

## A message from the Headteacher...

As ever, this has been an incredibly busy and rewarding term at Ruskin where the students have had the opportunity to take part in some once in a lifetime experiences. From the surreal beauty of Iceland, the chic glamour of Paris to the vast majesty of Kenya, our students have had genuine moments of awe and wonder! However, there have also been plenty of moments of inspiration closer to home with students exploring Science, Art and cultural diversity within school; this links closely with our value of passion and having a genuine enthusiasm for learning experiences within and beyond the classroom.

This year has also seen our students accomplishing some tremendous sporting achievements, including outstanding performances at a national level. A particular mention must go to the girls' U16 table tennis team- fourth place nationally is a huge achievement for this young team; they are wonderful role models for the school, showing such determination, passion and grace- well done! The Year 11 football team have also achieved great things- coming in the final eight teams nationally - they exemplify teamwork and resilience and we are incredibly proud of their journey.

Next term we are looking to continue to explore our value of passion through our inaugural creative festival which will see all of our young people engaged in the arts, dance, creative workshops and more! In the meantime, I wish you all an enjoyable and much deserved break.

Ms R Wyles

## Geography Students Travel to 'Breathtaking' Iceland

Ruskin GCSE and A Level geographers travelled to Iceland at the start of February for a breath-taking trip that is sure to remain with them for many years to come. Iceland is one of the few places in the world where you can visit and interact with a tectonic plate boundary offering chances to study how tectonics operate and affect people's lives. During the trip they were able to visit and observe geographical processes across natural hazards, energy demands, coasts, rivers and physical geography topics, common to both the A Level and GCSE courses they are studying

Excursions included the black beach of Reynisfjara (with its coastal landforms and basalt columns), the Eyjafjallajökull volcano and glacier, Thingvellir National Park (where they saw the two tectonic plates), Gulfoss' three tier waterfall and the Secret Lagoon where students relaxed and enjoyed the geothermally heated natural water surrounded by snow. To top it off they saw the mesmerising Northern Lights – the icing on the cake for what was an incredible trip!



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

Twitter: @prioryruskin Facebook: The Priory Ruskin Academy



DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES...

YEAR 13 LEAVERS' CELEBRATION: 21ST JUNE AT THE ANGEL & ROYAL HOTEL

YEAR 11 PROM: 28TH JUNE AT BELTON WOODS HOTEL

## Year 7 Visit the Opal Coast

On March 25th at 1am, a very excited group of 69 Year 7 students left school in a convoy of 2 coaches to visit the Opal Coast in France. After very little sleep and a journey on the Channel Tunnel, they arrived in France where the first stop was Boulogne and a bit of shopping and breakfast. Students then went to the Nausicaa Sea Life Centre and to watch sweets being made. They even tasted them to decide which were the best ones! In the evening, they went to the hotel in the seaside resort of Stella Plage.

Day 2 saw students going to a chocolate factory, making bread and croissants at the bakery and holding and tasting snails along with a stop at Le Touquet for lunch and a bit of shopping.

The final day started with a trip to La Coupole to see where the V2 bombs were made and launched in the Second World War before returning to school in the early evening.



## SOS Fashion Show: Fairview Farm Residents Guests of Honour

Our annual SOS fashion show, held on Monday 4th March, was a well-attended and fun filled evening as always. With all proceeds from ticket sales going to Fairview Farm (Grantham and District Mencap), we were delighted to welcome some residents and members of staff to the event.

Clothes were modelled by Sixth Form students and the ever willing Mrs Lawrence and Mrs Smith.

Photographs were taken by our A-level Photography students. Thank you to all who supported the event – we hope you are wearing your purchases with pride!



## Environment: Art Students Repurpose Plastic Waste



Year 7 students have worked incredibly hard on their weaving projects this year during their Art lessons, producing work inspired by the "Weaving Streets" of Valverde De La Vera. They have been repurposing waste materials to create a simple yet striking canopy installation at the front of the Academy designed to highlight the amount of non-recyclable plastics used in everyday life.

## Year 7: Mexican Day of the Dead

During February half term Mrs Greenfield's Year 7 students were very busy creating some quite exceptional freestyle homework relating to the Mexican Day of the Dead. From bejewelled ornaments to delicious cakes and biscuits, students put in so much effort and Mrs Greenfield was delighted with the eclectic mix of responses to the brief!



