

Academy Newsletter

Term 2 2017/2018 Community and SMSC

A message from the Headteacher...

I'm always incredibly proud of the students at our Academy, but this term they have excelled their own, very high, standards by showing remarkable spirit, kindness and sense of family through a week long fundraising event which raised over £5000 to support the quality of life of our student, Angus Brown. As ever, staff joined in to make this a truly extraordinary Ruskin event - and a special mention must go to Mrs Shelford who was absolutely determined to ensure we reached our goal.

I genuinely feel it is these values of compassion and generosity that makes Ruskin such a wonderful community. Equally, the culture of respect which is perhaps exemplified by the Remembrance Day parade and also the amazing creativity of our staff and students who continue to produce such high quality work across the curriculum and beyond the classroom.

The staff, students, parents and governors have created a very special learning environment at Ruskin. We were delighted that this was recognised in our recent Ofsted inspection and we are looking forward to continuing to build on our outstanding provision as we continue to grow our Sixth Form and develop Ruskin as a teaching and learning hub for new and established teachers.

I would like to thank the whole Ruskin community for their support and dedication; an outstanding Ofsted judgement is not the work of an albeit challenging week of inspection, but a reflection of an absolute commitment, each day, to make sure every student has a well rounded, fulfilling and inspiring education.

I wish you all a very merry and restful Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Ms R Wyles

Ruskin Judged Outstanding Following Ofsted Inspection



We are delighted that Ruskin has been judged "outstanding" following our recent Ofsted inspection. The Academy was praised by inspectors for its "ambitious culture that encourages all pupils to achieve very highly, both academically and in their personal development". The inspectors found teaching to be of "high quality" and noted the "passion that pupils should achieve well" resulting in students making "very strong progress across the curriculum". Student behaviour was

commended with inspectors stating that "Pupils' behaviour is excellent" and that "Pupils are highly ambitious. They want to do well". Inspectors recognised the rounded nature of students' educational experience at the Academy noting the "wide ranging extra-curricular and enrichment activities" as well as the benefit students get from the Academy's commitment to spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. An accolade to the Academy's culture, the inspectors judged that "crucial to pupils' outstanding personal development, behaviour and welfare" is "the culture of respect and the positive relationships that underpin the school's work".

Rachel Wyles, Headteacher, commented, "This is a wonderful accolade for the Academy and a real testament to all the staff,

governors, students, parents and the Trust who have worked tirelessly for Ruskin. Our values are absolutely central to everything we do; excellent academic progress, engaging teaching and learning and an extensive, highly supportive pastoral system are a given. Where Ruskin truly excels is in its genuine and manifest sense of family, the absolute belief each young person can reach their potential in all aspects of Academy life and a creative enthusiasm to innovate and inspire. To have this recognised by Ofsted is incredibly rewarding. It is also great for the local community that following the town's success in this summer's examinations, which saw it lead the way in Lincolnshire in the government performance tables, a further Grantham school has been recognised for its outstanding provision."



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



Ruskin Steps Up to Ambitious Fundraising Target



Ruskin students and staff had an epic fundraising week at the start of December, this time in support of one of our own...Angus Brown. Angus is in Year 10 and has Duchenne's Muscular Dystrophy, a condition that sees individuals suffer progressive loss of muscle function and weakness, and this eventually impacts on their quality of life.



Angus has been at the Academy since Year 7 and has had an active part to play, being a successful member of Mackintosh House and the Academy Boccia team. However, at present, Angus is getting weaker which is taking away his independence. Little things that most of us take for granted can be really hard for Angus but, when we knew there was a chance to help him get some of his independence back, we pulled together as an entire Academy community.



There is a mechanism called The Neater Arm Support that will allow Angus to independently take his arm through a range of movements which he would not normally be able to manage. It would give Angus the chance to do things, such as feeding himself, personal care activities and even the simplest of tasks like scratching his face or rubbing an eye, giving him better quality of life both at home and school.



So, throughout the week commencing 4th December, Ruskin came together on a scale not seen before. There were sports competitions, sponsored silences, a non-uniform day, hot chicken wing eating competitions, head shaves, leg waxes, name the baby competitions to name just a few! And, incredibly we collectively raised £5241 by the end of the week. Amazing! As a result, the order has been put in and the aim is for us to have the arm fitted onto Angus' chair early January here at the Academy. The impact this will have on his life will be immense and it will be thanks to each and every member of the Ruskin Family. Well done to one and all.



