### RUSKIN A PRIORY ACADEMY ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

Christmas 2020 Community and SMSC

## A message from the Headteacher...

Despite it being a more subdued end of term than usual in the run up to the festive period, we have still managed some socially distanced Christmas cheer at Ruskin. Our new year 7s were hugely excited to be able to decorate their classrooms with all manner of exuberant displays – they have settled into the academy admirably well and are very much enjoying their "mini school" in the pavilion. As ever, the Art department have once again created an impressive seasonal centrepiece which showcases the remarkable talents of students from all year groups – I'm always impressed by the combined creativity of staff and students and their ability to create happiness through their artwork which has brought a daily cheer this term!

Our students have also continued to show their generosity of spirit and thoughtfulness toward others. Although we have not been able to host our usual Christmas event for local care homes this year, our health and social students have instead thoughtfully written and produced cards to local residents and they also sent beautifully wrapped gifts from us all. The students have also shown their support to Grantham Passage and the Foodbank.

Of all of our Ruskin Values this year, I do think that above all students have shown incredible courage. I have been so proud of how well our students have adapted to change and how quickly they have refocussed after a long lockdown away from the routines of the Academy. They have been amazing. I am particularly proud of how both year 13 and year 11 have shown a resolute determination to be undaunted by any potential set backs they have faced, working with maturity and thoughtfulness. It has been incredibly difficult for you – we are proud of you, and we are here if you need any support.

As with so much this year, Christmas is likely to take on a new, gentler cadence. I do hope that the festivities brings you much deserved happiness after such a challenging year and that the new year is one that is bright, safe and hopeful for all of us.

### Winter has arrived at Ruskin!





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



#### DIARY DATE - Reading Week w/c 11th January 2021

## Art Department Delivers Stunning Christmas Display



Ruskin's Art department has been busy transforming the main foyer for Christmas 2020. During these unprecedented times the department has helped to boost spirits by reminding everyone how talented Ruskin students are by displaying their fabulous artwork. This year's display showcases examples of students work cleverly encased in enlarged colourful baubles. The work ranges from sketchbook experimentation to final outcomes, all of which are as equally beautiful as one another, despite their differences in aesthetic. The Department has added copious amounts of glitter and ribbon to ensure the Christmas flare sings through. The final display by Miss Connor, Miss Whitlock and Miss Allsop is a kaleidoscope of colour that gives the Academy a welcoming festive glow.



#### Foodbank: Sixth Form Donations

Foodbanks are community organisations aimed at supporting people who cannot afford the essentials in life.

As part of our community work sixth form students wanted to donate to this worthwhile cause . The promotion and collection of items was lead by Year 13 Senior Prefect Amy H. Amy said , 'We are really delighted with the response amongst Sixth Form students. It's great to be able to spread a little happiness to those families that need it most at this time of year'.



### Duke Of Edinburgh Success

Despite all of the challenges of the past year, five of our most determined KS4 students have achieved the Duke of Edinburgh bronze certificate. In order to achieve this they completed a range of activities including:

- 1 Development of a skill,
- 2 Voluntary work
- 3 Physical exercise.

In total this took 48 hours.

The students are: Montgomery L, Abbigail D, Letisha N, Louis E, Olivia C and Jake B.

As part of this award, students have helped around their home completing housework, shopping for neighbours, mowing lawns and helping younger siblings with school work. Physical exercise has included running, cycling, dog walking and completing home workouts. An example of the work undertaken as part of the skills section included cooking, map reading, planning a charity coffee morning, brick laying and also skateboarding and also brick laying.

This has taken tremendous dedication and commitment, despite the disappointment of not being able to go on expedition. We are incredibly proud of these students and confident that the skillset developed will enhance their future opportunities!

#### **REMEMBRANCE DAY 2020**

On Remembrance Day students stood in silence to honour members of the armed forces who had died in the line of duty. As an Academy we like to support charities and feel it is more important than ever that the students support the Royal British Legion. The Covid 19 pandemic has left some in the Armed Forces community in dire need of urgent help. Once again, students and staff showed their support for the cause by wearing a poppy. £300 was raised towards this worthwhile charity via donations towards poppies.



#### Year 7 Physicists

In September, The Priory Ruskin Academy was delighted to be invited to join the newly formed Physics Partnership along with other schools in Grantham, in association with The Ogden Trust. The aim of the Partnership is to raise awareness of physics and support schools with projects and programmes to enhance learning.

