RUSKIN
A PRIORY ACADEMY

# ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

Term 1 2018/2019 Community and SMSC

## A message from the Headteacher...

A warm welcome to the first newsletter of the academic year. As ever, the new Year 7 students have been impressive; they have quickly settled into the Ruskin family and many of them are already well on their way to achieving their first Ruskin Respect awards. This is a fantastic achievement as it shows a genuine commitment to the values that bind us together as an Academy, and that alongside learning and progress, our young people are passionate about their community, health and creative endeavours. I must also congratulate all of the award winners across Years 8 - 13 who have received prizes for their commitment to their studies. A particular well done should go to the winners of the House awards and our inaugural recipients of the Ruskin Respect awards who show an utter commitment to life at the Academy.

Our students have shown a real creative flair this term. I am really proud of the Academy's continued relationship with Gravity Fields. This year, our students have not only been involved in dance projects, but our young Science Ambassadors wrote and performed a piece of drama for which they received a standing ovation – well done! Creative work continues within the school with students this term enjoying printing workshops, visits from authors and writing competitions. We are currently working on a celebration of the arts and creativity in the widest sense of the word as we are planning our first ever Arts Festival - we will update you with further news about events later in the year.

Finally, I would like to thank parents and guardians for their continued support of Ruskin; it is always a pleasure to welcome you into the Academy for parents' evenings, learning evenings and showcases. I look forward to seeing you throughout the year.

Ms R Wyles

## Ruskin Awards Afternoons 2018

Ruskin celebrated some its most conscientious and committed students throughout the week commencing 8th October with parents and carers attending the annual awards afternoons. Awards recognised students' effort and progress across individual subjects as well as the much coveted House awards and National Baccalaureate. A huge well done to all our award winners!

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

Ruskin held a well attended Careers Fair on 17th October. With representation from further and higher education, industry and the public sector it certainly gave our students plenty of food for thought as they consider their future aspirations and goals.

# Summer 2018: GCSE & A-Level Results

The summer saw Ruskin celebrating its best GCSE results to date with more students than ever achieving the key English and Maths measure of grade 4 and above. Subjects across the board saw excellent levels of success under the new GCSE specifications with grade 9s achieved in Sciences, English, Maths , Languages, Arts and Humanities. There was also success at A-Level, with the Academy celebrating another excellent set of KS5 results following two years of hard work from the outgoing Year 13 cohort. The Academy saw more students than ever successfully progressing to some of the country's most prestigious Russell Group universities including Imperial College London, the University of Nottingham, the University of York, the University of Bristol and the University of Leeds.

Headteacher, Rachel Wyles said, "I am delighted that students have achieved the highest possible grades in a plethora of subjects. I am incredibly proud of our students' efforts and our phenomenal staff body who work tirelessly to ensure our students realise their full potential. Ruskin students demonstrate an unfaltering work ethic and commitment to success I wish them all the very best in their future endeavours.'

## Year 7 Creative Homework: Alice in Wonderland

Year 7 English produced some incredible work when tasked with creative homework. Inspired by Lewis Carroll's 'Alice in Wonderland', which they are currently studying, they produced some original (and in some cases rather yummy!) pieces of work.

## Oxford Museums

Our Year 9,10,11 and 12 GCSE and A-Level students had an Art enrichment day to Oxford visiting both the Natural History and Pitt Rivers Museums. Both museums had a wealth of artefacts and inspirational sources for the students to draw and photograph. Year 11 GCSE students have used this valuable experience to gather first hand inspiration for their cultural GCSE coursework project. The other students have gathered resource material for future art projects. It was an exciting and fulfilling day out.

