

Academy Newsletter

Term 1 2017/2018 Community and SMSC

A message from the Headteacher...

Welcome to the first newsletter of this academic year and already there is so much to be proud of within the Academy. Although summer now seems like a distant memory, I must mention the fantastic results that the students achieved. Since the new progress measures have been introduced, I'm delighted to say that we have consistently been one of the top schools in Lincolnshire, with progress scores that are well above average; our score reflects that across the subjects the students study, they achieve half a grade better in all of them than the average student nationally. This really is a testament to their hard work, and the absolute dedication of all the staff in the Academy who support them during their time at Ruskin.

As a result, more students than ever have joined our Sixth Form. Again, I'm really pleased that Ruskin has once more broken previous attainment records with 70% of students attaining A*-C grades; many of the students have now gone on to university, including a record number to prestigious Russell Group universities.

If you have visited us recently, you cannot fail to see the outstanding new facilities that are being developed for our growing Sixth Form; we are anticipating that the building will be open in the spring term and look forward to welcoming new sixth formers in to the build from next year. I genuinely hope that will include the vast majority of our Year 11 students; take advantage of all of the support and guidance available to you during this crucial year and ensure that you secure a place with us in Year 12!

Ms R Wyles

Government Performance Tables: Ruskin is Top 5 in Lincolnshire



The Priory Ruskin Academy is once again delighted to be in the top five schools in Lincolnshire in the government's performance tables for progress, one of two schools in Grantham to achieve a 'well above average' rating.

Rachel Wyles, Headteacher said, "The staff and students at Ruskin have worked with incredible dedication, drive and enthusiasm to maintain an outstanding progress score which sees it as one of the few in Lincolnshire to be well above average. We are passionate about ensuring each student reaches their full potential in an intellectually curious, vibrant and creative community; this is a well-deserved reflection of our values at the academy."

Students at the Academy were quick to praise the strong work ethic and excellent relationships within the school as a key factor in their achievements.

Marcel Ludew said: "I was really nervous about my results because we were the first students doing the new Maths and English GCSE but the teachers at Ruskin were fantastic and made sure we were all fully prepared. I was so proud to get so many As and a 7 in Maths, it has given me a great foundation to build on now I am studying my A levels".

Whilst Holly Davies said: "I'm so proud that our year group has done so well. Our teachers are supportive and we have a really good relationship with them that makes learning feel easier. I think what I am most proud of is getting an AS level qualification in my GCSE year as well as A* in both my Art and Photography GCSE".

