



RUSKIN A PRIORY ACADEMY ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

Term 1 2022/23 Community and SMSC

A message from the Headteacher...

Welcome to the first newsletter of the new academic year! It has been a busy term; our new year 7s have made an excellent start to the year- they have settled quickly into the Ruskin family and are rapidly learning what it means to be a Ruskin student. Equally in upper school, our sixth formers have settled to the demands and rigour of level 3 qualifications and have been incredibly positive about our extensive enrichment offer this year. The programme focusses on developing cultural capital through enhanced study options and also wellness and mindfulness, with sessions as diverse as yoga, self-defence and art therapy. A popular sixth form opening evening showcased our expansive study programme earlier this term and we are looking to provide parents with a further information evening later in the year as we continue to broaden our post 16 offer through the delivery of T levels and apprenticeships. I am also pleased to formally introduce our new student leadership team, below, who are an incredibly committed group of young people, keen to shape academy life.

Our renovation of the sports centre and development of a tech block and changing facilities is progressing well. Internal refurbishments are now complete and significant investment has gone into gym and sporting equipment as part of our continued commitment to our specialism, sporting excellence and the health and wellbeing of our students. It is wonderful to see so many of our young people engaged in a variety of sporting activities as part of our extra-curricular offer; a full list of before and after school provision is available on our website.

I wish you all a good half term break and look forward to seeing you in the new term.

Student Leadership in Sixth Form

THE PRIORY RUSKIN ACADEMY
ACADEMIC YEAR 2022-2023



Head Girl
Cara A



Head Boy
Samuel O



Deputy Head Girl
Katie F



Deputy Head Boy
Callum O



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

Twitter: @prioryruskin Facebook: The Priory Ruskin Academy



PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Our first Personal Development Day took place on Tuesday 4th October. Students responded to the sessions with enthusiasm and interest. Session titles included, 'Babies Behind Bars', 'Heartstopper!' and Drill Music and Gang Violence', all designed to engage students in personal, social and global issues and to develop strong life skills.

We have six Personal Development (PD) Days throughout the academic year and this involves a full day off timetable where students spend the day focusing on specific areas pertinent to each year group. The overarching intent of our PD curriculum at Ruskin is to improve the life chances of our pupils so that they become true citizens of the world.

The sessions of our PD Days span five strand areas

- Relationships, Health and Community
- British Values and Global Awareness
- Wellbeing and SMSC
- Living in the Wider World
- Careers

A snapshot of topics covered on PD1

Sex on Trial

Students were shown a specially written drama about a sexual encounter and were put to the test to see if they could work out if it is consensual sex or if a crime has been committed. The issue was discussed with a huge amount of maturity and sensitivity. Students were particularly interested in the legalities surrounding rape and felt that the scenario that was explained really helped them to put what they had learned about consent into context.

Polyamory and Polyandry

Our Sixth Form students found this session particularly intriguing and were able to consider their own values surrounding relationships and use these values to evaluate other types of relationships. Students questioned whether society and the economic situation actually forms the basis of our morals and norms surrounding relationships.

Orangutan Vs Bulldozer

Our Year 12 students worked with the Geography Department to organise this interactive workshop where lower school students were able to work in groups to represent members of a village in the Amazon. They were set the challenge of making at least £300 for the village to survive. We are excited to see subjects specialists preparing further interactive sessions for our next PD Day. Science are currently planning a session for December's PD Day which will give students the opportunity to build a sustainable city in small groups.

Babies Behind Bars

This session was thoroughly enjoyed. Students learned about the aims of punishment and were able to analyse whether mother and baby units in UK prisons met the aims of punishment. The session concluded with small groups designing their own prison and presenting how aims of punishment such as retribution, rehabilitation and reform had been met through their facility.

Drill Music and Gang Violence

The impact of the popular music genre, drill, was analysed in this session. Drill is a style of music that originated in Chicago in early 2010. It is defined by its dark, violent, rebellious lyrical content.

Drill music focuses on crime and the daily ordeals of life on the streets and the word itself is street slang for the use of automatic weapons. The music has been hitting the headlines following a controversial crack down on social media due to concerns about the lyrics inciting violence. Students considered the cause of gang violence and the extent to which **drill music was to blame for this issue.**

Careers

In keeping with our commitment to provide students with outstanding careers guidance and tailored support when choosing their next step after school, launched Unifrog; an award-winning, online careers platform.



The Unifrog platform is designed to support learners in making the most informed decisions about their futures and has a range of tools that are suitable for all year groups. Each student has their own personal account that provides a wide range of information related to their interests and aspirations. Key features of the platform include:

- Exploring Pathways
- Recording – self-reflection about extracurricular activities and key employability skills
- Opportunities – search tools showing live vacancies/courses/placements for apprenticeships, universities (in the UK and abroad), FE, virtual work experience and much more
- Applications – tools to help students build applications for a range of pathways

For more information, go to www.unifrog.org or contact your child's tutor

There was certainly a positive vibe throughout the academy on the day and the students were able to further develop their sense of curiosity in learning about the world around them and acquire an appreciation and respect for their own and for other cultures.



