

The Priory Ruskin Academy Newsletter

March 2015

Headmaster's Report

Dear Parents/Carers

With your continued support, Ruskin Academy continues to thrive. Our students make us proud with the respect they show within and outside the Academy. Having now established ourselves in the new building we have plans to make the environment even more vibrant with the introduction of art around the Academy. This will include a selection of student and reproduced art works.

The sixth form continues to grow and we expect to be teaching over 150 students in September. With the increase in student numbers we hope that building of the new Sixth Form Pavillion will begin in September.... Watch this space.

You may be aware that we have an attendance target of 96% or above. If any student falls below this then we consider it a cause for concern. Although genuine illness and family events are authorised absence, they will still bring the individual student's attendance down, which can trigger questions about the overall impact on that student's education. We are currently

operating very close to 96% overall attendance, which is outstanding and with your continued support we aim to surpass this figure before the end of the academic year. With examinations on the horizon for most Year groups, our website provides up to date guides and links to a wealth of revision material. This is mostly aimed Years 10 and 11 although it is also appropriate for other Year groups: <http://www.prioryruskin.co.uk>.

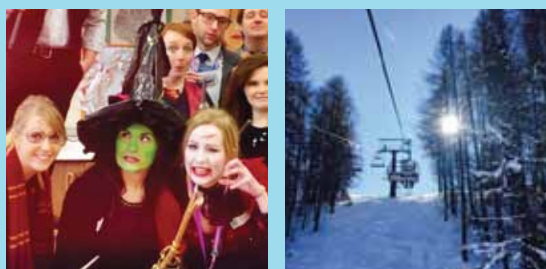
Over the past term we've had many sporting successes, charity events and educational visits. We also have a number of opportunities where our students will be showcasing their talents - please find more details attached.

We hope you have a lovely and restful Easter,

Mr Clive Shepherd
Headmaster

Visual Arts and Sports Excellence

Top Stories this Term!....



RUSKIN BOCCIA WINS SILVER!





Cultural Fridays

Having reflected upon the success of prior cultural Friday sessions, the events for the current term have evolved into a more involving structure. A group of students from Y8 and 9 have been given the opportunity to enjoy lectures and interactive seminars from a number of inspirational and engaging teachers.

The most recently delivered session is a fine example of the effort made by teaching staff at Ruskin. To correspond with World Book Day, Miss Jepson delivered a captivating lecture on the origins of Gothic literature, a subject that was intensified by the fact that she delivered the session in full "Woman in Black" fancy dress.

While the lectures of previous sessions had been received positively, it was decided that including seminars that allowed students to get involved was the next step for Cultural Fridays. Sessions have ranged from learning to Samba to a tour through the Victorian streets of London in search of Jack the Ripper. With more sessions planned, including a special event for Science Week, the Cultural Friday sessions continue to be a positive contribution to the Academy week.



Art and Design

STUDENT WORK GALLERY

Some of our fantastic work by our very talented students from this year so far!



Adam Newham (Yr9) Sublimation T-shirt design



Skye Bishop (Yr9) Packaging Design



Ellie Potterton (Yr9) Packaging Design



Chelsea Bates (Yr9) Packaging Design



Josh Carter (Yr11) GSCE sculpture





WORLD BOOK DAY 2015



World Book Day acted as an opportunity for our teachers to flex their creative muscles and create costumes based on their favourite literary characters. Teachers tapped into a variety of sources, both classic and modern, for inspiration, and costumes including Where's Wally, Gangster Granny, The Mad Hatter from Alice in Wonderland, the jilted bride Miss Havisham, a spectrum of characters from the Harry Potter series and the most terrifying Woman in Black that you could hope to see.

The literary sources were supported by an "ask me about my costume..." sticker which teachers wore to act as a conversational catalyst. This gave students a chance to quiz their teachers and an opportunity to discover more about characters included within a very broad spectrum of literature. The day itself was a resounding success, with teachers and students getting involved, discovering more about literature and providing some fantastic photo opportunities.



