



RUSKIN A PRIORY ACADEMY ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

Term 4 2017/2018 Community and SMSC

A message from the Headteacher...

Further to our Outstanding Ofsted Inspection, we have been visited by John Edwards, the Regional Schools Commissioner for the East Midlands and Humber. I am delighted to say that John found his visit "inspiring" and commented on the "stunning learning environments; engaged young people who enjoy talking about their learning; creativity in abundance; academic rigour; and leaders and staff who clearly love what they do." It genuinely is inspiring to work with such an engaging, creative and thoughtful group of staff and students and it is always a pleasure when their hard work and passion for Ruskin is recognised by visitors to our Academy.

A real highlight of this term has been the return of The Young Americans, this time in a collaboration and celebration across the Trust. I had the pleasure of observing the Young Americans work with our students, and how their enthusiasm, energy and utter drive supported our students to produce a show finale that seemed as if it had come from the West End. The students are rightly proud of their involvement; they worked long hours, pushed themselves, encouraged and supported each other and ultimately produced a piece of performance art that was both moving and mesmerizing.

We can also, at last, report that our new Sixth Form building and sports complex, The Pavilion, is now open and the first classes are being taught in this wonderful, contemporary facility. At present, the students are working hard to produce some stunning art work which will showcase talents and inspire the next generation of Sixth Formers; we will write a feature on The Pavilion in our next newsletter.

In the meantime, I wish you all a restful break; I hope that Year 11 will take advantage of the learning sessions during the holiday as the exam season is fast approaching.

As ever, many thanks for your continued support.

Ms R Wyles

Ruskin wins National Award For Excellent Results

The Priory Ruskin Academy has been recognised nationally for its excellent results in 2017 based on data from the Department of Education and Ofsted, analysed by SSAT (the Schools, Students and Teachers network). The Priory Ruskin Academy was found to be among the best performing secondary schools in the country, receiving an award for being in the top 20% of schools nationally for progress.

The SSAT Educational Outcomes database compares all state-funded schools in England, with the highest performing for a range of key measures presented with SSAT Educational Outcomes Awards, sponsored by Lexonik. The Priory Ruskin Academy will be presented with

their award in the summer term at a ceremony attended by winners from across the region.

Sue Williamson, Chief Executive of SSAT said: "I am delighted that The Priory Ruskin Academy has won an Educational Outcomes Award. This recognises an important aspect of the schools' work, but, as we know, there is much more to recognise in a good school like The Priory Ruskin Academy. SSAT is pleased to recognise the quality of leadership and the hard work of all staff to ensure the success of every child. A big thank you and well done to pupils, parents, staff and governors."



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 Priory Trust Comes Together In Celebration: Young Americans



The Young Americans returned to Grantham on the 6th and 7th March with a spectacular show bursting with the unique energy and passion that has become synonymous with the music and dance outreach group. The event, held at the Meres in Grantham, brought together 250 students from schools across The Priory Federation of Academies Trust in what was billed as 'The Priory Trust Celebration'.

Students from The Priory Ruskin Academy, The Priory Belvoir Academy, The Priory Witham Academy, The Priory City of Lincoln Academy, The Priory Academy LSST and The Priory Pembroke Academy all took part in the 2 day workshop run by the Young Americans culminating in the sensational performance attended by over 600 audience members.

Tour Manager Alex Ramos, who visited Grantham when The Priory Ruskin hosted the Young Americans in 2016 said, "We love visiting Grantham. You have such a fantastic community and the show is always amazing. Your students have all worked so hard to learn so many numbers in just 2 days!"

Charles Wilson, the Director for this tour, addressed the students, "The Young Americans believe passionately that music brings people together for many purposes: teamwork, respect, accomplishment, caring, self-discipline, a sense of self-worth and so much

more. No matter what you decide to do in the future I hope you remember these two days and draw on the confidence you have developed".

