

The Priory Ruskin Academy Newsletter

December 2014

Headmaster's Report

Dear Parents/Carers

This is my fifth year at Ruskin Academy and with every term students increasingly embody our motto 'Aim High, Show Respect'. Staff, students and our community have been resilient in the face of many changes, which as a result has shaped a strong community feel within Ruskin.

There is an expectation that all of our students will make outstanding progress and on the whole, students have stepped up to this mark and made us all very proud.

Our students have also impressed us with successes such as, the debating team winning the Grantham Rotary competition, Year 8 netball tournament winners, fundraising events, football and rugby wins. Please see the newsletter for even more success stories.

We hope when we return the parking areas will be complete, which will mark the end of the building works... for now. We hope to start building a new Sixth Form pavilion very soon. This will give our post 16 students a distinct area to study and meet.

Thank you for your continued support and have a Happy Christmas.

**Mr Clive Shepherd
Headmaster**

Visual Arts and Sports Excellence

Top Stories this Term!...



It's All About the Learning

It has been fantastic to see Year 11 students 'actively' engaged in a new after-school revision programme this term.

Every night for 30 to 45 minutes, a large percentage of students get involved in sessions designed to give specific exam skills. The teachers are encouraged to make the sessions relaxed, informal and discussion based. One Year 11 student, when asked why he was still here at 4.20pm responded, "I like being here, it's a relaxed environment and you trust us to learn."

And that's the approach; our Year 11's are young adults and we believe in them. They are doing themselves and our Academy proud with their commitment and dedication. They will do well!

Mr Oliver
Assistant Headteacher (Progress)

YEAR 11
PARENT PREP EVENING

An informal evening to inform, advise and prepare your child for their final GCSE year

4-30-7pm on Wed 22nd Oct
In the Great Hall

- Visit 'subject stalls' – talk to teachers and 6th formers
- Collect Revision materials
- Visit 'How to Revise' stalls
- Visit 6th Form stalls to discuss grades and subjects for next year
- 10 minute presentation by Mr Shepherd
- Revision Plan
- Rewards Packages
- Take a tour of the New site
- Refreshments From the Restaurant

JOIN US ON FACEBOOK

f PRIORY RUSKIN ACADEMY FACEBOOK
Just search for us on Facebook: Priory Ruskin Academy or scan the QR code with your smart phone to take you direct.

The Priory Ruskin Academy Drag Racing Team (PRADragracing) recently took possession of the two motorcycles that will form the basis of the racing machines to be used in next years Junior Drag Bike Challenge. The club members must now cut, weld, tune and fettle these bikes and turn them into bonafide drag strip machines. They need to make them longer and lower and increase the aerodynamics of the motorcycles to be in with a chance of competing with the more established teams. The club is designed to give access to all the STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) to its members. From basic motorcycle maintenance to tuning and from designing to fabricating then painting, the young people will have opportunities to participate in every aspect of a race team.

The club members are looking for support from the community so they can build up a decent tool kit and accumulate parts to convert these off road trial bikes into long, low mean machines which will have to look the part in order to be eligible for the competition. Something like the photograph below:

Once the machines are completed the machines will compete in a competition designed for young people under the age of sixteen. These competitions take place during regular drag racing meetings at raceways, such as Santa Pod, giving the club members opportunities to experience the atmosphere, noise and thrills of a very exciting motor sport.

RUSKIN drag racing Team



THE RUSKIN RUNNER

LATEST NEWS FROM OUR ASPIRING SPORTS SUPERSTARS

Netball

What a great start to this year's Netball season!

Year 7 and Year 8 teams were both Tournament champions of the Stamford Small Schools Tournament and the Year 9 were runners up.

All the girls have worked extremely hard in training and we are hoping for continued success throughout the season.

Congratulations to Melanie Church, Romaia Herrera, Courtney Sharples and Chelsea Smith who were all selected for the final round of the Satellite County Netball Trials on Wednesday 19th November in Lincoln.

All the girls played extremely well, a real credit to the Academy. A big well done to them all and a special congratulations to Courtney Sharples who has been successful in being selected for the squad!