## Non-Uniform Day Supports Guide Dogs for the Blind

We had an overwhelming response to our non-uniform day and cake sale held at the end of March. The Academy joined together to raise enough money to sponsor six puppies (one for each House, one for Sixth Form and one for staff!) through Guide Dogs for Blind. There were some particularly generous donations from individuals who were evidently passionate about this fantastic cause. Thanks to Mr Esam for the wonderful dog bone biscuits and Miss Simpson for the gorgeous cakes! We are so grateful to everyone for the support shown.

Sponsoring a puppy is a great way to support Guide Dogs, and every puppy's journey is unique! After 24 months of training, our puppies will give freedom and independence to someone with sight loss, giving us the chance to sponsor more new recruits! As an Academy we will be receiving regular 'pupdates' on our puppies' journey, photos and certificates which we look forward to sharing with you all.

The Academy's attention was drawn to this charity following the support they have given to one of our Year 10 students who is visually impaired. She said, "Guide Dogs for the Blind have

helped me by training me and giving me advice - this has given me more independence and confidence. I've also been able to meet people in a similar situation because a lot of people don't understand how challenging it can be".

Whilst her mother said, "I am so pleased your fundraising is going well for this wonderful charity - thank you. They have been very helpful to us and are closely linked to other charities that we have had support from such as RNIB and VICTA. It is so important knowing these charities are just a phone call away if ever we need them".

## Comic Relief 2019

Well done and thank you to all students, staff and parents who supported our Red Nose Day cake sale on Friday 15th March. We had some wonderful cake donations and plenty of willing volunteers to support on the buying and eating cake front! The sale raised over £270 for the Comic Relief cause.



## Art Award Programme

A new club is running at Ruskin on Wednesdays, in which a selected group of very talented Year 7 and 8 students are undertaking their Arts Award qualification.

The Arts Award programme is a nationally recognised qualification that allows students to develop creativity, leadership and communication skills. Through Arts Award young people learn to work independently, helping them to prepare for further education and employment. It also supports young people who want to deepen their engagement with the arts, build creative and leadership skills and, at Gold level, achieve a qualification that holds the same amount of UCAS points as an A level.

Exciting stuff!



## Swimarathon

Well done to all involved in the rotary Swimarathon this year! Ruskin students and staff had a great morning, raising well over £700 and swimming 999 lengths.



## BIG BANG SHOW: NEC BIRMINGHAM

On Wednesday 13th March, a group of keen Ruskin Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths students visited the NEC to attend The Big Bang Show. The students engaged in and enjoyed many 'hands on' opportunities provided by dozens of universities, businesses, colleges and schools from around the country. From coding to building air powered dragsters with the Bloodhound Land Speed Record Team, from medical procedures to working in deep sea conditions with members of the Armed Forces, controlling lunar vehicles a million miles away to finding out how far it is possible to travel on one litre of petrol.

The students feedback was overwhelmingly positive and we returned to the academy buzzing with ideas about what we can achieve at school - a fantastic experience for all involved.



## Valentine's Day

Ruskin had its own team of cupids delivering roses and chocolates during Form time on Valentine's Day as part of a fundraising initiative - great job team!



## PSHE Day Spring Term 2019

Ruskin's termly PSHE day took place on Wednesday 6th March. Students were all off their normal timetables and instead engaged in a wide variety of important and relevant topics specific to their age group. Deforestation, addiction, Brexit, overcoming adversity, importance of sleep, teamwork, democracy, healthy lifestyles, setting up a company....all angles of life were covered. There was a tangible energy throughout the day as staff, students and guest speakers explored current issues



from different perspectives as well as practical exercises to help ensure our students are 'real world ready'. Students really impressed visitors with their knowledge, creativity and curiosity - a fantastic day.

# Paris



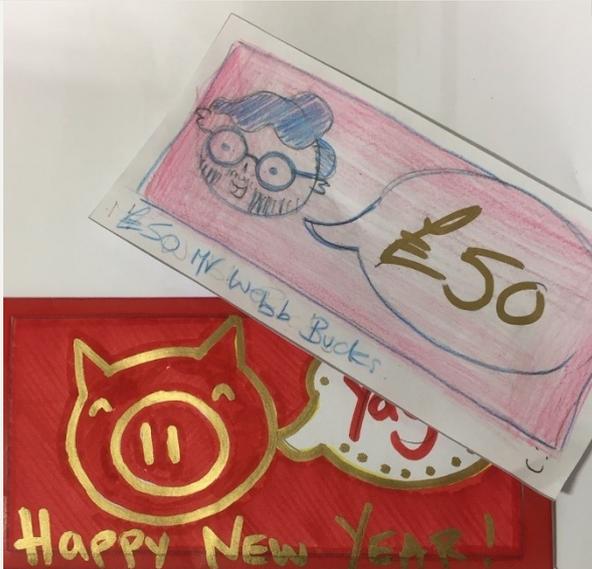
At midnight on Wednesday 13th March, a group of 37 Year 8 French students left Grantham for a 3 day visit to Paris. After crossing the English Channel by the Channel Tunnel, they arrived in Paris just before midday. Their first stop was the Arc De Triomphe where they climbed over 200 steps to see the Champs-Élysées. After a quick lunch stop, they then headed to the Montparnasse Tower - shooting up to the 56th floor in 28 seconds to be rewarded with an amazing view of Paris on the panoramic terrace.



