadets proudly took their place in the parade, observing the 2 minutes silence at the cenotaph before laying wreaths in remembrance. After lunch at the RAF club, cadets made their journey home – a time for reflection following a moving and inspiring day.



Performing Arts Residential Trip

From the 29th-31st October Sixth Form Performing Arts students went on a residential trip to London, staying at 'The Generator', a bright, modern hostel in central London. The itinerary supported preparation for their Unit 1 examination 'Investigating Practitioners Work' watching professional repertoire and gaining an insight into what goes on 'behind the scenes' at The Globe and National Theatres. The trip also helped them to develop professional performance skills and techniques for their coursework units through practical workshops at The Globe and also at Pineapple Studios which included a workshop lead by the actor playing the monkey in the 'Masquerade' scene of 'The Phantom of the Opera'. Perhaps the highlight of the trip, however, was the live performance of 'Everybody's Talking About Jamie' - a new musical set in Sheffield and based on the life of Jamie New which was hugely entertaining and hilariously funny!

Art Club Wings

Mrs Allsopp's Art Club have created an incredible art installation during the term - life size wings that are designed to stand in front of to great photographic effect.



KS3 Drama Group Impress at Year 7 Assembly



On Thursday 12th December our KS3 Drama Club performed to a packed Great Hall as part of Year 7 assembly. The group, who have been rehearsing every Friday this term, showcased a variety of talents and wonderful humour in their performance of 'Peace and Goodwill, a play about the rehearsal for a school nativity. The students were wonderful and Year 7 enjoyed the pre-Christmas treat. We have an exciting announcement coming up from Ruskin's Performing Arts department next year...watch out!

Ruskin Achieves Eco-Schools Bronze Award

Big news...we have achieved the Eco-Schools Bronze Award. This is the first of the three-stage award process of the Eco-Schools programme, working towards getting the Green Flag award for the school. Our new Bronze Award recognises the amazing work already completed by students this year. The average time for a school to achieve the Bronze Award is six months and Ruskin have achieved this in half the time. To achieve this award, we have launched an eco-committee from scratch and completed an environmental review and action plan. Ruskin scored 109/300 in the environmental review, giving us huge potential to make an impact. The action plan sets out some exciting initiatives put forward by our students and work has begun in earnest, including a school-wide food and garden waste composting system, a new system for litter picks and discussions with various tree-planting charities. Plans are afoot for litter picks across Grantham, hopefully with an opportunity for families and friends to get involved as well, so keep an eye out for events. Huge thanks from the Geography department for the support from students and staff who have supported eco-schools.

Reading Week

At the beginning of November, Ruskin held its second reading week of the academic year. Final results saw Mackintosh as House winners and Mrs Steele's form commended for the most reading quizzes successfully completed. As part of events a group of students visited a local nursery to spread the joy of reading from a young age.



Students Bake and Sell Cookies for Alex

Year 8 Ruskin student, Alex L, has recently undergone two operations on his heart and students wanted to raise funds to give Alex a boost.

After discussions they decided to make Christmas cookies which were sold at break and lunch and raised approximately £65.

A big thank you to Mr Esam for giving his time and to the students who have shown such generosity and kindness towards a fellow students in Hepworth House.

Everybody at the academy wishes Alex a speedy recovery and we hope to see him back amongst his supportive peers very soon.

Get well soon Alex.



Students Shine at Shakespeare Festival

Drama students embarked on a new and exciting journey this term as they stepped on stage at The Shakespeare Festival at The Cube in Corby. Students were cast within the Romeo and Juliet production at the beginning of the academic year and have since rehearsed vigorously to ensure that they captured the conflict and romance that are entwined within the tragic love story, whilst modernising the piece to capture the imagination of today's audience. The process was a fantastic merge of literacy with drama, allowing students to lift Shakespeare from the page and experience it as it was always meant to be enjoyed; live in the theatre. A truly captivating performance was delivered by all students.



Carol Service Brings Grantham Schools Together

On Monday 16th December Ruskin was delighted to welcome local primary schools to our annual Carol Service at St Wulfram's Church. The service, led by Father Craddock, was a perfect Christmas celebration, bringing our community together and reinforcing the important messages of hope, kindness and generosity as everyone prepared to break up for the Christmas holiday. With performances from The Ruskin Junior and Senior choir, choristers and beautiful songs from

Barrowby, Belmont, Cliffedale, Gonerby Hill Foot, Huntingtower and National, it really was a wonderful occasion. It was also delightful to see Ruskin Year 7 students being temporarily reunited with their primary school teachers.