Performing Arts

BROKE

Mrs Jallow

A group of 30 Performing Arts students went to see a performance called 'Broke' at the Guildhall Arts Centre in Grantham in February. It was a fantastic, thought-provoking play, from Paper Birds Theatre Company, about poverty in Britain and the struggle that low-income families endure. It was both entertaining and educational and the actors portrayed convincing characters, using dramatic devices. For some students this was their first trip to the theatre, but probably not their last! They all thoroughly enjoyed it and were a real credit to our Academy; the students were praised for their behaviour and it was commented on how refreshing it was to see young people at the theatre.



BTEC Level 3 Lunchtime Music Recitals

Mrs Rossington

During the last week of term, all of the Y12 BTEC Level 3 music students each organised and performed a solo music recital during lunchtimes. Students performed on guitars, drums, piano and they also sang. Mrs Rossington said, "I am so proud of the students and delighted to be working with such talented students." Each solo recital lasted about 20-25 minutes and the students invited their friends to the performance. This was their first official performance on the course. In March they also performed at Chameleon Music Bar in Grantham.



Rehearsals for Les Miserables

After a weekend of auditions in January 2015 when over 150 students passed through the doors at Ruskin, rehearsals for the summer musical are now underway. Students from secondary schools in Lincolnshire were invited to participate in this amazing opportunity. A West End Director is working with The Priory Ruskin Academy in producing this epic performance of the West-End musical. The musical will be performed at the end of July 2015 as part of the opening of the new build, look out for details about tickets nearer the time.

RAF Cranwell Performance

In January 2015, students from Y7, 8 & 12 were fortunate enough to watch the RAF Cranwell Band perform a varied repertoire ranging from the soundtrack to 'Indiana Jones' to the chart topping song, 'Shake it off' by Taylor Swift. The musicians in the band travel all over the world to perform at various prestigious events and now they are lucky enough to say they have performed at The Priory Ruskin Academy! It was an amazing concert, not only because of the music, but because they were highly entertaining.

Trip to see Matilda

Y7 Performing Arts students took a magical journey into the wonderful world Of Roald Dahl when they visited the West End to see 'Matilda The Musical'. Students were mesmerised by the colourful transformations of sets and the outstanding talent of the young performers; both an hilarious and endearing production. Since the visit, students' confidence when performing has flourished with many now determined to follow in the footsteps of the Matilda cast. A truly inspiring day that has given students the courage to sing and dance their way to success!





G&T Dance Workshop

Gifted and talented dancers across all key stages were recently invited to take part in a workshop led by Louise Gibbs from Dance4's Centre for Advanced Training. Students were initially led through an intensive technical lesson. Here, they enhanced their movement vocabulary and developed skills that shall act as a fantastic foundation for progress through both their academic and external dance studies. The latter part of the workshop provided students with alternative strategies for the creative process of choreography. Students were thoroughly engaged and intrigued throughout, gradually relinquishing inhibitions and devising original pieces of their own contemporary choreography. The workshop has already proven to be an inspiration to the students involved.



Move it!

Dance students recently attended the 'Move It' convention at Olympia in London. They were given a fantastic insight into the professional dance industry through workshops, performances and opportunities to question professionals, including Sky 1's Got To Dance finalists 'Duplic8'. Students explored an array of dance styles and discovered a range of pathways to convert their dance passion into a dance career. Since attending the convention some students have already begun to apply for performance colleges and all have a heightened motivation and confidence to work hard and pursue their dancing dreams and all have a heightened motivation and confidence to work hard and pursue their dancing dreams



THE RUSKIN RUNNER

Annual Ski Trip

LATEST NEWS FROM OUR ASPIRING SPORTS SUPERSTARS

FEDERATION SKI TRIP 2015



Group Ice Skating

During half term, eighteen students from Ruskin, along with students from the other Federation academies travelled to Bardonecchia, Italy, on the annual ski trip. The trip was a huge success and the group had a great time and made new friends whilst learning new skills and having fun. During the week they enjoyed ice skating, bum boarding and even dined at a traditional Italian pizzeria. The students were a credit to both the Academy and themselves. Some are already looking forward to the next ski trip to Folgaria, Italy, during February half term 2016.