CALLING ALL FORMER STUDENTS

If you're a former student of The Priory Ruskin Academy, we want to hear from you!

Your experiences since leaving could help to motivate and inspire our current students to feel more confident in making decisions about their future. We'd love you to join our alumni network and stay connected with the school.

We've partnered with the national education charity **Future First**, who specialise in helping schools like ours to stay connected with their former students.

You can choose how and when you help – perhaps you can act as a career and education role model, provide work experience, become a mentor in person or online, or help with donations, fundraising or even apply to become a governor.

It doesn't matter when you left us, whether you're in further education or employment, whether you still live nearby or have moved further away, there are still ways you can help.

In order to sign up, just follow this link and fill in the online form – we promise it will only take a couple of minutes.

networks.futurefirst.org.uk/former-student/prioryruskin

Below are a few of our Alumni students who were welcomed back to the Academy to inspire our Year 10 students by talking about their goals and achievements.



One Mile Challenge

During October, Year 7 students completed a one mile event during their PE lesson as part of the 'London Marathon in Schools Initiative'.

The Mini London Marathon in schools has been developed to inspire young people of all ages and abilities to be physically active. Students could either walk, jog or run to complete the distance.

Ruskin chose this event to raise money for The British Heart Foundation and before taking part in the challenge Melanie Meik, Area Manager for the Foundation, visited the academy to talk about the work of the charity.

Students were encouraged to make a donation before they completed the one mile challenge.





Form News...

POSTIVE VIBES FROM SIXTH FORM

The Sixth Form team were very proud to launch their newly developed Enrichment Programme this term. The platform is a brilliant way to broaden experiences and expand confidence whilst making new friends and enjoying school life.

This programme will look great on our students CVs and personal statements when applying for Higher Education, jobs or training schemes. The transferable skills learnt via enrichment are also significant and go beyond subject grades.

We hope our programme provides extended learning prospects whilst supporting students to pursue their own areas of interest and strengths. Wednesday afternoons are now devoted to the Enrichment Programme for all year 12 and 13 students.

Students are expected to participate in a variety of enrichment opportunities offered on a rolling programme each term.

Opportunities include:

- Sports
- Yoga
- Self Defence
- Pottery
- Art Therapy
- Debating
- First Aid
- Community Projects
- Mental Wellbeing



In addition to this programme we offer various university visits, presentations and guest speakers to support students on their next pathway.

UCAS Update

After another successful UCAS year, 71 student applications were sent and we are delighted that 59 accepted their university places.

Students that accepted their Russell Group offers include:

- James Carlin- University of Sheffield, Accounting and Financial Management
- Neil Eardley- University of York, Social Policy – Crime and Criminal Justice
- Kaan Yaldiz- University of Manchester, Neuroscience

We wish all our students the very best on their journeys after Ruskin.

HELLO YELLOW!

On the 10th October Ruskin students added a splash of yellow to their attire in order to raise awareness for mental health, participating in the national 'Hello Yellow' day.

Student-led assemblies on this topic will follow in order to raise further awareness across the academy.



Sixth Form Open Evening

Ruskin's Sixth Form Open Evening was held on Thursday 20th October. We were delighted to welcome prospective Sixth Form students and their families to the academy. Presentations by the Headteacher, Head of Sixth Form and Head Boy and Girl were given to packed audiences in the Great Hall. The aim of the evening was to give key information about subjects and entry requirements for students wishing to join Ruskin Sixth Form in September 2023.

The deadline to apply is Friday 2nd December with offer letters sent home by Friday 3rd February. If you wish to discuss your future options please contact the Head of Sixth Form at:
acairns@prioryacademies.co.uk



University Fair

On Friday 7th October, Year 12 students took a trip to the Leicester King Power Station for a university fair followed by a visit to De Montfort University.

Students had the opportunity to explore and speak directly to representatives from a variety of universities. It allowed them to talk to specialist people about their career aspirations and gain advice on potential pathways. Presentations on Student Finance and Personal Statements were also available to attend.

Students left the fair feeling well informed about future decisions and what to expect with university criteria, choices and entry requirements.

As well as the university fair, a whistle-stop tour of De Montfort University was included, looking at the different courses and facilities it had to offer. The final destination a visit to the Food Court on campus where a variety of different dishes were on offer!

Miss Pexton, Communications and Careers Officer said, "this was the first insight into university life for a lot of our students and it has ignited excited conversations about post 18 education and choices."



Air Cadet Award

Year 13 student, Stanley has been a member of the Combined Cadet Force at the academy for five years and has excelled in demonstrating his leadership and teamwork skills. He has completed the formal cadet instruction qualifications, gained the highest leadership award within the Air Cadets and has more recently been awarded the highest level of gliding award. He is now beginning to instruct younger cadets on how to fly gliders with the Royal Air Force.