Mr Ian Jones, the CEO of The Priory Federation of Academies Trust, accepted the Young Americans plaque on behalf of the trust, "I have seen our students perform many times and they never fail to impress me, but this seems to have taken it to another level. It has been wonderful to see so many students from across the trust working together and showcasing their collective talents as one team".

Mrs Victoria Rossington, Assistant Headteacher, who has a long standing history with the Young Americans and coordinated the event across the trust said, "The Young Americans always deliver something so special. Their talent and enthusiasm is evident and the students obviously love the performing element of the workshops but it is about so much more than that. The Young Americans inspire and motivate them beyond dancing and singing, they show a kindness and intuitiveness that brings out the very best in every student, regardless of their ability and experience. This workshop has brought people together, staff and students, in an environment where everyone is valued and diversity is celebrated... it's been a truly inspirational two days."



FMSP Maths Feast: Year 10 Mathematicians

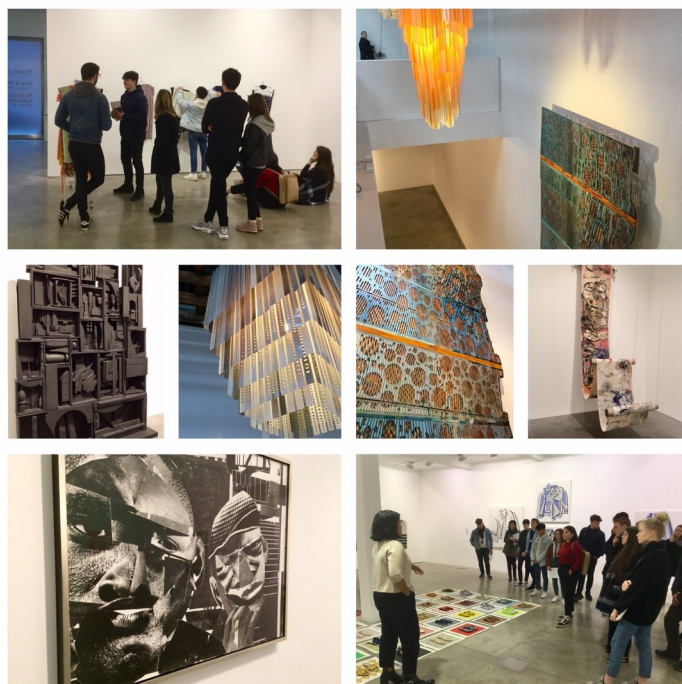
On Tuesday 13th March two teams of Year 10 students, selected from the top of each band, attended the FMSP Maths Feast event. The event was hosted by Kesteven and Grantham Girls' School and 14 teams were in attendance from schools across the region.

Maths Feast events are designed to promote teamwork in mathematical problem solving and are organised by FMSP; an organisation who seek to promote challenge in mathematics across the curriculum and increase the uptake of mathematics at A-level.

The event consisted of four rounds: No Words; Problems, Problems...; the Practical Interlude & the Hexagid. Our teams enjoyed the experience thoroughly and most notably enjoyed the chance to participate in the more practical aspects of the tasks, that are rarely a part of normal maths lessons.

P band's team received an honourable mention for their performance in the 3rd round and both teams were commended by the organisers on their exceptional teamwork throughout the day. While no formal rankings were given the organisers indicated that both teams were in the top half, one being in third position. Well done to all students who took part!

London Calling: Art Students Gather Inspiration in the Capital



Creativity was on the cards for Ruskin's A Level Art students this half term when 16 Year 12 and 13 students experienced an extremely busy day in London. The day was packed with visits to galleries, including The Tate Modern, White Cube, The Barbican Centre, Victoria Miro and Parasol Unit in order to provide the students with inspiration for their upcoming exams. The students experienced a huge variety of concepts and work across a range of settings, scales, media and styles as well as taking inspiration from the architecture and hustle and bustle of London life itself.