At Ruskin, we have recently held our first physics related enrichment activity. This took the form of a quiz on general physics knowledge as well as famous physicists. The competition was aimed at our Year 7 cohort and we had over 80 students compete. It was a tense race with Mackintosh and Hepworth both entering the same amount of participants but the Mighty Mackintosh managed to pull away and eventually took the lead by a massive 30 points!

Chloe S from Hepworth House was the individual overall winner who scored an incredible 40 out of 42 points. When asked about which famous scientist she would most like to interview and why, Chloe's response was, 'Sir Isaac Newton because he discovered gravity'.

Well done to everyone who entered—we look forward to working with other schools within the partnership and further House enrichment activities.



making physics matter

#### Year 9 Engineers - Dyson Project



As part of the BTEC Engineering course students have been learning how things work by taking them apart! Year 9 Engineering students have been working with a box of vacuum cleaner parts provided by the James Dyson Foundation. Students have been investigating the different polymers used in its manufacture and their properties.

After dismantling the carbon fibre turbine tool and the tangle-free turbine head three intrepid Y9 students, Hayden E, James W and Rachel H took on the challenge of the DC39 vacuum cleaner. The students have enjoyed getting their hands on a real product and improving their practical skills while learning about p oly c a r b o n a t e s,



polyoxymethylene and acrylonitrile butadiene styrene (ABS).

In future lessons students will learn about the processes which formed the components of the Dyson vacuum cleaner and develop an understanding of product specifications.

#### **RUSKIN READING WEEK**

This term, Ruskin staff and students have immersed themselves in Renaissance Reading with some fantastic results across all

year groups. A special mention must go to those that have really excelled by reading and passing the highest amount of quizzes. These students are:

Yr7— Alfie B & Chloe St Yr8—Logan E & Jack C Yr9—Lilly G, Madison P, Erin H & James W Yr10— Gilraen M, Mia P & Frankie W



# Staff to Spread Christmas Cheer

Covid has had an undeniable impact on academy charity fundraising activities. Ruskin staff are still very keen to spread the joy of Christmas within the local community so they have decided to donate gifts to worthwhile charities such as the Grantham Passage, Foodbank, Maple Leaf Lodge and Fairview Farm.

Staff hope these donations will cheer up someone's day during this holiday season.





# UCAS Update - 2019/20

After another successful UCAS year, 62 students accepted their university places in summer 2020. Students that accepted their Russell Group offers include:

Kyle D, Imperial College, London, Chemistry with Molecular Physics

Jakub N London School of Economics, Economics Wiktor P University of Edinburgh, Chemical Physics Weronika K Univ. of Leeds, Accounting and Finance Aleksandra K University of York, Law Taylor K University of Sheffield, History Joao A University of Nottingham, Maths Phoebe T University of York, Psychology Sophie E **Durham University English Literature and History** University of Manchester, Law with Bruna L International Study

Jakub N has been awarded a bursary which he will receive for each year of study, based on an essay that he submitted to the London School of Economics outlining his academic journey. Well done Jakub— a fantastic achievement!



CHRISTMAS CARDS—Year 9 Health and Social Care students have been busy writing Christmas cards and sending festive wishes to the Maple Leaf Care Home and FairView Residential Farm. Residents were unable to visit the Academy this year but we look forward to welcoming them back in 2021.

### New Head Boy and Head Girl 2020/21



Ruskin is delighted to confirm the Academy appointments of our Head Girl and Head Boy 2020 - 2021.

Following a selection process, Georgina S and Max M impressed the panel with their motivational ideas, leadership

skills and complimentary personalities. As a result, they have been successful in securing the prestigious positons of Head Girl and Head Boy.

Georgina is an outstanding role model for all students at the Academy and excels in her studies whilst Max personifies our Ruskin values of Passion, Curiosity, Courage, Wisdom and Generosity. Other appointments are Rebekah T-F as Deputy Head

Girl and Ben D as Deputy Head Boy alongside a group of student Senior Leaders to help uphold the Ruskin values across the Academy.

The interview process was very competitive and all candidates did extremely

well in their interviews and delivered outstanding presentations. This tradition is concrete affirmation that at Ruskin we continue to produce well rounded students who are true citizens of the Twenty First Century.

We would like to wish our new Sixth Form leaders the best of luck in their new roles.

### Year 7 Ruskin Journey

This academy year has been a strange start for all of us but this is especially true for our new Year 7 students who have joined us on their Ruskin journey. They have embraced Ruskin life and have made an impressive start.

The Year 7 Pastoral team strongly support all of our students and



each House has a designated Assistant Head of House on call to help the smooth transition for our students. Mr Gough and Mrs Shelford are

working alongside the team to ensure our ethos of 'Aiming High' and 'Showing Respect' are encapsulated into everything we do.