## Year 7 Experience Printing

**Year 7 students have demonstrated a real propensity for Art and have enthusiastically embraced opportunities to try different styles and techniques.**

**The printing workshop they had proved particularly popular and they produced some stunning outcomes.**

# Yorkshire Sculpture Park: GCSE Art

On Friday 12th October, GCSE Art students from Year 9 and 10 were lucky enough to visit the fantastic Yorkshire Sculpture Park for the day. The students had a guided tour by two of the park's artists in residence where they were given the opportunity to view, discuss and in some cases interact with stunning sculptures from world renowned artists such as Barbara Hepworth, Henry Moore and Ai Weiwei to name just a few. The afternoon gave the students the opportunity to apply their gained knowledge from the morning session to produce their own large scale sculptures. They worked with a wide range of both natural and man-made materials to create their pieces based on a theme of their own choosing.

Craig Martini, Head of Art said, "It was brilliant to see students really thinking about the materials they were choosing to work with and what impact that would have on the overall message and theme of their sculptures. They all really engaged with the whole process and were clearly influenced by the work they had discussed in the morning session."

# Ruskin Geography Partnership With The Orangutan Foundation

The Geography Department is proud to announce a new partnership with the Orangutan Foundation, an orangutan rescue and rehabilitation centre in Kalimantan Province, Indonesia.

Orangutans, inhabitants of the islands of Borneo and Sumatra, are under increasing threat as a species as their habitat is steadily being destroyed due to logging for timber, oil-palm plantations, fires and mining.

Founded in 1990, The Orangutan Foundation is a small UK charity that works to conserve the orangutan by protecting their habitat and working with local communities. The foundation works in Central Kalimantan, Indonesian Borneo to protect over a million acres of orangutan habitat and also runs an orangutan reintroduction programme in the Lamandau Wildlife Reserve. The reserve has a population of over 500 orangutans, half of which were rescued and released back into the wild

Cathy Smith, Head of Development at the Orangutan Foundation said, "We are delighted that The Priory Ruskin Academy are supporting the Orangutan Foundation with this fantastic initiative. Not only are the students raising vital funds to help protect the orangutan's tropical forest home but importantly they are raising awareness about the plight of this critically endangered species and its vanishing forest home."

This partnership with the Academy has been arranged with the aims of fundraising, and spreading awareness of the environmental issues threatening the Orangutan. In return, the foundation will provide first-hand accounts of the geographical issues at play, and will provide talks and learning resources. This will support our GCSE and A Level students, as they study the relevant modules.

ORANGUTAN FOUNDATION
A FUTURE FOR ORANGUTANS, FORESTS & PEOPLE ©

# European Cultural Week

This term saw the Academy celebrate European Cultural Week, with European Day of Languages being marked on the 26th September. Staff wove the theme into a variety of lessons throughout the week, be it a lesson opener or a core theme throughout the lesson. Food Technology showcased cultural diversity with food from around the world. Year 8 made Pizza and Year 7 made a traditional Polish cookie. These are usually made around Christmas time, but are a nice treat all year round. They were so popular we thought you might like the recipe!

Ingredients:

60g sugar
120g Clover butter
1 egg yolk
1 tsp vanilla extract
160g Self-Raising flour
2 dessert spoon jam

Method:

Mix together sugar, butter, vanilla and egg yolk, add the flour and mix to form a smooth dough. Roll into small balls, about cherry tomato size, (makes approximately 16).

Place on a baking tray and make a small hole in the top of each cookie and fill with jam. Bake for 12-15 minutes at 160°c.

Enjoy with a nice cup of tea!

## Year 7 Enjoy Afternoon with Keith Gray

Year 7 were treated to a brilliant insight into the life of an author on 15th October, when Keith Gray visited the Academy. Part of the Scottish Friendly Children's book tour, in conjunction with our good friends at the Lincolnshire Children's Book Group, Keith told the students about his school days (where he was the best tree-climber, but probably one of the worst readers!) and his journey to becoming a passionate reader, and then a dedicated, award-winning author of books for children and young adults. His books, including The Runner and Ostrich Boys, were available to purchase and have signed – a great memento from a hilarious and engaging session.