SOS Fashion: Thank You For Your Support

A big thank you to everyone who supported the SOS fashion show on 21st March. Whether you modelled, purchased or helped run the event ... you all played an important part in its success. Mrs Geeson, who organised the event

said: "It was wonderful to see so many people and we raised over £500 for Lifeline4kids"! Hope you are enjoying your purchases and hopefully we'll see you all at our next fashion event...our Joules sale on May 10th!

SOS Charity Fashion Shows



Sixth Formers Explore Opportunities For Life After Ruskin

Sixth Form students attended the University and Apprenticeships Search Fair at the King Power Stadium Leicester in March. This was an exciting and informative event, providing the perfect way for students to begin the process of understanding which university or apprenticeship is right for them. Students had the opportunity to speak to a multitude of universities including, the University of Oxford, Russell Group, redbrick and modern institutions. Some of the UK's best apprenticeship providers, in sectors such as finance, engineering, media and retail, were also represented.

Sixth Form Psychology: Real Life Insight

On Thursday 8th March, a senior member of Leicester prison staff gave a talk about his role within the prison service to Year 13 Psychology students. The students had sent questions to their teacher in advance and these were forwarded on to the speaker. The questions concerned a range of issues including: the speaker's experience of working within a range of prisons, what kind of treatments might help offenders from reoffending and other broader issues such as whether he thought criminality was inborn or as a result of upbringing. The resulting conversation was both stimulating and thought-provoking as topics as wide as Norwegian prisons and the death-penalty managed to find their way into the discussion. It is hoped that the visit will ultimately help students in their second year A-level Forensic Psychology unit.

Ruskin Triumph at Rock Challenge 2018



On March 19th, forty-three students from Ruskin took to the stage at the Meres Leisure Centre to perform their entry for the National Rock Challenge competition; they were fantastic! We have some hugely talented students and their hard work was recognised with awards in the following categories: Performance Skills, Choreography, Drama, Soundtrack, Concept, Stage Use and Stage Crew. Well done to everyone who took part. They have all received their Rock Challenge pins that they are wearing with pride on their blazers; these contribute to their Ruskin Respects and Baccalaureate!



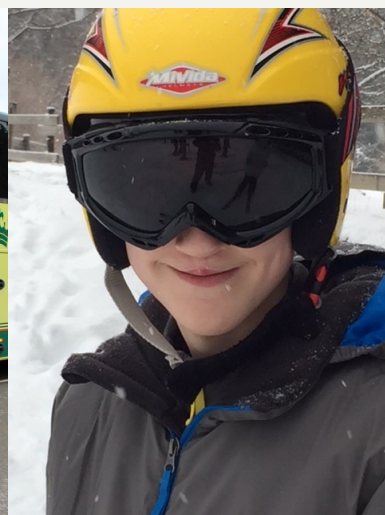
TK Maxx: "Give Up Clothes For Good" Campaign

What a phenomenal response you had when we launched the TK Maxx 'Give Up Clothes for Good' campaign! We were overwhelmed by your generosity ...in just one week we collected 54 bags of fantastic clothes and homeware in support of this initiative for Cancer Research UK Kids and Teens. Thank you so much...and beware of shopping sprees now you have made some space in your drawers!



The Priory Trust Ski Trip: Folgaria 2018

Ruskin students had an absolutely fantastic time, along with students from our sister Priory Academies, on the Trust ski trip to Folgaria, Italy over February half term. Students of all abilities made huge progress during the week, with skiing lessons in both the morning and afternoon. In addition to the intensive skiing they also had plenty of recreational time during which they got to know students from the other Priory Academies better. Watch this space if you are interested in taking part in the 2019 ski trip...we're heading to Aprica on the Italian/Swiss border!



JOULES SECONDS IMPERFECT CATALOGUE RETURNS AND SAMPLES SALE

THURSDAY MAY 10TH 2018

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

VIP TICKETS £9 – A LIMITED NUMBER OF VIP TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE AND ENABLE AN EARLY ENTRY FROM 7:00PM

ADVANCED TICKETS £5 – ALLOW ACCESS TO THE EVENT FROM 7:30PM AT DISCOUNTED PRICE

ENTRY ON THE DOOR £6 – ALLOW ACCESS TO THE EVENT FROM 7:30PM

ALL TICKET SALES IN SUPPORT OF

LIVES.