Remembrance Day Parade

It was incredibly moving to see the entire Academy come together for our Remembrance Service on November 10th. It is not always easy to bring together whole schools at once but there are certain occasions throughout the year when we feel it is essential, and our Remembrance Service in one of the most poignant. With a parade from our cadets and readings from Ms

Wyles and our Head Girl and Deputy Head Boy, the occasion allowed Ruskin's whole staff and student body to take a quiet moment of reflection to collectively mark our respect and gratitude. A huge thank you to James Tomlinson, a Ruskin alumnus, who returned from his Music studies at Derby University to attend the service and play 'The Last Post' for us once again.



Primary Students Attend Ruskin Musical Workshop & Show



Ruskin was delighted to welcome Year 5 students from a range of local primary schools on Wednesday 6th December to take part in a musical workshop. The students worked with Ruskin's very talented Sixth Form Performing Arts students, learning and perfecting some scenes from the musical Aladdin, and later had the opportunity to watch our Sixth Form students in action for a full production of the show. Miss Thompson, Head of Performing Arts said, "I was so impressed with how the primary school students engaged with our Sixth Formers. They picked up the moves really quickly and everyone seemed to have a fantastic time".



A Touch of Christmas Magic: Students Create Stunning Feature

A small team of talented Ruskin Art students across years 7 to 10 have been working incredibly hard to design and produce this year's stunning Christmas display for the front of the Academy. Lucy Pearce and Harrison Ward (Year 7), Alanya Wright, Alana Charley and Rupert Pritchard-Jones (Year 8) and Steph Blease (Year 10) have been inspired by the work of artists Hari and Deepti and have made use of atmospheric perspective as well as a limited blue colour palette to

produce the striking festive alpine scene. "They've worked incredibly well together as a team, combining their different ideas and designs and they should all be immensely proud of their finished outcome"

All of the work they've produced will go towards their Silver Arts Award portfolio enabling them to gain the level 2 qualification early next year.



Calling all students in Years 7 to 9! Hopefully you will have heard that the Young Americans are coming back to Grantham. A letter with full details has gone out via InTouch but students can collect a letter and

more information about 2018's incredible workshop and show from Miss Thompson. Remember: This is for EVERYONE not just those who already perform...JOIN IN THE FUN!

Students Choreograph Halloween Dance

On October 31st, students across all year groups took to the stage to terrorise the lunch crowds with a 'spooktacular' dance performance to celebrate Halloween. Students rehearsed for weeks to perfect their zombie inspired performance. The performance was choreographed by Y12 Performing Arts student Megan Castell-Smith who produced the piece as art of her National Baccalaureate project.



Health & Social Care: Medical Mavericks



In order to support students in Health and Social Care, on Tuesday 7th November, some of our Year 10 Health and Social Care students visited Bishop Grosseteste University to take part in a practical workshop. The workshop by 'Medical Mavericks' was being run by the university, especially for students who could be aspiring medics, or even if they just love science and a whole range of careers was also discussed. The workshop gave some great information for their Year 11 controlled assessment in Health and Social Care and helped them with topics which are widely discussed in lessons. The activities ranged from setting up, recording and printing out their own ECG,

trying keyhole surgery, taking blood from a fake arm, measuring lung volume and monitoring oxygen levels in the body!

All students had a great time, some were used as 'Human Guinea Pigs' and it was a great experience for all these students.



YEAR 11 PROM - DATE FOR YOUR DIARIES

The annual Year 11 Leavers Prom will be held on
29th June 2018 - save the date!

Ruskin's Festive Evening



Ruskin held its popular Festive Evening on November 30th. With many of our regular stall holders, as well as several new ones, it was the biggest evening we have hosted to date. Everyone was full of Christmas cheer, with an abundance of unique Christmas gifts on sale and even a prosecco bar! Mrs Geeson, who organises the event said, "It was wonderful to see the Academy bustling with visitors, it seems to get more popular each year. The Festive Evening always feels like the start of Christmas for me...and hopefully it has helped people to make some good progress on their Christmas shopping". All ticket proceeds have gone to the Grantham Passage at this important time of the year.



Mr Webb Has a Moustache Makeover For November

In true Ruskin style, Mr Webb did things a little differently this year as he continued his annual endeavour to raise awareness of, and money for, the Movember Foundation. Rather than growing a moustache like many others across the country, Mr Webb decided to draw attention to the one he already has...by asking students to vote for which colour he should dye it! It came as no surprise that the overwhelming majority went for....BRIGHT PINK!