**PRIORY RUSKIN 4-1 BOSTON GRAMMAR
GOAL SCORERS J.GILES (3) O.HAYWARD**

OTHER RESULTS THIS TERM:

PRA 4-3 LINCOLN COLLEGE

PRA 3-1 SIR JOHN GLEED

PRA 1-2 QE HORNCastle

PRA 2-2 SPALDING GRAMMAR

PRA 5-5 KINGS

PRA 1-2 BOSTON HIGH

PRA 4-1 BOSTON GRAMMAR



GCSE PRODUCT DESIGN GRAPHICS

The year 10 GCSE Graphics students took a long day trip to Lancashire in October to visit Milano Pro Sport, the leading UK manufacturer of gymnasticwear and sportswear. As part of their GCSE coursework, students will be required to design and make a piece of sportswear, so what better way to show them how it's done? The students got to see the production line from the design studio through to the marketing and selling department. They got to experience printing techniques will be vital to their course. Prior to the trip Miss Murphy designed two cycling tops with a "Ruskin" theme that Milano printed and produced for the students to see. These will be shortly delivered to the Academy and displayed for all students to view.



Art Trip to London



On Thursday 18th September, 39 A level and GCSE Art and Design students went on an enrichment day to London. They visited two galleries, the Saatchi and the Victoria and Albert Museum.

The staff at the Saatchi gave the students a most interesting resume of their recent collection which is changed every 5 weeks. This experience gave the students a great insight into how to analyse a piece of Art work. Our students responded well to the question and answer session and we feel as a department that the experience was most valuable.

The Victoria and Albert Museum provided a wide range of artwork and fashion from all over the world. The fashion students particularly enjoyed looking at the development of fashion and were able to take photographs to support their GCSE work. It was an absolute pleasure to take the students out for the day – their behaviour and reliability were exemplary.



"Happy Ruskin"

So by now, we hope that you will have seen our Happy Ruskin Video, it's fair to say that it went far more viral than we ever imagined and put a real smile on our faces. So far on YouTube the video has been viewed over 1,745 times, shared 97 times on Facebook and had some fantastic comments. We all thoroughly enjoyed filming it and we are currently working on the next instalment to treat the students on the last day of term! Watch this space! To view the video again, scan this QR code.



1,745

33 0

125 25 97 Shares





SIXTH FORM news!



The Sixth Form Level 3 BTEC Health and Social Care group here at The Priory Ruskin Academy gained valuable first aid skills when they attended a First Aid course run by the local charity LIVES (Lincolnshire Integrated Voluntary Emergency Service). Students gained confidence in cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) during the course which was delivered by Neil Chadwick (LIVES First Responder Development Officer). The course was aimed at showing students paediatric and elderly First Aid as they are all currently completing work experience in Health and Social Care settings such as nurseries, primary schools and care homes. The students were shown how to deal with choking, CPR, allergies and trauma related incidents. The students thoroughly enjoyed the course and it has given them confidence in dealing with emergencies should they arise on their placements.

(Year 12 student Jade Burkhill practising performing CPR on an infant)

Sixth Form News

The Sixth Form continues to become integral to the life of the Academy, after moving from Queensway in the summer. Our results were excellent and we wish our leavers who have started university and apprenticeships all the very best. We have 71 students in the new Y12, giving the sixth form total numbers of 113.

Our medium term aim is to have 250 sixth formers in new, purpose build facilities.

The Open Evening for Sixth Form took place on Thursday 27th November and was a hugely successful evening. Entry into Y12 for September 2015 will be a competitive process, with places for around 70 students. Last half term was a busy and extremely productive one. Amongst the many highlights were hustings and elections for Y12 House Leaders, sporting success for our football and rugby teams, (including an amazing 5-5 draw against Kings,) the roll out of mentoring schemes where sixth formers work with Y7 and Y8 students to boost their literacy/numeracy and social skills; and enriching photography and art trips. We all agree, our sixth form is a vibrant place to be!

Team Building Day

In an effort to build relationships and moral, the English and Maths departments worked in collaboration to ensure the Year 11 (B band) had a day of team building that they would never forget! This adventure took place at PGL, Caythorpe, and consisted of truly terrifying tasks that made even the most courageous of individuals quiver! Both students and teachers alike threw themselves willingly into the challenging endeavours, which included assault courses and well as the trapeze. It is safe to say that the day was thoroughly enjoyed by all that were involved and firm bonds were created, as well as an abundance of treasured memories.