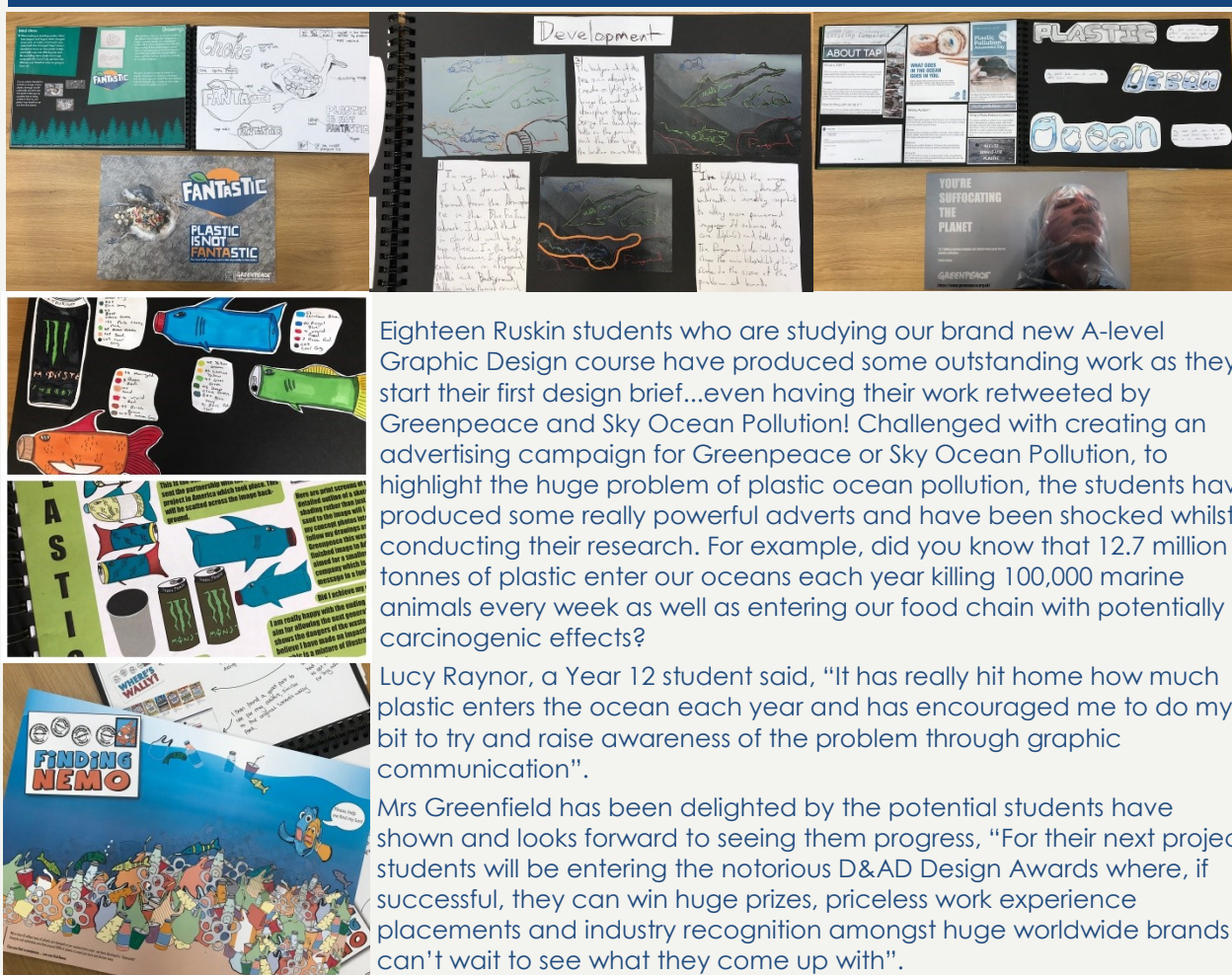


Don't forget to follow us on Twitter and Facebook for up-to-date news and events! Twitter: @prioryruskin Facebook: The Priory Ruskin Academy



THE INCREDIBLE **YOUNG AMERICANS** ARE COMING BACK!
WATCH THIS SPACE FOR FURTHER DETAILS! #MARCH2018

Graphics Designers Highlight Ocean Pollution



Eighteen Ruskin students who are studying our brand new A-level Graphic Design course have produced some outstanding work as they start their first design brief...even having their work retweeted by Greenpeace and Sky Ocean Pollution! Challenged with creating an advertising campaign for Greenpeace or Sky Ocean Pollution, to highlight the huge problem of plastic ocean pollution, the students have produced some really powerful adverts and have been shocked whilst conducting their research. For example, did you know that 12.7 million tonnes of plastic enter our oceans each year killing 100,000 marine animals every week as well as entering our food chain with potentially carcinogenic effects?

Lucy Raynor, a Year 12 student said, "It has really hit home how much plastic enters the ocean each year and has encouraged me to do my bit to try and raise awareness of the problem through graphic communication".

Mrs Greenfield has been delighted by the potential students have shown and looks forward to seeing them progress, "For their next project students will be entering the notorious D&AD Design Awards where, if successful, they can win huge prizes, priceless work experience placements and industry recognition amongst huge worldwide brands. I can't wait to see what they come up with".

Foodbank Collections

A huge thank you to all parents, students and staff who kindly donated to our foodbank collection. In total we collected 149.6kg of food - enough to provide 70 meals to local families in times of crisis.