The Academy also held a bake sale, featuring some particularly fantastic pink moustache cupcakes baked by a Ruskin parent, which was well supported as always. Mr Webb said, "Thank you everyone for engaging with this charity, it has important personal significance to me and I really appreciate your generosity. We always have a lot of fun with Movember but there is a really serious side to it all...the Movember Foundation UK tackle some of the biggest health issues faced by men: prostate cancer, testicular cancer, and mental health and suicide prevention so thank you again for supporting".



Book Donations

Do you have reading books gathering dust? Students and staff at The Priory Ruskin Academy are currently collecting books to add to the shelves of our wonderful Reading Room.

If you have unwanted books at home, suitable for secondary school aged students, the Academy would be really grateful if you could donate them and help us add some new reading choices to our bookshelves. It is really important that these are suitable for our Renaissance Reading programme, which requires students to take a text/quiz on the books they have read, so please follow the link below and enter the title or author of the book and, if it appears, then we will gladly give it a home in our reading room! <http://www.arbookfind.co.uk/UserType.aspx>

And students...don't forget there are THREE house points available for every book donated!

Children In Need

Ruskin raised well over £1000 for Children in Need in November. Students were invited to pay £1 to wear non-school uniform for the day - always a popular fundraising initiative!

Mrs Geeson, who coordinated the day said, "I am always humbled by the support our staff, students and parents give to our many charitable endeavours. With Christmas drawing closer it further highlights the desperate situations some families face and I am delighted we have raised so much money for a wonderful cause".

Light Up a Life: St Wulfram's Church Performance



On Tuesday 12th December three Year 10 girls represented Ruskin at St Wulfram's Church for the St Barnabas Light up a Life Celebration. As an Academy we work very closely with St Barnabas and were delighted to be asked for student representatives to perform on the night. Leah sang a solo, O Holy Night, and Ashleigh and Erin sang a duet, Tale as old as Time. Miss Thompson, Head of Performing Arts, was bowled over by their performances, 'It was an emotional evening and the girls' singing was really beautiful, simply amazing performances'.

Sixth Form Open Evening: Excitement Over New Pavilion

Ruskin's Sixth Form Open Evening was held on Thursday 23rd November. It was incredibly well attended by prospective Sixth Form students and their families and there was obvious excitement at the prospect of joining at a time that will see our brand new Pavilion open. The brand new development is looking amazing and will provide the Academy with some fantastic additional facilities and will be home to our Sixth Form. The deadline for applications has now passed, if you have missed the deadline and wish to discuss your future options please contact Mr. Cairns at acairns@prioryacademies.co.uk

Year 11 Performance Evening

On December 4th, Year 11 Performing Arts students took to the stage to showcase a variety of dance, vocal, music and drama pieces that they have been preparing for their BTEC examination. The entire evening was run solely by the students from backstage organisation, to sound and lighting each act.

Their journey began with a visit to the West End to see the critically acclaimed musical theatre production 'Wicked,' following which, students were inspired to devise and replicate their favourite musical theatre moments. The audience were enticed into Sweeney Todd's barber shop, dazzled by routines from

Michael Jackson's 'Thriller,' left in awe of the drumming talents and moved by the emotive tones of Les Miserables 'I Dreamed A Dream,' to name just a few. A truly spectacular evening with students, staff, family and friends incredibly proud of achievements.

MADD: Behind the Scenes Insight into Performing Arts Academy

On November 14th, Year 10 Performing Arts students paid a visit to Midlands Academy of Dance and Drama where they began their day with a tour of the Academy, learning about life in the industry and developing an understanding of the hard work, dedication and determination required to succeed in the arts. Students had the privilege of observing vocal, ballroom, ballet and lyrical dance classes before being put through vocal and dance paces themselves by West End music directors and dancer/choreographer Ryan-Lee Seager, who is currently working on The Royal Variety Performance. Students worked exceptionally hard to pick up choreography from Mamma Mia and

Hairspray. The day was topped off with a showcase from MADD students and the opportunity for Priory Ruskin students to interrogate them into what life is really like training in the arts. Following previous years' visits we have students set to audition for a place at this outstanding Academy next year; watch this space...



We are still collecting: Milk carton lids, ring pulls, old coins and used stamps for various charity initiatives...please remember to save these over the festive period and bring them in once we return in January!