The Pavilion has seen a number of changes including our new

outdoor eating area which has greatly improved the break and lunch facilities. Currently, the Pavilion has been made into a Winter Wonderland with decorations in every room. The competitive House spirit is very much embedded into the Year 7 students and we all look forward to the results on the room decorating which will be judged by the Headteacher.

The House competitions have included Maths, Physics and Art challenges and to end the term a house Christmas rap! House competitions have been received with great enthusiasm and students are now eagerly awaiting their first House Sports competition as soon a COVID permits!

Another strong testament to the success of our new intake is the amount of Ruskin Respect badges that have already been issued. Emily D in Mackintosh is already prepared to become the first Year 7 student to hopefully achieve her Baccalaureate award.

#### Our Year 7 DREAM Team

(Dedication, Respect, Enthusiasm, Aiming High, Motivation) are a collection of ambitious students who have been elected by their peers, to represent each House in the Ruskin community. They have already begun creating steppingstones to enhance the learning environment for themselves and each other. Their long-term aim is to design the smoothest transition for new students coming to the Academy.

We are proud of all the Y7 achievements and we look forward to seeing how Year 7 continue to thrive over the coming months against all adversity!



#### Foodbank: Year 8 Donations to Support Local Families



As part of the Ruskin Experience Programme, Year 8 students have been helping gather food parcels for the local Foodbank. The Year 8 volunteers have been actively promoting the importance of foodbanks and have been really excited to see the donations flowing in from their Tutor groups.

A really big and sincere thank you to all students that have been generous with donations





### **Ruskin's Eco-Committee**



Term 2 has seen the launch of an exciting new ecoinitiative. In collaboration with the Geography Department, students from the Academy's Eco-Committee helped to design and deliver the latest "YouTube Sensation," -`Ruskin Asks`.

`Ruskin Asks` is an interview series, currently in the process of being released on its own YouTube channel. Each episode features a guest speaker who works within the environmental sector. The interviews are planned and designed by students at the Academy and conducted by staff.

Topics covered are all relevant to GCSE and A Level courses as well as providing careers advice. The first two episodes introduced global wildlife conservation, hearing from a Ranger and Social Media Co-ordinator from the Black Mambas. They are the world's first all-female antipoaching unit, based in South Africa!

All episodes are available on the YouTube channel to

listen to at any time, and hopefully build a better understanding of current challenges and opportunities in the environmental sector.

The students from the Eco-Committee would like to thank all staff and guests who helped deliver this project; they certainly had fun!



#### Sixth Form News

In September 2020, Ruskin welcomed 138 new Year 12 students including 34 external students.

Ruskin Sixth Form is buzzing with over 200 students studying a variety of academic and vocational subjects. Year 12 have settled into their new timetables and have been offered the opportunity to complete the KS5 Baccalaureate.



Year 13 are firmly focussed on upcoming exams with some applying to university through the UCAS application process. Those not choosing the route of Higher Education will be supported in applying for apprenticeship schemes or employment.

### **Food Technology Update**

The Food Department have had a busy Istanbul. Giving the group a term distanced practical lessons for Year 8 and 9 students. made a flatbread base,



Year 8 have been making delicious Turkish Pizzas, leaving a lasting impression

Technology of the tastes and smells of focusing on socially glimpse into the traditional based Turkish cuisine, students first followed by a topping of onion, pepper and sausage and finishing with some chilli for that final kick! In the photo opposite, Tillie O shows us the Turkish Pizza she prepared with the culinary expertise guidance of Mr Esam. In September, Year 9 started their three year GCSE option course-

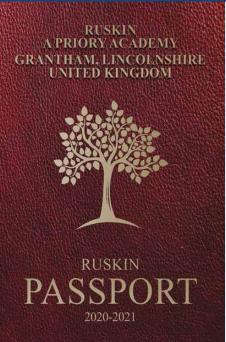
Hospitality and Catering. They have made a great start to the course by cooking a variety of dishes including cookies, minestrone soup and macaroni cheese.

Year 11 working hard are practising their dishes for their final GCSE assessment in January.



## Year 11: RUSKIN PASSPORT

The Academy wants to support and encourage our Year 11 students through difficult and challenging times. So, in order to do this, the Ruskin Passport has been adapted to encourage students throughout their Year 11 journey. The Ruskin Passport will support students` progress throughout the year and will offer reward packages to recognise hard work and commitment . The Academy firmly believe that achieving your best possible grades is the highest incentive but to encourage and support during



this current time a revised Year 11 reward programme, has been produced.