A huge thank you must go to all the primary schools for their exceptional performances, to Father Craddock and the Churchwardens for kindly allowing us to use St Wulfram's and to Dr Tim Williams for playing the organ.



Students Experience a Piece of Christmas Magic at The Nutcracker

On Thursday 5th December, enchantment filled the air at the Birmingham Hippodrome as a group of Ruskin students (Y7 - 13) went to see the incomparable Birmingham Royal Ballet perform, 'The Nutcracker'.

This particular ballet certainly signifies the beginning of the Christmas celebrations as it invokes the feeling of warmth, happiness and joy like no other performance.

From the opening notes of Tchaikovsky's (composer) timeless score, courtesy of the wonderful Royal Ballet Sinfonia, the opulence of the Hippodrome's stunning set, outstanding lighting effects and of course the entire ballet company, all of these factors contributed to a magical performance. The opening scene in Sir Peter Wright's masterpiece is always stolen by young pupils of The Elmhurst and Royal Ballet Schools and this production was no exception. Moving expertly amongst the professional dancers, the youngsters blended in seamlessly, displaying the skills and technique they had already acquired at such a young age,

which is testament to the excellent teaching skills they have benefited from at what surely must be the best ballet houses in the world.

The Nutcracker really is more of an experience than a ballet. At Ruskin, we recognise that for students to aspire and be successful academically and in the wider areas of their lives, they need to be given rich and sustained opportunities to develop their cultural capital. Our intent is to make students become knowledgeable about a wide range of culture and be comfortable discussing its value and merits, which is why we organised this particular trip.

At the end of the ballet, students said, 'it was mesmerising, captivating and bewitching and a must see, not just this Christmas, but every year.'



Foodbank: Christmas Donations to Support Local Families

Ruskin's generous spirit was evident once again as the academy collected for a Christmas donation to the Grantham Foodbank. A huge range of products were brought in with donations including important every day essentials to Christmas treats, such as chocolates and puddings, as well as much needed toiletries. Mrs Geeson,

whose room was full with donations said, "I am overwhelmed by the generosity of students, parents and staff. The foodbank does an incredible job all year round and, at Christmastime in particular, it is important to remember everyone in our local community and to make a difference where we can."

Particular well done to Mr Bayston's Tutor group who collected six full boxes for the donation!



Awards Evening Recognises Ruskin Values

On Thursday 14th November Ruskin's annual awards evening was held to celebrate the achievements of our students. This year's awards were presented to students who best embody our academy values of: Wisdom, Curiosity, Generosity, Courage and Passion.

The evening was a perfect illustration of the spirit of

education at our academy – successes and achievements were commended across a range of subjects and, whilst celebrating the importance of academic achievement, also recognised the value of successes outside the classroom and students embracing academy life to the full.



Rotary Shoebox Appeal Sends Christmas Gifts to Those in Need.

Tutor groups gave an exceptional response to this year's Rotary Shoebox Appeal with 76 shoeboxes being filled in total - ensuring some of Eastern Europe's most deprived communities will not be forgotten this Christmas.

Mr Alan Geeson, from the

Rotary Club said, "On behalf of President Tony Walker and members of the Rotary Club of Grantham Kesteven I would like to thank you, members of staff and students of The Priory Ruskin Academy for your valued support and co-operation again this year by

filling Rotary Shoeboxes. The shoeboxes will be taken by road to Kiev in the Ukraine ready for distribution in time for Christmas. I thank you again for your support and hope that you will continue to support the Rotary Shoebox Scheme again in 2020".



Accelerated Learning Awards Afternoon

On the 22nd November, we were able to celebrate the success of the accelerated learning students from last year with a ceremony attended by current Year 7s, the Year 8s receiving their rewards as well as parents and carers there to support. For the sixth year in a row, we had a 100% pass rate with every single student achieving a grade B or higher at the AQA level 1 Project qualification. The projects ranged in topics from organising a wedding, looking after a puppy to knowing which Dyson Hoover would be best for you to buy!