#astag PRIORITY

#astag PRIORITY
DESIGNED BY STUDENTS - WRITTEN FOR STUDENTS

BOYLE GRILLS KEY
#astag interview

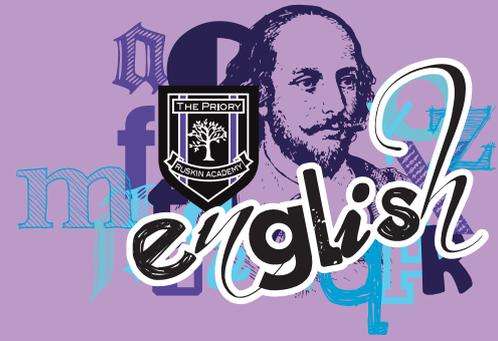
EXCLUSIVE THE 11th PLUS DEBATE

EXCLUSIVE MR KEY IN THE HOTSEAT

£2.00 on sale soon!

DON'T WORRY About A Thing

In September Miss Woodward and Miss Murphy joined forces to create a student team of writers and designers to form the new student magazine club. Mr Shepherd has invested £600 into the team and they have to write, design, sell and manage this magazine every term. The students had to apply for jobs, including Editor, Photographer, Writer, Reporter, Graphic designer and many more. Jobs were given to students in all years from 7 to 13. Miss Woodward and Miss Murphy have been overwhelmed by the enthusiasm, passion and hardwork of the team over these two terms. Students spend Tuesday evenings until 5pm working on the magazine. They have worked together to produce a magazine that THEY want to read, featuring stories that impact THEM. They have contacted local companies to sell advertising space, written a problem page, interviewed teachers, reported on feature stories around Grantham, hit back at Critics and defended their teachers. We couldn't be more proud of them. At the time of printing this magazine, the students were just finishing theirs. They intend to organise printing of the magazines in December in order to sell the last week of term. Students have researched prices and taken into account the cost of production and come up with a selling price of £2.00. They were very keen to ensure that 10% of all sales went to a charity of their choice. This publication will donate to Cancer research. Lots of prizes are available from "Grantham Bowling", "Indulgence Delivered" and many more with lots of competitions to get involved with. Please support the students buying a copy. Please add them onto the facebook page - facebook.com/hashtagpriority



National Youth Speaks Competition

Six students for The Priory Ruskin Academy recently won their Youth Speaks Competition and will be heading to the finals in January. This is a huge achievement from the six students: Senior Team: Rui Cardoso, Vicky Greaves, Olly Haywood and the Junior Team: Marcel Ludew, Rian Durham, Aaron Shepherd. This competition is the first year The Priory Ruskin has attended and to come back with a two trophies is an enormous success. The National Youth Speaks Competition is a well-established and successful competition promoted by Rotary International in Britain and Ireland (RIBI) and sponsored by Gandys [Orphans for Orphans]. It aims to offer young people: an incentive to formulate ideas on topical subjects; an experience in speaking on a public platform as a member of a team; the opportunity of learning and practicing high standards of expression, presentation and appearance as well as the discipline in dealing with a topic in a limited time. Both teams will now be heading in to the finals in January. The results of the competition have been dominated by Kings and Walton, but now Ruskin is closing in fast. Watch this space!



Geography Field Trip to Betwys – Y– Coed

At the end of September Mr Lennon's Year 11 GCSE Geography group took part in the annual field trip to Betwys –Y– Coed in North Wales. Mrs Hale kindly came out of retirement and acted as the responsible adult who looked after Mr Lennon. As expected, the members of the geography crew displayed fantastic behaviour and received rave reviews from the people we were working with. It was an excellent opportunity to see some geography in real life. We went into the mountains and spent time in one of the most famous U-shaped valleys in the world, went inside a Hydro Electric power station, visited a wind farm, looked at some of the different ways the mountains are used and of course collected lots of data for our Controlled Assessment. Some of the highlights of the trip were: a camp fire, guitar music from Scott Padgett, seeing a seagull attack Mr Lennon and fly off with his sausage roll, spotting fast jets fly just over our heads and experiencing some real life geography.