On the second day, they started their tour of Paris off at the Sacre-Coeur and Montmartre area before travelling on to view the Mona Lisa at the Louvre museum. Lunch was at the Place de la Concorde before ending the day with a guided tour of the capital, a visit to Notre Dame and an evening meal at a crêperie in the Latin quarter.

Before their journey home on the final day, students went to the Fragonard Perfumery where they were taught to identify the ingredients that are used in modern day fragrances. A busy but hugely enjoyable trip with a wonderful variety of experiences.

## Ruskin Celebrates Chinese New Year



To celebrate Chinese New Year and the year of the Pig, Year 7 students enjoyed a day of Chinese projects relating to their timetabled lessons! Activities included Chinese theatre in English, making Chinese hóng bāo (red envelopes) in Art and learning the Chinese zodiac signs and associated personality types in French! The wonderful Ruskin catering team offered a range of Chinese treats for lunch in the restaurant! xīn nián kuài lè!



Our Careers Education section on the Academy website has been updated. There are numerous helpful links for both parents and students to explore as well as a breakdown by year group of our careers education structure.

<https://www.prioryruskin.co.uk/careers>

# Photography Students Experience 'Incredible' Kenya



In February, a group of Year 11 photography students went on the trip of a lifetime to Kenya. From the Great Rift Valley and Lake Nakuru to the incredible Masai Mara, you cannot fail to be touched by the genuine warmth and friendliness of the Kenyan people, the vast stunning landscapes that take your breath away and the spectacular wildlife that is unrivalled anywhere else in the world - a photographers dream!

The knowledge and experience of the amazing Exodus tour guides was simply outstanding and everyone came back wiser - it is an education like no other! The group were lucky enough to see Africa's 'Big 5' (Lion, Elephant, Rhino, Leopard and Buffalo) a feat seasoned Safari goers take years to accomplish. The privilege of seeing these magnificent animals in their natural environment was not lost on any of the group. Students

visited a local Masai Village and learnt about the Masai culture and customs, joining in tribal dances and speaking to locals. It was, quite simply, the most incredible journey - with memories and experiences that students and staff will never forget. Kenya - what a very special place!

The Academy will be running another safari trip in 2021 - students should speak to Mrs Renshaw-Turner for further details.

# Art Showcase



Year 8 Ceramics – African Inspire Masks



Year 9 Ceramics - Landscapes  
Influenced by Vincent Van Gogh and David Hockney

## Successful Term for Maths Department

It's been a busy term in the Mathematics department, with several national challenges and competitions taking place.

On Thursday 7th February, sixty Year 10 students took part in the national Intermediate Maths Challenge. Students had 1 hour to complete 25 challenging maths problems and a special mention must go to Hubert G for gaining the highest mark in school. Both, Hubert and Jacob K gained a silver certificate.

On 20th March, two teams of four Year 10 students took part in the regional Maths Feast at Kesteven and Grantham Girls School. There were 4 rounds of challenging maths questions and we were competing against many local grammar schools. The students performed strongly and praise must go to:

Team 1: Kieran D, Caius H, Liam W, Josh J

Team 2: Maisie T-D, Neeve P, Hubert G, Kaan Y

On Monday 25th March, a team of four Year 8 and 9 students travelled to LSST to take part in the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge:

Team: Gilrean M, Adriyan J, Dom J, Stefi P

On Wednesday 27th March, several Year 12 girls travelled to Bishop Grosseteste University in Lincoln to take part in an enrichment day, inspiring them to take part in Maths at university and beyond.

Watch this space for many more maths events taking place before the end of the year!