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

*CREDIT AND DEBIT CARDS WILL BE ACCEPTED AT THE EVENT



Fundraising: Angus Gets His “Neater Arm Supports”

At the beginning of December 2017 staff and students at The Priory Ruskin Academy came together in a week of fundraising in support of one of our students, Angus Brown. Angus is in Year 10 at Ruskin and has Duchenne's Muscular Dystrophy, a condition that sees individuals suffer progressive loss of muscle function and weakness, gradually impacting quality of life. Angus is a popular student amongst staff and students throughout the Academy and when Director of Inclusion, Mrs Shelford, heard about a mechanism called 'The Neater Arm Support', that would allow Angus increased independence, she came up with the idea of a fundraising week. The aim was for the entire Academy community to come together in a series of fun events that would raise the much needed funds to purchase the custom made 'Neater arm supports'.

By the end of a week, characterised by fun, generosity and determination, the Academy had, alongside waxed legs, shaved heads and closely fought sport battles, collected an incredible £5241. "I always knew we could raise the full amount. I had full faith and never doubted it for a minute. I feel so proud of what we all achieved for Angus", expressed Mrs Shelford.

Fast forward and Angus has had his new 'arms' fitted to his chair and, whilst it was quite a tiring process for him, he quickly demonstrated that he can master this new technology with impressive speed! The ability to raise his arms independently immediately means tasks such as eating and drinking are made so much easier and, as he gets to grips with their functionality, he will be

able to further hone skills and abilities across a whole host of activities. John Foster, Neater Consultant, who fitted the arms was blown away with what had been done for Angus. "I have known other places do fundraising to support the purchase of the arms before but never a school, to raise the whole amount, in a week. It's amazing!"

Headteacher, Ms Wyles said, "Angus is a remarkable young man who makes a huge contribution to our academy. When students and staff learnt they could make a real difference to his quality of life they made an extraordinary effort and raised over £5000 in just a week in order to realise this. I'm incredibly proud of Angus, who models resilience every day and the kindness, compassion and sense of family of the staff and students at Ruskin has been humbling. A special mention must go to our Director of Inclusion, Mrs Shelford, who has organised and championed this very special goal".

Angus, meanwhile, is enjoying the challenge of trying out different movements and tasks utilising the Neater Arms, "having my Neater Arms has made me feel happier and more confident to try new things".



Graphic Design Students Enter Lincolnshire Show Schools Challenge

Ruskin Graphics students have entered the Lincolnshire Show Schools Challenge. This year they have been tasked with designing a new potato based product. Part of their task is to grow potatoes on site. The class have been split into teams and are currently working on brand design, marketing, gardening, cooking and management. All students have engaged with the task brilliantly and we are recording their progress through video which we will be showcasing at The Lincolnshire Show in June. Watch this space to see their progress!

Sports Digest Term 4

This term has seen a number of great achievements in sport at county, regional and national competitions. Going into this term Ruskin knew they were going somewhere they had never been before, our U13 girls' table tennis team were heading for the National Finals at Hinckley on March 10th! The team had fought their way through 3 rounds to qualify for the National Finals, playing against the best in the county and regional competitions. Only four teams went to the National Finals with Ruskin making the only representation outside of private schooling. The first two fixtures played by Ruskin went well with both ending victorious for our girls. The last game was up against the strongest of the teams and Ruskin were narrowly beaten, resulting in our girls finishing second in the country! This is an amazing achievement. Congratulations to Megan Rowley, Lucy Bridle, Lucy Potter, Hannah Latter and Stefania Popa who did Ruskin extremely proud. A huge thank you must also go to Mr John Mapletoft for putting on extra training sessions and coaching to prepare the team for these finals. Mr Mapletoft along with Mrs Spencer have progressed this team at an incredible pace and we cannot wait to see what the future brings for them. Further to this success, on 17th March Lucy Bridle won the Inter Regional Qualifiers and will go on to play for the East Midlands in the Regional Finals in May. She is one of two players to represent the region, with the East Midlands pulling players from across Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Northamptonshire and Lincolnshire. Stefania Popa (Yr8) won the Lincolnshire Schools individual Championships in February, Stefania goes on to represent Lincolnshire in the National Finals in April. Lucy (Yr7) was 2nd place and Charlotte Moore (Yr8) played in her first tournament and was placed 6th. Well done girls!