MADD Visit

Miss Haywood

GCSE Performing Arts visit Midlands Academy of Dance and Drama (MADD).

A truly awe inspiring day was enjoyed by GCSE Performing Arts students who participated in a unique workshop at Midlands Academy of Dance and Drama in Nottingham. Students were granted the privilege of working with a wonderful range of industry professionals, from West End musical directors, to choreographers to the stars. The day presented a fantastic insight into the lives of professional performers and the dedication and commitment that the industry requires. After hours of singing, sweating and skill developing, a very tired Y10 proved that they are well and truly MADD for Performing Arts!

Performing Arts



Harry potter trip

A magical trip to the Warner Brothers Studios for the Harry Potter Tour was immensely enjoyed by the Year 11 Performing Arts students. They got the chance to walk on the sets, see genuine costumes, fly over Hogwarts in a car and on a broomstick, learn about animatronics, see thousands of props and had many secrets revealed to them about the making of these wonderful films. By the end of the day it was clear to them that although it is the actors who receive the glory, the hundreds of talented workers behind the scenes are actually the stars.

Careers Update

Year 7 and Year 8 students are being introduced to a careers program called the Career Guidance Chart website.

Year 8 students are having a one-to-one interview with the Careers/Work Related Learning Coordinator just to talk about what option/careers they are interested in and again to go through the websites available for them to look at.

Career Guidance Chart website is a very interactive programme which is laid out as subjects or career sector, students may have some understanding of a career sector but perhaps need to broaden their exploration; the charts are designed for easy use, its can check their vocational knowledge, highlight possible careers interest and engage students in their own research.

The Year 9 and Year 10 Construction course and the Year 12 Health and Social Care students participated in a skills show which allows them to "have a go" in the careers industry, such as the Armed Services, NHS, construction, engineering, small animals and lots of others.

Students really enjoyed the Construction Tent which was set up with brick-laying, plumbing, roofing and plastering and Kasper Gajdzinski in Year 10 won the competition for a tool box. The Health and Social Care students gained masses of information at the NHS stand. Our teaching staff made contact with companies and they are planning for them to come into the Academy on specialist areas. Contact with W E B S Furniture Training Ltd, who has a workshop in Beeston will be supporting the GCSE Furniture & Small Storage course. We hope all the students were INSPIRED.



More Careers News

CV writing and covering letter has been the main focus for Y10 students, with many attending a mock interview, which was conducted by the Rotary Club.

All Year 11s are now deciding what options to take, college, sixth form or apprenticeships.

The Year 12 have attended a careers fair at the Engine Shed in Lincoln with an opportunity to speak with many industries and universities. We are also joining LSST for their Careers Fair. They also have the opportunity for one-to-one interviews with Careers Lincolnshire.

Let's Keep Reading

The Reading Room

Our Reading Ambassadors are based in each tutor group, enabling each House Block to have 8 that work on a rota system in the breakout areas, encouraging all students to quiz on their Renaissance Reading Books. With Reading Weeks now fixed in the Academy calendar for once a term, we are noticing a really positive approach from students who are really benefiting from these weeks.

Our next Reading Week starts Monday 8th December and we have a Scholastic Book Fayre planned on Wednesday 10th December. Once again, there will be a fabulous selection of books to buy or order, which of course, would make ideal Christmas gifts.

Here are some quotes from our students about Reading Week:

"I love reading week because it relaxes me" (Thomas Dagleish Y9)

"I like the idea of reading and then being able to quiz on it after completing a book" (Max Moore Y7)

"Made me think of ideas to use in my English lessons" (Ben Hollingworth Y7)

"I never liked reading before but found the reading week has really encouraged me to read more and I found I actually enjoyed it!" (Sam Desmond Y9)

"I never liked reading before but since the Reading Weeks I have begun to read all the time! The last book I couldn't put down and Mrs Geeson seems to be able to select the right ones for me knowing that I will enjoy them" (Chelsea Smith Y9)

Finding a Voice!