Macmillan's World's Biggest Coffee Morning

The Priory Ruskin Academy opened its doors to the public on September 29th for its annual Macmillan coffee morning. Organised by Knight House, there was an incredible array of cakes and biscuits for sale which raised over £500 for Macmillan.

Mrs Geeson, who supported students organising and promoting the event, said, "Thank you so much to everyone who baked, bought and ate cakes! It was wonderful to support Macmillan's national event and Knight House did a wonderful job coordinating it - well done"!



Hepworth French Trip



Whilst the summer seems like a dim and distant memory we wanted to share some photos of Hepworth House's French trip. The other Houses featured in the summer newsletter but Hepworth missed out as they didn't go

until the very last week of term so were still away when the newsletter was published. As with the rest of the Houses the students had a fantastic time-with incredible sights to see, friendships to develop and

delicious food to try! We are so lucky that, by being part of The Priory Federation of Academies Trust, we have access to this fantastic facility that so many of our students get to enjoy.

Well Done To All Ruskin Awards Ceremony Winners!



Prospective Medical Students Attend Workshop



On Wednesday 18th October, four Year 12 students attended a 'Journey into Medicine', the first conference in Lincolnshire sponsored by Leicester and Nottingham Universities' Medical Schools. The conference offered students advice and guidance about applying to study Medicine, interactive workshops to learn

about medical ethics, clinical skills and life as a medical student.

Students were obviously really inspired by the day which only fed their desire to achieve their goal, "The medical conference day was outstanding! If you are

a student interested in a future that is medicine related, I highly recommend you attend events like this".

"It was definitely an eye-opening and worthwhile experience. I found the day inspiring and thought provoking. I feel motivated to reach for my full potential".

Good luck with your university applications Year 13!



Save the date: Ruskin's hugely popular **Festive Evening** will be held on **Thursday 30th November**. See Facebook for further details!

Exam success: Highlights of Summer 2017 Results



As the Government's league tables have demonstrated, Ruskin had another excellent GCSE year when results were released this summer. Ms Wyles, Headteacher said, "The students and staff should be incredibly proud of their achievements which is a result of their hard work, energy and drive." And there was cause for celebration when Ruskin students collected their A level results in August...the best ever results for the Academy at A level and level 3 vocational courses. At A level the overall pass rate was 100%, with very nearly three quarters at A*-C. The average grade in vocational BTEC courses was the top possible, Distinction*.

All 59 of our students who applied to university got their first choice. Amongst them, Aaron Emburey, who secured A*, A, B and is now at the University of Leeds studying Art & Design, Nathan Tang with A*, A*, B, B at the University of Bath studying Economics and Mathematics, Shona Meadows, with Distinction* in Health & Social Care, at the University of Nottingham studying Nursing and Otilija Staseviciute with A*, A, Distinction* studying a degree in Architecture at Nottingham Trent.



Ruskin: Young Fundraisers of the Year



Ruskin staff and students were delighted to win the 'Young Fundraisers of the Year' award at the St Barnabas Lincolnshire Hospice Annual Celebration

of Achievement Event held in Lincoln in September. Ruskin was recognised for 'the support given to the hospice in a number of ways over the years, including groups of staff and students partaking in 'It's a Knockout', hosting the St Barnabas 'Strictly' event (featuring our very own Mrs Greenfield!), selling their knitted Easter chicks each year, holding raffles, a balloon release (in support of a student whose father was cared for by the hospice), various cake sales

as well as welcoming the hospice into the Academy to speak to staff and students on their awareness days.

Mrs Vicki Geeson who leads the charity work at the Academy said, "The hospice are an amazing local charity whose work has such a positive impact during difficult times. We are proud to support them and are thrilled to have won this award".

Show My Homework

Show My Homework has launched with incredible success and almost all students are now logged on! Parents have also had logins sent to ensure they can keep in touch with exactly what homework their child is getting and when it's due. If you haven't already please login and take a look! If you have any queries or issues please contact Mr Finch.