If you are interested in joining us next year please see Mrs Esam or Mr Charles for a letter.



Beautiful morning on the chair lift



Daniel Duggan demonstrating his skills

Sports Ambassadors

Congratulations to Sophie Scorer, Chloe Scorer and Kieron Barclay. They have all been awarded the title of Community Silver Sports Ambassador. This is as a result of their exceptional commitment and ability as young leaders or volunteers.

Great success for Priory Ruskin at the Sainsbury's School Winter Games (County finals) at Grantham Meres on Wednesday 4th & Thursday 5th March

Indoor Rowing

The boys were winners of the U15 Indoor Rowing Championships who totally dominated the event by finishing first, second, third and fourth in the Individual races and then winning the 8 minute relay race by a margin over 160 metres. Team: left to right- Kieran Wallace, Jack Pirie, Sam Brown & Alex McKeag.

The Y8 team were fourth overall in the competition, the team was Abbie Moorhouse, Melissa Piggot, Shaney Pacey, Estere Manguze, Tommy Eveleigh, William Daly, Josh Stainsby, Aaron Temple-Fielder.



U13 Mixed Volleyball

The Priory Ruskin Academy was represented by two teams at the finals and had a very successful day finishing third & fourth in the competition.

KS3 Badminton

The boys finished a very creditable second winning all of their league matches but eventually losing to a very strong team from William Farr Academy, Lincoln in the final. Special mention to Marco Agapito and Rohit Banda for their exceptional play in their singles matches. Boys team: Marco Agapito, Rohit Banda, Daniel Fabi, Alec Stewart & Sam Collens. The girls finished fourth in their event out of eight teams and have made exceptional progress this term since qualifying for the finals last November. Girls team: Courtney Sharples, Kim Leanne Green, Sydney Ward, Megan Croke & Millie Hardman.

Special mention must also be made to the Y12 AS PE students who officiated extremely well throughout both Badminton competitions – Rui Cardoso, Oliver Hayward, David Olalere, Dominic Newcombe, Jake Dowling & Jared Measure.

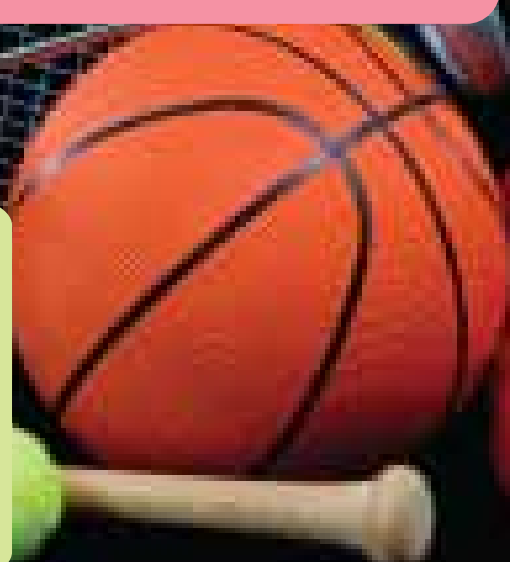


KS3 Badminton players with Ross Davenport, three times Olympic medal winning swimmer (Athens, Beijing, London) and Commonwealth Games Gold medallist.

A Young Ambassador's role is to:

- increase participation and healthy lifestyles in schools
- be a role model and advocate for sporting activity
- be the young peoples' voice on PE and school sport in their schools and communities

The Young Ambassador programme seeks to develop young leaders and volunteers by giving them the responsibility of being an ambassador for PE and school sport. The individuals will now form a vital link between the students, teachers and in this area, Inspire+, be a role model and advocate for sporting activity.





BOCCIA TOURNAMENT

The Academy Trust Sports Association Cup 2014



Overall result:

2nd Place (silver medals!)