UK Youth Parliament in Lincolnshire
The UK Youth Parliament is made up of over 600 young people from across the UK, aiming to give young people a national voice. Lincolnshire representatives are tasked with discussing young people's issues as widely as possible so that their voices can be heard locally, regionally and nationally. Make Your Mark! Ruskin's Youth Parliament took part in this with students having the opportunity to vote on issues they felt mattered most to them, such as to be able to vote at 16, giving young people a voice, improving their communities and everyone should be paid a Living Wage of at least £7.65.

Tomas Bolton, Y10 Hepworth student, has also been a regular attender of the meetings in Lincoln with fellow students from Lincolnshire and Andrew Garbutt, Participation Officer at Lincolnshire County Council, working with Youth Parliament Cabinet.

Ruskin Flight

The Priory Ruskin Academy detachment of air cadets, known as the Ruskin Flight, reformed as a Unit on 5 November 2014. Ruskin Flight welcomes all newcomers, as well as established cadets and its aim is to provide students with the opportunity to take part in fun and challenging after school activities, with an aviation and military focus including: learning about the history of Royal Air Force (RAF), theory of flight, map reading skills, initiative exercises, expedition training and drill. The idea is to help our students develop their confidence and valuable life skills for the future.

On the 5 November, new and experienced cadets practised putting up 12 by 12 tents and cooking using 'Trangia' and 'hexi-burner' stoves to produce a meal using military ration packs. The trainee cadets with the best menu received a prize!



REMEMBER....

The Priory Ruskin Academy students and staff held a two minute silence at 11am outside after the Canon went off in Grantham. The Cadets marched perfectly, our Head Bo, George Mitchell, read a poem and James Tomlinson performed the Last Post in what was a very moving 15 minutes, all students were respectful and an absolute credit to the Academy.

PRIMARY SCHOOL Downtown Garden Centre CHRISTMAS MASS CHOIR 2014

For the first time ever, on 3rd December 2014, The Priory Ruskin Academy opened its doors to over 200 primary school children and their parents. The children all attend local primary schools and they visited our Academy to sing in a special Christmas Mass Choir. They spent the afternoon rehearsing various Christmas songs and then performed it to a packed hall at 5pm. The first part of the concert included various acts, including beautiful ballerinas, dynamic drummer boys, magical harpists and four fabulous flautists. All of the schools performed individual songs and then after the interval they all sang together in a very special and very large mass choir. They sang songs from the film 'Nativity', 'Polar Express' and "Frozen" and everyone left feeling very festive!!!! We must say a special thank you to Downtown for providing the school with the Christmas decorations which helped to transform our stage in to a Winter Wonderland. They helped to make the event, even that bit more special. Congratulations to everyone who was involved in the event.

The Reading Room

WANTED



The reading room are asking for donations of any of the above titles or Diary of a Wimpy Kid, Harry Potter, Twilight etc

REWARD

LOTS OF HAPPY STUDENTS

FUNdraising

£1262.09 raised so far!

Friday 14th November was Children in Need Day and Ruskin students worked very hard to raise as much money as possible through a variety of fundraising events and activities. The main attraction for the day was a lunchtime karaoke session organised by the Sixth Form in which the staff entertained the students. The highlight being a number from Mr Shepherd singing the Spice Girls! Lots of cake was eaten and lots of laughs had, all for a great cause. So far we have raised a fantastic £1262.09! Well done to all involved, thanks to Darshan Patel (Year 9) for taking these photographs. Well done, Ruskin!



Lincolnshire Young Carers

Y10 Knight student, Fabiana Espinola, has been busy fundraising independently at break and lunchtimes for a charity very close to her heart, Lincolnshire Young Carers. Fabiana raised £23.50 by asking people to "Guess the Country the Bear Originated From" and the lucky winner was Millie Walpole Y7.

Meningitis Foundation Trust

Our Head Boy and Girl were delighted to hand over a cheque to Mrs Deborah Tracy, mother of the late Sam Tracy, a former student of the school, for £646.44 which was raised on the last day of the summer term with a non-uniform day.