ZEST: What Once Was Ours

Dedicated Y9 Performing Arts students set out to Grantham's Guildhall on a bitterly cold Monday evening to witness the stunning, thought provoking performance by Zest Theatre Company; What Once Was Ours. Students were part of an unusual experience where they found themselves on stage and integrated into the performance, as opposed to sat away and disconnected from the story and messages being told. The production delved into sensitive, yet highly relevant, topics looking at division between societies, cultures, faiths, race and genders today. Students confidently participated and hearts were touched. A wonderful insight into an alternative form of theatre, as well as alternative ways of perceiving the world, for our students.



Charter Of The Forest

On 6th November 2017, the 800th anniversary of the 1217 Charter of the Forest, the Academy joined thousands of people around the nation who have signed up for the new Charter for Trees, Woods and People. This was initiated in 2015 by the Woodland Trust in response to the crisis facing trees and woods in the UK. The charter will bring new rights for people in the UK to enjoy the benefits of trees, woods and forests.



To celebrate the occasion a cherry tree was planted by students at the front of the Academy and several initiatives will be taking place throughout the year to improve the knowledge and understanding of the importance of trees and woods to our students. If you would like to find out more regarding the charter please follow this link: <https://treecharter.uk/home.html>.

Performing Arts: Christmas Showcase

December 14th played host to The Priory Ruskin Academy's Christmas Showcase. Following months of rehearsals, students across all year groups put on a dazzling display of dance, drama, song and musical theatre; from streetdance spectacles to the beautiful tones of the choir, the audience were on the edge of their seats! The entire production was run by students; from backstage to the technical elements of sound and lighting. Each student that participated in the event has shown exceptional commitment to Performing Arts this term, from attendance at extra-curricular clubs to exceptional effort within lessons.



Grantham Flower Club: Christmas Demonstration

Ruskin was thrilled to host Grantham Flower Club's Christmas Demonstration Evening. The popular event saw Lee Berrill create six separate stunning flower displays, giving the audience inspiration to re-create on a smaller scale for their homes. This is the first time Ruskin has hosted this wonderful event...we are already looking forward to next year!



Inspire+ Sports Leader Mentor Primary School Cheerleading



It was a hive of activity at Ruskin on November 23rd when several primary school students arrived to learn the art of cheerleading! A wonderful team of Year 9 Inspire+ Sports Leaders from across Grantham schools, including five students from Ruskin, helped teach and perfect the cheerleading routines with Beth Cresswell from Beth Cresswell School of Dance. It was lovely to see the engagement between the sports leaders and primary students and, as

you can see, they developed some rather daring performances.

Students Gain Insight into the World of Work

Forty of our students, who are currently studying Engineering, Construction and Hair & Beauty, attended the NEC Skills Show in November. Demonstrations included bricklaying, fashion make up & milling and turning, with many more on offer. Attracting over 72,000 visitors, the 'Have a Go' experiences inspire young people to explore career paths and motivates them to find out more about the world of work. National and local employers and training organisations were on-hand to engage with the students. There were hundreds of great career ideas to explore, including jobs of the future. Employers exhibiting at the show, included Royal Mail, IBM, BAE Systems, NHS Careers, HS2 and Airbus, with industries represented ranging from Beauty Therapy, Hairdressing, Bricklaying, Carpentry, Plastering, Plumbing, Roofing, Environmental Science & Architecture.

PLEASE DON'T THROW YOUR CHRISTMAS CARDS AWAY! As always the Academy will be collecting Christmas cards in each House block as part of our hotly contested annual Christmas card House Competition...all in aid of charity!

Senior Maths Challenge

The senior maths challenge took place after half term with all Year 12 and 13 maths students entering. The UKMT Individual Maths Challenges are lively, intriguing multiple choice question papers, which are designed to stimulate interest in Maths in large numbers of students. We had Andrew Hall achieved best in year 12, with Sam Stanton also achieving a Bronze certificate. Ahkin Bautista achieved best in Year 13 and school, with Adam Garnett, Oliver Coleman and Muhammad Ahmad also achieving Bronze certificates. Overall a very successful entry from our A Level mathematicians in a competition which is extremely competitive and demanding!

The Intermediate Maths Challenge is taking place in February with 60 year 10 students taking part. The Junior Challenge will follow shortly with able mathematicians from year 8 entering.

Author Inspires Year 8

Year 8s have had a wonderful afternoon on the 7th November, spent in the company of author Ali Sparkes. As part of the Academy's programme of events for this term's Reading Week, Ali came in to talk to students about her latest book "Car-Jacked". A funny and engaging session...the students were absolutely captivated by Ali's enthusiasm and creativity and were able to buy a copy of her book and get it signed.