Boccia team: Kyle Morton, Liam Atkinson, Peter Merryweather and Angus Brown

Man of the match: Liam Atkinson

For the first time, Ruskin took a team to the Boccia Tournament at St George's Sleaford. Boccia is a game that is similar to bowls but is played by people with physical disabilities. We were conscious of the fact that none of them had played Boccia before (except for Angus!) so we arrived super early to get some practice in. After going over the rules briefly and having 2 practice games, the team had their first match, which they won 3-2. As the second game progressed they seemed to develop a better technique, and produced a convincing win of 7-1 against Peele B. After coming top of our group in the morning, we automatically qualified for the next round which is the Lincolnshire School Summer Games in July! In the finals, after two closely fought games between St George's A (3-9) and St George's B (3-6) our team finished 3rd in the whole competition and received bronze medals! It was a fantastic day and the team played exceptionally well.

After the great performance by the boys last term, we were then invited to the Regional Boccia Tournament held at St George's Academy in Sleaford. There were teams from Nottinghamshire, Northamptonshire and Lincolnshire and the winner of each group go through to the National finals. Kyle, Liam, Peter and Angus were determined to play their best. Unfortunately, their minimal experience showed when they played St George's, as they lost all but one of the ends (1-11). However, this wasn't too much of a disappointment as St George's had won the regional competition for the two previous years and had much more experience than our team. We had a break and then played a team from Northampton. The boys played exceptionally well and won 9-1.

WHAT IS BOCCIA?

Boccia is a precision ball sport, similar to bocce, and related to bowls. The sport is contested at local, national and international levels, by athletes with more severe physical disabilities. It was originally designed to be played by people with cerebral palsy but now includes athletes with other disabilities affecting motor skills. In 1984 it became a Paralympic sport, and in 2008 was being practiced in over fifty countries worldwide.



MFL

Modern Foreign Languages

German Christmas Market

Once again, 38 excited Priory Ruskin students and 4 members of staff set off for Köln in Germany to visit the Christmas Market in December for a 3 day trip. It was a hugely enjoyable experience and everyone loved the authentic and tantalising stalls full of German gifts, food and drink. Whilst we were there we visited the Lindt chocolate museum. Students were also fascinated by the magnificent cathedral in Köln, which is truly breath-taking and particularly loved seeing the markets at night in all their sparkling splendour. On the return journey, we also stopped to visit the Christmas markets in historic Aachen which are set around the spectacular cathedral and Rathaus. All in all, it was a wonderful opportunity to experience German culture for themselves and to be able to practise their language skills. We are already looking forward to going again this year!



Belgium and French Christmas Markets December 2014

In December a group of 44 Y8-10 students and staff took part in the three day Christmas markets trip. During our stay, we visited the market in Bruges where we visited the Choco-Story Museum. Here we watched chocolate being made before finally tasting the famous end product and purchasing samples in the gift shop. We also visited the market at Ypres at night time where students had the chance to sample and buy waffles. Students also saw the Menin Gate just before the Last Post ceremony. On our last day, we visited the market at Lille before we headed home.



FUNDRAISING

The Big SPLASH

£177.00

**Sale of poppies for
Remembrance Day Royal
British Legion**

£168.10

**Staff Christmas Jumper
Day - Save The Children**

£236.60

**Business Students in Year 12
held a Year 7 Disco which
raised for Starlight Charity,
which brightens up the lives of
seriously ill children.**

£129.00

**Valentine's Day Cookies
students were able to purchase
a homemade cookie, baked by
Mr Esam and then get it
delivered to their chosen
valentine by Mr Finch,**

£170.00

**Sixth Form Non-Uniform Day
and Cake Sale Woman V
Cancer**

**Sixth Formers wore casual
clothes and held a cake sale
for Sophie Wingad, who is the
sister of Frazier in Y12. Sophie
is cycling across Tanzania in
October in aid of Woman V
Cancer.**

TOTAL: £880.70

Christmas Card Collection
Our annual recycling of
Christmas cards collection was
as intense as ever this year with
Houses competing against
each other. 1st place went to
Knight House, 2nd Morris, 3rd
Mackintosh, 4th Hepworth.