Ruskin's SEN department have placed a great deal of focus and time into adapted sports within the Academy and our Boccia teams have again seen success competing at the County Finals in Sleaford.



Following some nail-biting games, Ruskin finished in second place with the silver medals awarded to: Toby Jo Carter, Tyson Goodband, Alister Hargraves and Emily Hollis. Great job team Boccia!

Mother's Day was a good day for Ruskin gymnasts this year at the county event. Here are the highlights:

Under 13 Girls Team Competition: The following girls combined their scores on their floor routines and finished in 3rd place: Poppy Jones, Ella Noble, Mya Whalley, Chloe Birch, Ella Townsend and Lilliya Greene. Lilliya also finished 4th as an individual.

Under 16 Girls Novice Competition: Amber Gilmour competing for the first time performed superbly well throughout her floor routine and vault and came away with the gold medal.

Under 16 Girls Intermediate Competition: Performing their floor routine and 2 vaults Jessica Castell-Smith finished 2nd and Molly Aldous-Johnson finished in 1st, this was Molly's final year able to compete at this competition so it was a lovely final hurrah to her last competition! The under 16 successes led Ruskin into coming in 1st place in the team event, this being the first time Ruskin has taken this title.

Secondary Advanced Competition: Gymnasts in this category span the under 13 and under 16 age group and comprise of gymnasts who have won their respective intermediate competitions before. They compete the set intermediate floor routine and compete 2 vaults at the same time as the other intermediate competitors, but then they have to compete again with their own voluntary floor routine and 2 more vaults. All 4 scores are added up to get a total across the whole day. Ruskin's Alisha Shepherd took 1st place!

Under 13 Boys Competition: We had 1 competitor in this event and he is in Year 7 competing against gymnasts whom have not only done gymnastics for much longer but are older than him too. Alfie Webb stood up to this competition and also took 1st place.

Under 16 Boys Competition: Ruskin had three boys competing and the final results were extremely close: Lucas Kokocinski - 3rd, Kyle Davidson and Tom Charley joint 1st!

So much success being seen here. A huge thank you must be given to Jason Kettle for his continued and excellent work in developing our students into such incredible performers.

In the annual rugby 7s tournaments Ruskin saw a good level of skill and spirit result in medals returning to the Academy. The U15s winning the shield competition after beating De Aston in the final and the U12s finishing runners up.

Next term will see the final results of the district league netball and football competitions complete which we are looking forward to reporting on. We also await with anticipation the U14 badminton National League Finals where our boys and girls teams will combine to take on their opposition in May.

KEY DIARY DATES FOR TERM 5 2017/18

Students Involved	Date	Event
All	16th April 2018	Term 5 - All Students return (Wk B)
Students receiving reward	18th April 2018	Rewards Afternoon
D of E Students	27th & 28th April 2018	Bronze DofE Practice Expedition
Y7 Mackintosh	30th April - 4th May 2018	Mackintosh French Centre Trip
All	7th May 2018	May Day Bank Holiday
Year 12 Health & Social Care	9th May 2018	Health & Social Care Taster Day
All (public welcome)	10th May 2018	Joules Sale Charity Evening
All	14th May - 18th May 2018	Reading Week
Y7 Morris	21st - 25th May 2018	Morris French Centre Trip
All	25th May 2018	Last Day of term