## Young Writers

**A record number of students entered the Young Writers' competition last term, resulting in 84 Ruskin students being published in the latest 'Young Writers' collection of writing. Students were invited to write a 100 word 'flash fiction' entitled 'Stranger Sagas', the vast majority of which feature in the book. Parents of published students will be able to buy a copy of the book with their son/daughter's work in it. Excellent work everyone!**

**Creative Writing club is on every Friday in Hepworth 5 and we hope to see many more successful writing projects in the future!**

## Gravity Fields

The Year 9 Science Ambassadors were very well received at Gravity Fields this year, when they put on a self-penned play about the theory, discovery and future uses of hydrogen behaving like a metal. Having researched the topic thoroughly and then producing a play in four acts about the complex subject, they performed it in front of an audience at the Christchurch Methodist Chapel for the Gravity fields 'Breakthroughs in Science' event.

## 'Frantic Assembly': Students Inspired By Physical Theatre

On Thursday 4th October, Year 12 BTEC Level 3 Performing Arts students were given the amazing opportunity of working with a practitioner from the internationally renowned theatre company 'Frantic Assembly' who by their own admission have a reputation for 'inspiring innovative practice and unlocking creative potential'. Steven Miller (known for playing Doctor Lenny Lyons from BBC Drama Casualty) led a 2 hour workshop on physical theatre and devising techniques as well as answering Year 12's investigative questions relating to their preparations for their 'Investigating Practitioners Work' examination in January. The workshop was fast paced and inspiring and allowed students to explore new ways of storytelling using physical techniques which included some really adventurous lifts!

## Performing Arts: Abigail's Party

Y10 Performing Arts students spent the day in Chester watching and workshopping the 70s set play 'Abigail's Party.' The production is a key component of their BTEC studies and was an incredibly valuable day for students who had the opportunity to explore the roles and methods of the actors at the end of the live performance, whilst also gaining a little insight into life in the 1970s.

# Focus On Photography

Photography students have been their wonderfully experimental selves and have produced some exceptional images. Featured in this term's newsletter is a fabulous photo shoot from Year 13 looking at unusual viewpoints and perspectives of Zulu, an 18 week old Boxer Puppy. Also this term, Year 12 A-Level Photography students visited The Yorkshire Wildlife Park to experiment with composition whilst taking wildlife images. Finally, just before the summer holidays, students went on a residential trip to Whitby, North Yorkshire, where these stunning images of the famous Abbey were captured.

# Fundraising & Charitable Initiatives

As always it has been a busy term for fundraising and charity endeavours as Ruskin's community minded students look at established and new ways to raise money and resources. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Food Bank donations (by far our most successful year to date) and to the annual Macmillan Coffee Morning, which was incredibly well attended. Head Boy, Marcel, a keen footballer, came up with an innovative way to raise money for the PE department: A Fifa tournament! It proved popular with staff and students alike and eventually saw Mr Finch ( France) crowned our staff champion but, alas, he was beaten by Luke (Egypt) who was crowned winner and presented with a £20 voucher. Mr Finch, gracious in defeat said, "Despite playing Fifa for longer than Luke's been alive, I was no match for Mr Pulfrey - a great player". Mr Gunter was delighted with the funds raised which will be used to purchase…new footballs!

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# FESTIVE EVENING

COME ALONG AND JOIN US ON

## WEDNESDAY 28TH NOVEMBER

## 6:30PM - 9:00PM

WE HAVE STALLS FROM LOCAL COMPANIES SUCH AS...

Box & Bubbles, Bytham Kitchens, Boutique, TSP, Ollie Pops and many more.

£1.50
FOR UNDER 16S

£3
PER ADULT

...WE CURRENTLY HAVE OVER 30 STALLS NOW CONFIRMED!

Tickets cost £3 for adults and £1:50 for under 16s and are available for purchase from both student and main reception. By purchasing a ticket you will be automatically entered into a special prize draw to win a delicious hamper from Marks and Spencer.

All Proceeds will go towards supporting The Grantham Passage

# Sports Digest Term 1

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

The boys' rugby teams have had a busy start to the year with a wealth of fixtures. A highlight has been the introduction of a Sixth Form rugby team with a regular fixture schedule on a Wednesday afternoon. The team's first three fixtures proved extremely challenging against the experienced opposition of Spalding Grammar, Carres Grammar and The Priory LSST, however, with these experiences the team has developed considerably and they took their first win against St George's Academy, Sleaford with a 45-22 score line. A huge well done to this team for the progress they have shown. Other rugby highlights this term have been the Year 7 rugby team who faced Bourne Academy in their first game, performed excellently and won away from home 35-0. The Year 8 rugby team have progressed well and dominated De Aston 35-5.