## Sixth Form Psychology

Sixth Form Psychology students have encountered a number of external speakers in the last term. Year 12 students had a talk from a local Cognitive Behavioural Therapist who explained her job role and gave broad examples of the types of client she has worked with. Students asked a range of questions including about the different types of mental health disorders she had encountered and how she became qualified for her position. Her talk tied in with the 'Treating Depression' element of the Psychopathology unit of A level Psychology. Year 13 students had a visit from a Prisoner Governor who has worked his way through the prison career system. Individual questions were emailed in advance to the speaker who then built his answers into an hour-long talk. Questions included: "What is the most interesting aspect of your job?", "What do you feel are the best methods of changing criminal behaviour" and "Have you ever had to deal with a serial killer?". The talk tied in with the Criminal Psychology unit of A level Psychology. Both sets of students felt that their studies had been enhanced by speaking to people who clearly utilise psychological techniques in their job roles.

## Photography: Crufts 2019

On Friday 8th March, a group of photography students attended 'Crufts' - the biggest dog show in the world at the NEC Birmingham. Over 27,000 dogs were competing for the prestigious title of 'Best in Show' alongside agility and obedience displays. The students captured fabulous photos of a huge variety of different breeds.



# JOULES SECONDS

IMPERFECT CATALOGUE RETURNS  
AND SAMPLES

## SALE

THURSDAY 2ND MAY 2019

TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE **NOW** FROM STUDENT  
AND MAIN RECEPTION

VIP TICKETS

**SOLD OUT**

A LIMITED NUMBER OF VIP TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE AND  
ENABLE AN EARLY ENTRY FROM 7:00PM

## STILL AVAILABLE STANDARD TICKETS £6

ALLOW ACCESS TO THE EVENT FROM 7:30PM

A FANTASTIC OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE JOULES SECONDS  
STOCK AT HUGELY DISCOUNTED PRICES

\*CREDIT AND DEBIT CARDS WILL BE ACCEPTED AT THE EVENT



**RUSKIN**  
A PRIORY ACADEMY

## Ambitious Sixth Form Students Prepare for the Future: Oxbridge & LSE

On Friday 22nd March, ten Year 12 students had the opportunity to attend the annual Oxbridge Conference at LSST in Lincoln - the second time that we have sent our students to this prestigious event. There were undergraduates and fellows from several disciplines such as History, Sciences and Law, as well as School Liaison Officers from both Oxford and Cambridge Universities who ran workshops with the students. The students that attended gained an informative insight into applying to competitive institutions and the application process.

On Tuesday 26th March, the London School of Economics and Political Sciences visited the Academy to give an informative talk to students about applying to competitive institutions and living in London. This gave students an insight into how to prepare their application and how they can make themselves stand out from other students. This preparation starts the UCAS application process where students will be starting to plan their personal statements after Easter and create their UCAS accounts ready to process their application in September.

## Health & Social Care Students Gain Insight to University Life

On Wednesday 20th March 2019, Miss Wright took a small group of Year 12 Health and Social Care students to Bishop Grosseteste University for a Health and Social Care taster day. On the taster day, the students had an introduction into the Health and Social Care undergraduate course on offer at the university. This included explaining all about the course, what sort of assessments they would have to do, the length of the course and what it could lead onto in the future. They were then taken on a tour of the university to get a feel of the surroundings as to what life as a student there is really like. The students had a talk delivered by a student at the university explaining all about different universities within the UK, the clubs and social activities that most offer and much more. This was great as it allowed the students to have a wider outlook on university life in general. The students were then able to finish the day with an interactive activity of designing their very own Health and Social Care professional based on 'not judging a book by its cover'.



## University & Apprenticeship Fair: A View From Our Sixth Form Students

On Friday the 15th of March, Year 12's took a trip out to Leicester King Power Stadium for a university and apprenticeship fair as well as a tour around De Montfort University. A Sixth Form student explains more below:

*"The university and apprenticeship fair gave us an opportunity to explore and broaden our knowledge on university life and options that we may not have considered. It allowed us to speak to people with specialist knowledge about the career path we are interested in and, for those that are unsure on the options available to us, it provided advice on potential routes. The trip highlighted decisions are more than just about entry criteria - It is important to regard the university atmosphere including the different facilities and people as well as the student satisfaction and position your chosen university is placed within the league tables for specific subjects. Whilst being at the university fair we were also offered a finance talk that gave us an insight on student budgeting, loans and money management. Students left the fair better informed and with a real feel for what we can expect over the next few years of our lives. As well as the university fair, we also took a tour around De Montfort University, looking at the different facilities the university had to offer.*

*The trip left many students more sure than ever that university is the right route for them, however, it allowed some students to consider alternative paths such as vocational courses when they delved deeper into the specification of the contrasting opportunities.*

*The trip was really interesting and has certainly given us food for thought as we start the preparation period of looking into our post 18 education".*

By Molly H , Izzy C and Holly D

# Sports Digest Spring 2019

Ruskin sports' teams reached great heights throughout the year with a number of sports reaching their climax in term 4.