After submitting his resume to the Wing Commander Larwood-Hughes, Head of the CCF RAF Sections for the whole country, Stanley has been awarded the Rank of Cadet Warrant Officer. This is the highest possible rank in the Air Cadets and recognises Stanley for his achievements on a national level.

We would like to congratulate Stanley on this amazing accomplishment.

Well done!

Flying Officer Joshua Brooks

Contingent Commander

The Priory Ruskin Academy



WELCOME TO RUSKIN

After seeing a sea of new and anxious faces on their very first day at Priory Ruskin and a few days of 'where do I go?' the Year 7 students are now happily settled into life at the Academy. They have joined clubs, worked hard, entered competitions, earned Star of the Lesson and are proud to be part of their House and the larger Ruskin family.

Some shining stars have already earned their first Ruskin Values badge. It's been a fabulous start and we are all looking forward to seeing what they can achieve. Year 7, we are very proud of you all.

Year 7s have already been involved in their first House competition with Polly M and Teagan G winning the values shield for Morris House.

Well done on your winning entry!

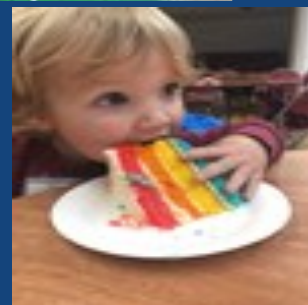


Macmillan Coffee Morning Raises £450.00

Friday 30th September saw Ruskin host their annual coffee morning as part of Macmillan's nationwide fundraising initiative. The morning was incredibly well supported and raised a grand total of £450.00



A huge thank you to staff, students, parents and members of the general public who contributed whether this was baking, donating tombola prizes or buying and eating the delicious cakes! A special mention must go to Morrison's who kindly donated enough cakes to enable us to hold another cake sale at break time on Wednesday 5th October.



Thank you all for supporting this event.

Disney Dancers

At the end of the last academic year, over 50 students auditioned for an advanced dance team at Ruskin. The successful 20 students have been working relentlessly each week to prepare for an audition with Disney.

The competition was tough but we are thrilled to announce that our students passed the audition and have been invited to perform at Disneyland, Paris. This will be part of a professional stage production for tourists to enjoy during December 2022!

With a lot of work to do, students are now being put through their paces with professional choreographer, Graeme Pickering to complete the finale dance piece. Mrs Bains, Head of Performing Arts, said 'we are very proud of the resilience and motivation these students are showing; they really do embrace the Ruskin values.'



THE DAY

This year, Ruskin has launched 'The Day', a fantastic new reading resource available to all students. This is a compilation of current non-fiction articles which students can log into via the school website.

This kind of reading is designed to provide students with facts and interesting information. It fosters critical thinking skills and can be accessed in different reading levels which means that this is open to all students.

Every day, two new articles are published on the website so the content is always topical and relevant. Furthermore, any articles read on the website can be recorded in the reading passport.

So pay a visit to The Day and get reading!



Yorkshire Sculpture Park

On Thursday 22nd September, Year 9 and 10 students were invited on an enriching and engaging trip to Yorkshire Sculpture Park in Wakefield. Upon arrival, the students participated in an interactive art workshop with artist, Roger Hirons, and quickly found themselves immersing in foam!



This was followed by a guided exploration of the park with an educational leader, where students were given the opportunity to experiment with a variety of media and processes.

In the afternoon, students were tasked with creating their own sculptures using a plethora of everyday items, each producing a varied and individual set of outcomes.

Katie S, Year 9 said 'The trip encouraged me to look at art in a different way to its traditional sense and gave me ideas in how to explore my artwork further.'



KEY DIARY DATES FOR TERM 2 2022/23

Date	Event	Students Involved
31 October	First Day of Term	All Students
1—3 November	House Sports Matches	All Years
3 November	Oxford Step-Up Programme	Year 12
w/c 7 November	Mock Examinations	Year 11
9 November	H&SC Careers Event	Year 12 H&SC Students
11 November	Remembrance Parade	All Students
11 – 18 November	Safari Trip	
w/c 14 November	Mock Examinations	Year 11
w/c 14 November	Reading Week	All Students
16 November	Grantham Flower Club Event	All Welcome
w/c 21 November	Speaking & Listening Exams	Year 11
21 November	Performing Arts Practical Exam	Year 11
24 November	Parents' Evening	Year 7
29 November	Wreath Making Night	All Welcome
1 December	Ruskin Festive Fayre	All Welcome
6 – 9 December	Disneyland Paris visit	
7 December	PD Day	All Students
7 December	University Visit—Leeds Beckett	Year 12
8 December	Parents' Evening	Year 11
12 December	Pantomime Visit	Year 7
13 December	Christmas Disco	Year 7
15 December	Theatre Trip—Mary Poppins	Year 11 PA students
16 December	Last Day of Term	All Students