Festive Indulgence EVENING

On Thursday 20th November 2014 we held our first ever "Festive Indulgence Evening". It was a Christmas craft fair that involved lots of local businesses and it proved to be a great success with the local community. Over 200 members of the public attended the event. A combination of ticket sales and the raffle, with prizes donated by each of the stall holders, raised over £660 for The Grantham Passage, a local charity. The Grantham Passage has been providing meals and support for the disadvantaged in the town for over 10 years. They rely entirely on donations to run the charity and as the weather is getting colder the number of clients increases. The Charity said, "We are extremely grateful to Priory Ruskin for their amazing support and donation."

A huge thank you to all staff and students who assisted on the night, as well as all the local businesses who helped make it a very successful evening. The organiser, Mrs Geeson, has already had enquiries from stall holders regarding another evening; we hope this will become an annual event.



Mcmillan Coffee Morning

The Macmillan Coffee Morning held in September raised over £600 with a Coffee and Cake Morning. We had tremendous support from students, staff, parents, Governors and the local community. There was a raffle with some fabulous prizes donated by The CakeHole in Barrowby, Gonerby Post Office, Grantham Beauty Clinic and Morrisons.

We were delighted to meet Tanya Taylor, Fundraising Manager for Lincolnshire, on Thursday 26th November, who visited the Academy to collect the cheque and thank everyone involved and explain how the money will be spent locally.

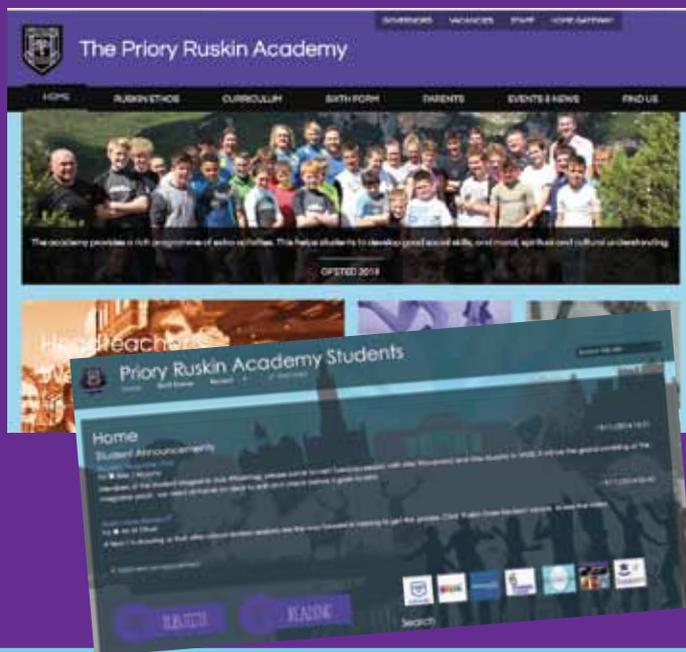
ParentMail

Thank you to the hundreds of parents who have signed up for the new ParentMail system at the Academy. We are continuing to develop this time saving and cost-effective way of communicating with parents and carers and now the majority of letters and newsletters go home via ParentMail. The text messaging facility is also a very quick and easy way of sending you reminders for parents evenings, or even Academy closures should we have severe weather.

If you have yet to sign up, please do so as soon as possible to ensure that you get all the relevant information about your son or daughter. You will recently have received a verification text or email in order to do this. If you would like us to send you another verification email or text, please call main reception at the Academy and we can arrange this for you.

WE'RE LIVE

Our new website is now live, there is still ongoing work and it will develop over time, we hope it will be a great tool for both parents and students along with SharePoint.



facebook

The Priory Ruskin Academy's facebook page is going from strength to strength. It is proving to be a fantastic and popular tool to keep in touch with parents and the community allowing them to see all the amazing things our students are involved in.

Please continue to spread the word and add us on facebook. We aim to reach 1000 likes by 2015.

Please scan the QR code or search for Priory Ruskin Academy and "like" us.



Parents Evenings
Years 12 & 13
Friday 11 December 2014 - 4.30pm - 6.30pm
Year 8
Thursday 5 February 2015 - 4.30pm - 6.30pm
Year 11
Thursday 12 February 2015 - 4.30pm - 6.30pm
Year 7
Thursday 19 March 2015 - 4.30pm - 6.30pm
Year 9
Thursday 18th June 2015 - 4.30-6.30pm
Options Evenings
Year 8 - Thursday 29 January 2015 - 6.30pm