The ceremony was well attended and we even had a surprise visit for one of our Year 8 students whose dad came home from the army early to attend and support. It was an emotional reunion which touched the hearts of everyone. His evident pride was contagious.

Thank you to all the Year 8 students and the families who came to support. We look forward to the same next year and hope that this year's groups can keep up the 100% record.

Danceathon Kicks of Fundraising For Disney Experience of a Lifetime

Dancers across all year groups received fantastic news this term; their hard work has paid off and they have been successful in the selection for performing at Disneyland Paris next Easter. Students auditioned to be a part of the team at the beginning of the academic year and have since been rehearsing tirelessly with the Performing Arts department, alongside professional choreographer Graeme Pickering. From Jazz dance to Irish dance; this performance has got it all! Fundraising for this event kicked off with a Danceathon led by the students themselves. This was a fantastic afternoon that saw students across the academy transported from the Disco 70s to the Musical madness of today with numbers from Dancing Queen to Hairspray! A great afternoon that embodied the sense of support and

community spirit of the academy and the Performing Arts department.



Year 8 Make Healthier Homemade Pizza

Watch out Pizza Hut! Year 8 Food Technology have been making their own pizza. Using yogurt and flour to make their own dough and a variety of toppings we had some fantastic pizzas made. Making pizza this way is a lot healthier than take away and supermarket pizza and it's fun to make and you can use any toppings you have. If you fancy having a go you will need: 200g Self-Raising flour, 1 teaspoon of bicarbonate of soda and 5 level Tablespoons of natural yogurt, mix together to make a soft dough. Happy Cooking from Mr Esam.

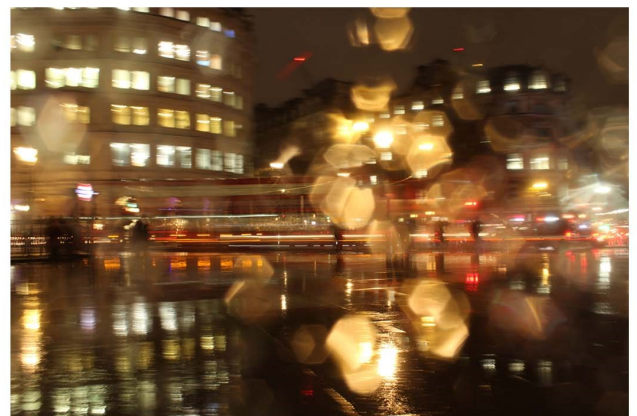




6th Form Photography Trip to London

A packed day including Tim Walker's 'Wonderful Things' exhibition at the V&A, Shutter Speed experimentation in Trafalgar Square, Candid Street Photography and a festive treat watching Nativity the musical at the Hammersmith Apollo.

Photos by: Ryan Ellis, Harry Williamson, Abigail Jodhan-Singh



Year 7 Music Concert

An evening of entertainment on 27th November celebrated the hard work of Year 7 students in Music this term. The evening was a musical extravaganza that included clarinet performances (part of Year 7 core Music curriculum provided by Lincolnshire Music Service), Samba performances (following a day of drumming workshops all students took part in provided by external music workshop provider 'Louder than Life') as well as solo performances from some of the academy's budding musicians and from the academy and KS5 Choir. It was wonderful to see how much Year 7 have developed during their first term at Ruskin and also, through the performances of older students, just what they can achieve if they continue to foster a passion for Music. Well done to all and many thanks to parents for making a wonderful audience .



Subjects Join Together for Community Event

Residents from Avery Lodge care home and service users from Fairview Farm were invited to the academy for an afternoon of Christmas fun with some of the Ruskin students. The Hospitality, Performing Arts and Health and Social Care departments joined together to put on an afternoon of activities to get everyone into the festive spirit.

This event was so successful in the summer of this year, it was very exciting to invite our guests back again for this event. Health and Social Care students sat with the guests, chatting to them, helping with a Christmas craft activity and enjoying an afternoon of various entertainment provided by students studying Performing Arts. Students studying Hospitality spent all morning preparing and cooking some lovely food with Mr Esam for our guests to enjoy; the sausage rolls, mince pies and non-alcoholic mulled wine were a particular favourite of the students and the guests! There was some beautiful dancing, piano playing and singing performed by students taking GCSE and A Level Performing Arts and our guests and the students enjoyed watching and listening whilst eating the fabulous food on offer.