Outlined within the Passport are different packages available depending on commitments and achievements. The first incentive to work towards relates to achievements in the mock examinations in January—the reward is a free leavers hoodie.

Good luck Year 11.

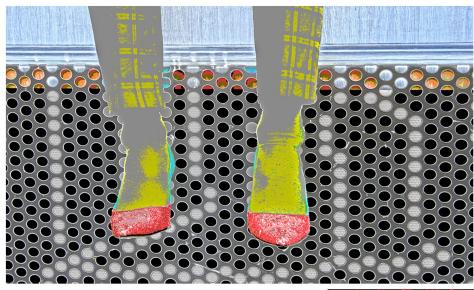
# **COVID 19—Christmas Period**

Further to auidance received from the DFE, we wish to remind you that when students or staff develop symptoms of Covid 19 on or before Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December and test positive following these symptoms or have a test on or before Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December if they are asymptomatic, the Academy will support in tracing close contacts and informing families where other children need to isolate. In line with DFE guidance, this service will be available up to and including 24<sup>th</sup> December (after this date, you should use the NHS Test and Track system). If this is the case we ask that you email the Academy using the following email address:

ruskincovid19@prioryacademies.co.uk

Please include in the email your child's details along with the date they started to show symptoms, the date of the test and positive outcome. We will then take the necessary steps to identify and inform any close contacts.

If a child or staff member develops symptoms after Sunday 20th December, the Government guidance regarding testing and medical support should be followed; pupils and staff should follow contact-tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.





# Ben Doughty

Year 13 A Level Photography Personal Project 'Surrealism'





# MAKE THE WORLD BETTER WITH A SWEATER

Although 2020 has been dominated by the pandemic, there is one festive event that still went ahead...**CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY!** 

Ruskin was delighted to be part of Save The Children's Christmas Jumper Day on Friday 11th December. Both staff and students wore festive jumpers to school and made a donation to the Save the Children Charity.

It was a great way to add a dash of colour, and bad taste jumpers, to school whilst bringing a bit of cheer in the absence of the usual festivities.

A grand total of £800 was raised - Well done Ruskin!





### House Art Competition

The first Art competition of the academic year was to `design a logo for your favourite subject`. Naturally, a diverse range of entries were received. Some students thought 'out of the box', some thought literally and some logically. Due to the sheer amount of outstanding entries, Miss Connor concluded that there needed to be 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place within each year group, as well as one overall winner.

This image is the work of Orlaith S. in Year 7. She not only did she design the logo for Design and Technology, she also went above and beyond by actually making it!

Congratulations to all of the entrants; your work was absolutely stunning.

**Overall Winner**: Orlaith S.

**Year 7 Winner:** Thomas Q.

**Year 8 Winner:** Myles B.

Year 9 Winner: Joshua M.



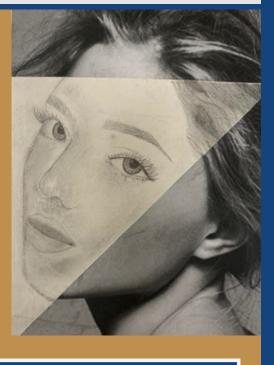
# Art Showcase

### Year 8: Stezaker Faces









#### Year 7: Fauvist Plants



#### Year 8: Henri Matisse Artist Study





H ASKY

#### Year 7: Music & Mark Making



RUSKIN A PRIORY ACADEMY ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

### **KEY DIARY DATES FOR SPRING TERM 2021**

Students Involved	Date	Event
All Staff	4th January	Staff Training Day
All Students	5th January	All Students Return (Week B)
Year 13	11th - 29th January	Mock Examinations
All	w/c 11th January	Reading Week
Year 10	4th February	Intermediate Maths Challenge
Year 13 `	11th February	Parents' Evening
All	12th February	Break up for Half Term (3.20pm)
All	22nd February	All Return (Week A)
Year 8	25th February	Parents' Evening
All	w/c 1st March	Reading Week
Year 8	4th March	Options Evening
Year 11 PA students	8th March	GCSE Performing Arts Exam
All	12th March	PSHE Day
Year 12	12th March	University & Apprenticeship Fair
		(Kings Power Stadium)
Year 12	18th March	Parents' Evening
Year 12	12th March	University & Apprenticeship Fair
		(Kings Power Stadium)
Year 11 PA students	29th—31st March	GCSE Performing Arts Exam
All	31st March	Break up for Easter Holiday

### Wishing you a safe and Happy Christmas



• Wisdom • Curiosity • Generosity • Courage • Passion