Art Students Discover Cultural Treasure Trove



A group of GCSE and A level Art students have been lucky enough to have a taste of Oxford University's Anthropology and Archaeology department by visiting The Pitt Rivers Museum this term.

The Pitt Rivers Museum displays archaeological and ethnographic objects from all parts of the world and all time periods. Students had the fantastic opportunity to photograph and draw from a huge variety of artefacts ranging from a magnificent Tahitian mourner's costume, collected during Captain Cook's second voyage in 1773-74 and Hawaiian feather cloaks in brilliant shades of red and yellow to weapons, shrunken heads, musical instruments and magic objects including amulets and charms.

Year 13 student, Lily Dixon said, "It was an amazing place with so much to see! It's given me some real inspiration for my coursework"

Wicked: Performing Arts

Y11 students visited the Victoria Apollo in London to see the musical spectacular 'Wicked' in preparation for their forthcoming exam production 'A Celebration of 60 Years of Musical

Theatre.' Students were dazzled by the power and design of both the vocals and staging of the whole production. They have since been inspired by the experience and begun to piece together Musical Theatre pieces of their own. A magical day out that is set to lead to a fabulous production by Year 11 at The Priory Ruskin Academy on December 4th.



Students Inspired By Author Visit



Year 7 students were treated to a visit from Dan Walker, author of the new Sky Thieves book series, as part of a range of activities and events that took place to mark our first reading week of the academic year.

Dan spoke to students about his books, the journey he took to becoming an author and what inspires his writing. Students were captivated and had so many insightful questions. They also had the opportunity to buy Dan's latest book and get it signed.

Ruskin's Sixth Form Open Evening will be held on Thursday 23rd November (6-8pm). It is open to all students (internal and external) who are looking to start their Sixth Form studies in September 2018.

News from Sixth Form

We welcomed 112 new Year 12 students in September, including 25 from a range of other local schools. We now have over 200 students in the Sixth Form, as we look forward to moving into the new £2m Pavilion in January. As well as their academic studies Year 12 are also concentrating on completing the Key Stage 5 Prioxy Baccalaureate, that puts huge emphasis on enrichment and personal responsibility.

Year 13 are now firmly focussed on applying to university through UCAS and we expect around 70% to do so. Those that do not will be supported in applying for a Level 3 apprenticeship or employment.

World Mental Health Day



Sixth Form 'Healthy Minds Ambassadors' joined nationwide events to mark World Mental Health Day. As something really important to them, they raised

awareness of mental health issues with younger students at assembly as well as raising money for Young Minds, a youth mental health charity, through a Sixth Form non-uniform day, treasure hunt, photo booth and name the teddy. It is so important to have these discussions and great to see students driving such initiatives. Well done!

Key Stage 5 Baccalaureate Award



Year 12 students have made an excellent start to the Key Stage 5 National Baccalaureate Award. Many students have been volunteering around the Academy making a positive contribution through the five strands of the award which focuses on Learning and Aiming High, Leadership, Community, Creativity, Enrichment and Cultural. Pupils have been involved in mentoring, assisting in lessons, leading in assemblies and developing their roles as prefects.

Sixth Form Internship Success

Over the summer two of our Sixth Form students, Joseph McGarrigle and Joe Brighten, had the opportunity to take part in the Social Mobility Foundation's 'Aspiring Professionals Programme'. It gave them an in-depth insight into the global industry of Investment Banking. During the two intense weeks in Canary Wharf they spent time learning and expanding their knowledge regarding the various areas within the bank, alongside taking part in senior networking events with Managing Directors. They worked on projects such as mock interviews and pitches to potential clients, developing their team working skills and confidence and enabling them to see the real life pressures, excitement and pace of investment banking. Away from J.P.Morgan, they got to see some of the major sights and variety of London life, going on the London Eye, a Thames River Cruise and visiting the National Theatre. Joseph said of his experience, "If it is applicable to apply I would recommend students do so. It has been a fascinating experience and has completely changed our career path, as we are now both focussed on a future in Investment Banking".