The guests from both Avery Lodge and Fairview Farm thoroughly enjoyed their afternoon and all of the students who helped were a credit to the academy.



Sports Digest Christmas 2019

The Ruskin PE and Sport programme has continued to progress well into December and the Christmas period. This term has seen particular success in table tennis. We have enjoyed a rich success in table tennis over the past two years with our girls' teams. This year we have made a very positive start to the campaign with three teams being crowned County Champions; U16 Girls, U13 Boys and U16 Boys.



The teams will now represent Lincolnshire at the Zonal Finals on Saturday 18th January, competing for a chance to compete at the Regional Finals later in the year.



A huge thank you must go to John Mapletoft who has contributed enormously to the table tennis at the academy. John is now retiring from coaching within the academy, his contribution will be greatly missed but we will endeavour to keep the success of table tennis rolling on for future years. On behalf of the academy

and the PE team we would like to wish John all the best for his retirement and offer enormous thanks.



Whilst the weather has played its part in making fixture planning very difficult, the football teams have been continuing with their busy fixture schedule. The Year 7 and 8 girls' futsal teams represented the District at the County Championships and finished a very respectful fourth. The U13 girls have shown great promise reaching the third round of the National Cup but were beaten by a very strong Beckett's team. The boys' teams are still in the early stages of the league and cup competitions where they are competing in both the A and B district and national competitions and we hope to see the success we have seen over the last two seasons.

Ruskin athletes competed at the District Cross Country Championships, set on a new course at Belton House. On a cold and wet day the course proved very challenging for all athletes taking part. I am pleased to report that the following students finished in the top 20 and have been selected to represent the District at the County Championships; Matt D, Chae P, Jack C, Jake W,

Bailey P, Marcis L, Ulus H, Harry B, Jaynna Celine E, Sophie T, Lilly D and Ronnie Mae M-H. This selection shows great promise for the future with a large number coming from our Year 7 boys.

Basketball has continued to develop considerably this year with students competing in the local district league fixture programme. We are now playing fixtures at U18, U16 and U14. The mixed U14 team are developing very well and are competing well with teams that have been playing together for significantly longer. They have beaten King's and have drawn with Carres who have proved very strong in previous years in the programme, with continued development we hope to see them taking many more scalps.

In netball, whilst the school competitions have limited fixtures this term, our girls are competing in the local evening adult league and continue to progress very well. The Priory Lions are sitting close to the top of the table after continued success and the Priory Tigers are seeing improvement week on week as they adjust to competing in an adult league. Well done to all those involved.



KEY DIARY DATES FOR SPRING TERM 2020

Students Involved	Date	Event
All Staff	6th January	Staff Training Day
All Students	7th January	All Students Return (Week B)
Year 13	13th - 24th January	Mock Examinations
All	w/c 20th January	Reading Week
Year 7	24th January	Chinese New Year Celebration
Year 9	4th February	Careers Fair
Year 10	6th February	Intermediate Maths Challenge
Year 13	6th February	Parents' Evening
Various	14th - 22nd February	Academy Ski Trip
All	14th February	Break up for Half Term (3.20pm)
All	24th February	All Return (Week B)
Year 10 Art Students	24th February	Pitt Rivers Art Trip
Year 13 Art Students	26th February	A-Level London Gallery Trip
Year 11 & 13 PA Students	27th February	Push to Shove Workshop
Year 8	27th February	Parents' Evening
All	w/c 2nd March	Reading Week
Year 12 Geographers	2nd - 5th March	Field Trip to Weymouth
All	4th March	PSHE Day
Year 10 Geographers	10th March	Field Trip
Year 10 PA Students	12th March	Mamma Mia Trip
Year 12	13th March	University & Apprenticeship Fair (King Power Stadium)
Year 10 Geographers	16th March	Field Trip
	17th March	Art UK Sculpture Day
Year 8	18th—21st March	Paris Trip
Year 9 Art Students	24th March	Yorkshire Wildlife Park Photography Trip
Year 11 PA students	25th—27th March	GCSE Performing Arts Exam
Year 12	26th March	Parents' Evening
Year 11	30th—2nd April	GCSE Art Exam
All	3rd April	Break up for Easter Holiday