In badminton, the Ruskin teams were crowned Lincolnshire champions in the team championships in both the Key Stage 3 and 4 boys' competitions. This was a first for our badminton teams and enabled them to progress to the Regional finals to compete against the best from Nottinghamshire, Northamptonshire and Leicestershire. All our players performed exceptionally well against strong opposition making for a really good level of competition. Both teams finished a very respectable third with the key Stage 3 team only one point away from taking first place and

progressing to the national finals. The players forming these teams are; George R, Joseph C, Sam B-W, Gytis V, Leo G, Harvey D, Cameran S, Alex W and Toby F-D.

In football, our Year 11 boys went further in the National Cup that we have ever gone before. Their run in the cup took them to the last 8 in the country.



The cup had 538 schools entered with Ruskin successful in 7 rounds of the competition, 6 of which were drawn away, beating teams from Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire. Our quarter final game took the boys to St Helens to face Rainhill where this fantastic run came to an end. Well done to all those involved in this superb achievement. Additionally in football, the Year 7 boys reached the semi-final of

the county cup after winning four rounds within the county, before being defeated by Spalding Grammar. The girls U13 team involving a mix of Year 7 and 8 girls reached the county cup final and were beaten by a very strong Bourne Grammar.

The annual rugby 7s tournaments have also been in action this term. Our Year 7, 8 and 9 boys teams competed. All Ruskin teams topped their groups in the morning fixtures and went into the top level cup competition for the afternoon. In the afternoon the Year 7 boys proved the most successful finishing third overall. The Year 8 and 9 teams both finished third of fourth in their afternoon groups. This is the best the Academy has done in these competitions and we hope to see further progress next year.



## Table Tennis: U16s Reach National Finals

Congratulations to our U.16 Girls Table Tennis team who travelled to Hinckley to compete in the National finals. This year our 'Team of the Year' qualified for the National finals after a successful journey through the Lincolnshire, Zone and Regional Finals to qualify for the last four teams in England. This is an incredible achievement as the Ruskin Girls team are so young, two Year 8s and two Year 9s competing against Year 11 students! The team did Ruskin proud losing out on 3rd place 4-4 to a specialist Table Tennis Academy, Oakhampton, losing on count back 18-16 games. Our Team of Hannah L, Megan R, Stephania P and Lucy B (Pictured left to right) gave their all against England ranked players and even winning games off them! The girls were placed fourth overall which is no mean feat; it was a marvellous achievement for such a young team. We came away smiling and look forward to another two years in that age group. Many thanks to Mrs Spencer, John Mapletoft (who has put in hours of work to train with Hannah and Megan) and to Tim Bridle for his expertise on the day. Thank you also to Mr Gunter for getting us safely to Hinckley and to the parents for all their support.



## KEY DIARY DATES FOR SUMMER TERM 2019

Students Involved	Date	Event
All	22nd April	Easter Monday Bank Holiday
All	23rd April	Summer term begins (week B)
Various	26th April	CCF at RAF Cranwell
All	w/c 29th April	Reading Week
Year 8	30th April	Junior Maths Competition
Year 12	1st May	UCAS Information Evening
All	2nd May	Joules Sale Event - Great Hall
Year 9/10	3rd May	Harry Potter Trip
All	6th May	Bank Holiday Monday
Year 9	10th May	Art Trip to 'The Deep'
Year 11 & 13	13th May - 25th June	GCSE & A-Level Examinations
Year 9 & 12 Historians	22nd May	Holocaust Survivor Guest Speaker
Year 10	23rd May	Year 10 Parents' Evening
All	27th - 31st May	Half Term Break
All	3rd June	All students return (week A)
All	w/c 10th June	Reading Week
Year 7	20th June	Year 7 Parents' Evening
All Welcome	25th - 28th June	Visual Arts GCSE/A-Level Showcase
Year 11	25th June	Year 11 Prom
All	1st July	PSHE Day
Year 6 (plus student helpers)	2nd July	Induction Day (new starters Sept 2019)
Year 5 (plus student helpers)	4th July	Year 5 Open Evening
All	5th July	Sports Day
All	9-11th July	Ruskin Creative Festival
Year 12	12th July	Year 12 Oxford University Trip
Select Students	15th July	Rewards Week
All	19th July	End of Summer Term 2019