Swimarathon 2015

Staff and students recently swam in the Rotary Club Swimarathon at the Meres Leisure Centre in Grantham. Participants took part in teams of eight and were sponsored to complete as many lengths of the pool as possible within an hour. The event is a fantastic means for The Priory Ruskin Academy to make a valuable contribution to the local community, as all monies raised are donated to local charities.



Science Outreach Programme

Out Lead Practitioner in Science, Mr Davidson, has been working with several of our local primary Schools, on a bespoke programme for each school developed with the Key Stage 2 teachers.

It is designed to give primary school students in years 5 and 6 access to specialised apparatus and to assist primary school teachers in the delivery of the new KS2 two curriculum. The students have enthusiastically worked with microscopes, studying microorganisms they have grown under aseptic conditions themselves and accessed the sort of evidence that scientists have used to refine our ideas about life on Earth. Schools that have benefited from this support include Belmont Community Primary School, Great Ponton C of E Primary School, Denton C of E Primary School and Harlaxton C of E Primary School.



Joint Environmental Project with Primary schools

The Science Department have been working with local primary schools (including Gonerby Hill Foot, Great Ponton, Clifedale and Harlaxton), on a project called the SCoRE programme. The SCoRE (Schools Collaboration on Resource Efficiency) Programme, is an award winning scheme developed by Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) in partnership with the Carbon Trust, aimed specifically at schools to help them reduce their energy bills and CO2 emissions.

Mr Bentley, Head of Science, has been liaising with LCC on this project. It has given primary school children the chance to visit The Priory Ruskin Academy and also work in the science laboratories.

Science Club

Miss Wilkinson, Science

Science Club started once again this year, an after Academy club for year 7 and 8, where students can come along and try out Science experiments which they would not be able to do in Science every day. Each week sees a dedicated group of students coming along and working together, making interesting creations or completing cool experiments. So far this year, we have carried out a number of activities including making and launching bottle rockets, chromatography, making sparklers, and shrinking apple heads. We had a huge turnout for a session on making a lava lamp, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Coming up in Science Club we have a Making an Electromagnet and a Forensics session after Christmas.



Sixth Form Report

After sitting their mocks in January, students are now preparing for the real thing in the summer. Predicted grades are looking strong and we are hoping for another record breaking year in terms of Sixth Form exam success – watch this space!

The vast majority of Y13 students have applied to university and, of these, 100% have been offered places, some securing unconditional offers. Ruskin Sixth Formers are in demand and the Sixth Form has established itself as a first class route into Higher Education.

After a well supported and successful Sixth Form Open Evening in November, 150 Y11 students applied for a place in Y12 starting in September; this includes 45 students from other local schools. Our reputation is growing on the back of a 'good' OFSTED last year, the fantastic learning environment we enjoy and the very pleasing exam results in summer 2014. We are increasingly being seen as the place to be by 16 year olds. Our rapidly expanding Sixth Form will have 150+ 16-19 year olds in September.



To enable expansion, a new Sixth Form Centre is at the advanced planning stage and hopefully construction will commence in the summer. It will have state of the art facilities as we look to build a sixth form of 200-250 students.

On the sporting front our excellent football team continues to push for promotion in its first season of competitive action, with a string of victories. Netball and volleyball teams are also flourishing. We will continue to offer an all round great experience for aspiring youngsters in a fast moving world.

HOLIDAYS

We would like to remind you that holidays within term time will not be authorised unless there are exceptional circumstances. In line with government legislation, you may be at risk of a fixed penalty fine.

ATTENDANCE

The Academy attendance target is 96% and all students should strive to achieve this. As I am sure you will agree if students are to achieve their full potential is imperative that they do not miss any learning opportunities.