In girls' netball Ruskin has fielded its first netball fixtures on Wednesday afternoons. The girls have been training very well together to develop their team play which has resulted in them achieving 3rd place at their first competition. The Year 11 girls' netball team has continued its annihilation of the district league competition, currently unbeaten in the league the girls have also, for the first time, qualified for county finals after winning the district short game format competition. There really is no stopping these girls after being district league winners in Year 9 and 10.

The girls' football teams have made an outstanding start to the new academic year. In the national cup they were drawn at U13s and U15s against Stamford High School. Last year Stamford High knocked us out of this competition with comprehensive victories so going into the games it was extremely important to keep the girls' heads up. Well this was certainly achieved with the U13 Ruskin girls winning 6-2, and the U15 Ruskin girls taking the game to penalties after a 4-4 draw after extra time, then winning the shootout 5-4. Great work girls and all the best in the next round!

In boys' football the regular Sixth Form A and B team fixtures have been taking place on Wednesday afternoons. The A team have taken their first win of the season against Lincoln College winning 5-2. The Year 7 football team have made an incredible start travelling to Mansfield for their first national cup game and winning with a score line of 13-1. Let's hope this team can continue with such great success this year and beyond. The Year 10 team have made a super start to the season; facing last year's district champions in the first game is always daunting, however, the team stood up to the challenge and in a very competitive fixture beating St George's 5-2.

The attendance of students at the extracurricular programme this half term has been excellent and we would like to remind all parents that there are activities before school, lunchtimes and after school for students to engage in.

## Students Enthused By Inspirational Speaker David Dein

Ruskin was delighted to welcome David Dein to the Academy on 9th October. Students were enthralled as they listened to the former vice-chairman of Arsenal FC and the Football Association. David's motivational session covered team work, decision making, working hard to succeed and attitude. Even Mr Gunter, an ardent Liverpool fan, looked honoured to meet this legend of English football!

Keep up with the latest sports news on Twitter by following @ruskinsport

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## KEY DIARY DATES FOR TERM 2 2018/19

| Students Involved | Date | Event |
|---|---|---|
| All | 29th October | Term 2 Begins |
| Year 12/13 Art Students | 2nd November | Art trip to London |
| All | 8th November | PSHE Day |
| Year 13 | 8th November | Year 13 Parents' Evening |
| All | 9th November | Remembrance Parade |
| Year 11 | 12th November | Year 11 Mocks begin (2 weeks) |
| All | w/c 12th November | Reading Week |
| Year 8 | 15th November | Blood Brothers Trip |
| Select Students | 15th November | District Cross Country |
| Year 11 (plus external) | 22nd November | Sixth Form Open Evening |
| All Welcome | 28th November | Ruskin Festive Evening |
| Year 9 | 29th November | Year 9 Parents' Evening |
| Year 10 | 7th December | Photography Trip to London |
| Year 12 & 13 | 10th December | Health & Social Care Event |
| Year 12 & 13 | 14th December | Sixth Form Christmas Lunch |
| Year 7 & 8 | 14th December | Pantomime Trip |
| Year 7 & 8 | 17th December | Carol Service |
| All | w/c 17th December | House Christmas Lunches |
| Year 11 & 12 | 18th - 21st December | Maths Trip to Paris |
| All | 20th December | End of Term for all students |
| Staff Only | 21st December | Staff Training Day |
| All | 7th January | Term 3 Begins |

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CAREER MARK The Mark of Quality for Careers Education and Guidance 2015-2017
RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOLS unicef UNITED KINGDOM LEVEL 1
INVESTORS IN PEOPLE Bronze
Specialist Schools and Academies Trust EXCELLENCE AND DIVERSITY