Ruskin Renegade is Home!

The Ruskin Renegade has made his triumphant return home after spending the summer as a part of the Knights Trail in Lincoln. He has been in the Waterside Shopping Centre and has been seen by an estimated 50,000 people over the summer. If you weren't one of them, he's now proudly displayed in the gallery at the front of the Academy with our other fantastic student artwork.

Sports Digest Term 1

The Priory Ruskin Academy PE Department has spent the first module focusing curriculum based lessons and a comprehensive fixture programme on the sports of football, rugby and netball...and we have made a very positive start!

The girls' netball teams have continued their progress seen over the last three years. The Year 10 squad have continued with their successful previous year and have retained the coveted title of district league champions. This is a fantastic achievement and one both the girls and Miss Dewar should be extremely proud of. Other year groups are certainly raising their game in response to this success and we hope to see further years take this great mantle.



In boys football success has been seen across the age groups. The Year 9 boys are again showing their footballing prowess, coming through the first two rounds

of the national cup against strong opposition; Carre's Grammar School and St George's, Sleaford. After the team were last year crowned district champions it would be great to see them make a strong run in the



national competition. The Academy Sixth Form football team has undertaken three friendly fixtures

prior to the league beginning next year, this has given a chance for Mr Cairns to see all the lads in action and give the chance for those new to the Academy to show their talent and make the best selection. Our new Year 7s have represented the Academy for the first time in girls and boys football; the boys recently dominating Sir William Robertson with a 3-0 win and the girls showing some real direction beating the usually very strong St George's Sleaford 2-1.

This term has seen more rugby fixtures undertaken than any previous year. With the teams showing some true signs of

progress. Of particular note are the U15 boys who have successfully come through the first two rounds of the Natwest Vase, beating St George's Sleaford and De Aston. The boys played extremely well against De Aston and will need to continue this drive when taking on Worksop College on 15th November. The Year 7s have made their first account against Bourne Academy, a very well contested fixture saw the teams finish with a well-deserved draw at 15-15.



During the summer holidays Lewis Davey in Year 12 represented England in the 400m in Ireland after finishing second in the national finals. Lewis again took silver in the international event. This is a superb achievement that he has worked extremely hard for. He is also making incredible strides in the combined events athletics and we all look forward to seeing how far this very talented young man can push himself.

Another great achievement for Ruskin in 2017 was winning the B team county tennis event and this term saw the team represent at the regional finals in Loughborough for the second year running. A great achievement by the boys who faced tough opposition and finished 3rd at the regional event.

Keep up with the latest sports news on twitter by following [@ruskinsport](https://twitter.com/ruskinsport)



RUSKIN
A PRIORY ACADEMY

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KEY DIARY DATES FOR TERM 2 2017/18

Students Involved	Date	Event
All	30th October	Term 2 begins (Week B)
All	1st November	Rotary Shoebox Appeal Begins
All	w/c 6th November	Reading Week
Year 10	7th November	Trip to Bishop Grosseteste University
(Health & Social Students)		
Various	8th November	Ski Meeting (Mr Charles)
Year 11	9th November	Parents' Evening (4-7pm)
Various	14th November	MADD Trip
Select Students	15th November	Accelerate Awards Ceremony
Year 11	16th November	Skills Show—NEC
Year 9	16th November	Parents' Evening
Year 11	w/c 20th November	GCSE Mocks Begin (until 1st Dec)
All welcome	22nd November	Grantham Flower Club Christmas Event
Year 11	23rd November	Sixth Form Open Evening
All welcome	30th November	Ruskin Festive Evening
Year 11	4th December	GCSE Performing Arts Exam/Evening Performance
Year 7-9	11th December	Carol Service (St Wulfram's Church)
All	w/c 11th December	Christmas Lunches
All	12th December	House Singing Competition
All	19th December	End of Term 2



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