Sixth Form: Running Club Volunteers



Well done to these four Sixth Form students who volunteered, on a very cold November evening, to support Belvoir Tri Club, GRC and Grantham Athletics' charity event. The event saw runners of all ages taking part and the boys were time keepers for the event. It's fantastic to hear about all the events our students are an active part of outside the Academy gates and the role they play in our wider community.

Maths in Action

The KS5 Mathematicians attended a 'Maths in Action' day at The University of Warwick. The day focussed on how maths is used in real life and included topics such as: how mobile phones work, election voting, predicting populations in bacteria (and Game of Thrones!), penalty shoot outs and where is the best place in the world to attempt world records. A thoroughly enjoyable and informative day which left the students head scratching at certain thoughts.



Students Partake In TALLIS Research

Twenty-eight Year 10 students have recently taken part in the TALLIS research which is happening internationally, investigating the teaching of quadratics. Over 4 weeks Miss Harborne's top set have been tested and surveyed, videoed during 2 lessons, and then tested to look for progress. The study hopes to identify strengths within the teaching of the topic and share this information across all schools taking part. Throughout the study our students were complimented on their excellent behaviour and attitude, and visitors to the school were impressed by the facilities available to students.

Sports Digest Term 2

The Priory Ruskin Academy have achieved a first in table tennis this term. Having entered a girls team into the U14 Lincolnshire Table Tennis Championships the girls came out on top and will be progressing to the regional finals next half term. The boys came second to a very strong King's team. The matches throughout this competition were of a very high standard, well done to all involved.

The Year 10 boys football team are having a superb run in the Elite Schools' National Cup. Having reached the last 16 they were drawn against Nene Valley of Peterborough, bringing 6 Peterborough United Academy players with them we were expecting a very challenging day. The lads stepped up to the challenge extremely well and came away victorious with a 3-2 win, taking them through to another home draw in the quarter finals. This is a great achievement and really highlights the strength in depth that this group of players have.



The Year 8 Boys football team are also making a great account of themselves in the county cup; the last round against Branstons saw them win 2-1, with Branstons being in last year's final there is now great hope for where the team could end the season.

This term a large number of Ruskin students competed in the annual District Cross Country Champs. We are extremely pleased to report that 10 students qualified for the district team and will race at the county championships on Saturday 20th January, along with 2 further nominations in the sixth form.

The U15 boys rugby continued their quest in the National Vase Competition. With a run to the fourth round we were set to play Worksop College away. This proved to be a great experience for

the team; playing on a top class pitch there was plenty of exciting running rugby to entertain. The opposition proved to be too strong for Ruskin, however the team made a great account of themselves scoring in the final play showing the result did not quash their efforts. The final result 40-12.



The U13 girls footballers fielded two teams in the district indoor futsal tournament. Both teams put on their best performances to date, which was highlighted in their final rankings in both leagues. Their determination, grit, team work and support for one another was outstanding. Team 1 finished winners of their league with team 2 finishing second. Team 1 played winners of league 2 to decide the overall champ and drew 1-1, taking the game to penalties. Unfortunately Ruskin lost 3-2 on penalties, this did not spoil what is a great achievement.

The Year 7 girls netball team have recently undertaken a friendly fixture vs Walton prior to the league fixtures beginning. This has proved very successful with regular excellent attendance at the girls training they came away winners in both the A and B squads. These girls have made a great start and we are sure will continue to do so with such great commitment.

The league badminton fixtures have begun with Ruskin comprehensively beating Kesteven and Sleaford High School at both U14 and U16. The boys begin their account next half term against Bourne Grammar. We are hoping to see a repeat of the last two years of success in this league competition, and are certainly hopeful of representation at the National Finals in May.

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 3 2017/18

Students Involved	Date	Event
N/A	3rd January	Staff Training Day (no students in)
ALL	4th January	Term 3 - all students return (WEEK B)
Year 8	11th January	Year 8 PSHE Day
ALL	w/c 15th January	Reading Week
Sixth Form	w/c 22nd January	Mock Exams Commence (2 weeks)
Year 7	24th January	Y7 French Centre Information Evening
Year 10	1st February	Intermediate Maths Challenge
Various	1st February	Cadets Passing Out Parade
Year 12 & 13	5th - 7th February	Performing Arts Trip - London
Year 13	8th February	Year 13 Parents' Evening
Various	9th February	Federation Ski Trip Departs
ALL	9th February	End of Term 3
ALL	19th February	Term 4 Begins



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