

# The Priory Ruskin Academy Newsletter

October—December 2015

Term 2 2015/2016 Community and SMSC

## Wonderful Warner Studio Tour



A fabulous day was had by the Year 9 Performing Arts and Photography students who explored the amazing Harry Potter Studios discovering secrets along the way. The students snapped away and hundreds of photographs were taken of the many sets, costumes and props. Some of them enjoyed flying on a broomstick and in a car over London, where others had fun learning how to use a wand. Everyone walked the cobbles of the magical Diagon Alley and many of the students sauntered through the train carriage which sped the characters to Hogwarts.



The last stop was the wand section where they all had fun looking at the 17,000 names searching for JK Rowling, Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson and Rupert Grint.



# Special Report:

## Football Tour

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2015 93 students and 10 staff set off on the footballing adventure of a lifetime to Madrid. The sense of anticipation amongst students, staff and parents was tangible as they loaded the coaches and said their farewells to travel to Gatwick. Safe to say that few students slept on the journey to the airport, such was the excitement!

On arrival in Madrid they were met by their hosts and were quickly transported to their plush four star hotel and set up camp for the next few days. However, there was no time to relax as they were rushed through lunch and set off for the first instalment of their trip. A visit to the Santiago Bernabeu, the home of Real Madrid. On arrival at the stadium they were struck by the grandeur of the home of the ten time European champions. They spent ample time taking in the vast arena, marvelled at the haul of silverware in the club museum, sat in the coach's dugout posing for photos and also had a bit of a turnstile incident! Undoubtedly though, a highlight of the tour was an opportunity to spend some money in the club shop. Even Mr. Cairns managed to purchase an "authentic" photo of himself celebrating scoring a goal with Ronaldo and Sergio Ramos!

The next morning they had a couple of hours sight-seeing in the centre of Madrid but the main focus of the day was undoubtedly their first training session at Valdebebas, the training ground of Real Madrid. They ate lunch in the canteen but as they sat there they noticed that Real Madrid U16s were playing a match on a nearby pitch which was in fact being streamed live on the club's official channel which was being shown in the canteen.



The training was outstanding. Six UEFA Pro licence coaches took the Academy in training groups for the duration of the stay.

Each training session took place on a state of the art 4G pitch, each with its own mini stand. The initial part of the day focussed on developing the technical part of our game whilst in the afternoon they developed in small sided games. Mr Oliver had his Garmin watch on and calculated that they moved 23km in under 4 hours!

The following day was spent in Valdebebas for training session 3. It was real "pinch me" stuff just being a part of the Centre of Excellence, rubbing shoulders with the Real Madrid coaching team in world class facilities. That evening it felt a bit like they were cheating on their hosts as they made their way to the Vicente Calderon to support Atletico Madrid as they took on Valencia. The atmosphere in the stadium was simply electric. On the pitch Atletico were class, it was surreal being there just a whisker away from the action. Some Atletico fans were just a little bit crazy but then again so were some of ours! A number of the students left the venue questioning whether they were Atletico or Real fans!

The final day of training will be remembered for the preparation for the competitive fixtures against Orcacistra, a feeder club for Real Madrid. For some this was the pinnacle of the trip. All in all they played 8 matches, some teams playing two games as part of a triangular tournament. Our students played exceptionally well in all age groups. The scenes of jubilation and singing in the changing rooms afterwards will live long in the staff and student's memory!

The final day saw everyone return to the Vicente Calderon for a sightseeing tour and an opportunity to spend any left-over cash in the club shop before returning home exhilarated yet exhausted but still with the tour song echoing in their ears!

***Oh Real Madrid, Oh Real Madrid***

***We came to see, We came to see***

***We beat them bad that football team***

***I went over got scouted,***

***I woke up, it was a dream!!!!***

And so it ended; a once in a lifetime experience over, a fantastic experience for all. You never know the Academy might just be going to Barcelona in 2-3 years!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!





## Children In Need

November 2015.

All students and staff took part and raised a record breaking £1,360.37 by donating £1 each. Also, Knight Academy Council members held a cake and tombola stall which helped to boost the overall total. Well done to you all!

## Trip To Bishop Grosseteste

First Steps 2 Study:

In Partnership with Bishop Grosseteste University this programme was organised to introduce Higher Education to students, help them to understand what university is and help them to start thinking about themselves as potential university students.

In November, forty students took part in activities designed to aid student's knowledge of Higher Education and support their progression onto university in the future.



The next event will take place at Bishop Grosseteste.



## Year 7 & 8 READING AWARDS

In a recent Year 7 and 8 assembly, The Priory Ruskin Academy presented students with Bronze Reading Record Awards. This was to recognise their commitment to reading and literacy skills.

The Academy has recently launched a new scheme to promote reading for students in KS3. All students are encouraged to fill out a Reading Record about books they have read; this involves activities such as creating a comic



strip and writing a detailed book review.

The aim is to encourage all students to develop a lifelong love of reading. The most recent awards were given to Year 7 students who had completed the first level. Now they have achieved their bronze badge these students

can go on to attempt the silver, followed by the gold award.

Mr Johnston, (Closing the Gap Coordinator) said, 'Reading is a priority for all of us. This scheme is a perfect opportunity to celebrate our reading successes.'

After a successful trial with a small group of students we are encouraging all of our Year 7 and Year 8 students to take part in the awards.



# Festive Indulgence Evening

The Priory Ruskin Academy's Festive Market was an even bigger success this year – fast becoming a must visit event as people prepare for Christmas. With over 40 stalls showcasing a wide variety of local businesses such as

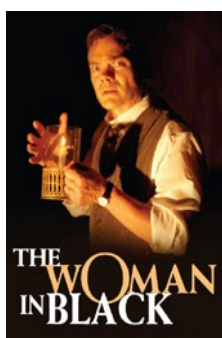


Forever Living, Love Thy Light, The Tricking Tap, What the Fudge, Teaspoon Tea Company and The Boutique. The evening allows people to find original Christmas gifts as well as enjoying festive activities and sampling some Christmas treats.

Vicki Geeson, Charity Coordinator at the Academy, said 'The Festive Evening grows in popularity every year, both in terms of public support and the number of businesses that attend. It's wonderful to see so many people enjoying the Academy's festive surrounding



but, most importantly, the event has raised over £1000 which will be donated to The Grantham Passage to support people most in need over the Christmas period'.



In November, Miss Haywood, Miss Thompson and Mr Porter took a group of talented Sixth formers to London.

Once they arrived in London, they met their tour guide who took them to the London Bridge Experience, where professional actors portraying characters from London's murky past took them on a terrifying journey! They then enjoyed the street theatre and shops of Convent Garden before being treated to a spectacular performance of Stomp at the Ambassador's Theatre. The students were truly inspired and staff

## CULTURAL TRIP TO LONDON

were treated to an impromptu Stomp performance on the coach journey back to the hotel!

The next morning they met up with one of the performers from Stomp and took part in a professional workshop. The students were fantastic and put a brilliant performance together during the workshop. Afterwards, they went to the Fortune Theatre for their second terrifying experience – a performance of 'The Woman in Black'.

After a slow start, everyone became immersed in the twisted tale of tragedy and the supernatural and were thrilled to meet the actors – who were father and son in real life – to discuss how they approached playing the challenging roles of the play. It was a truly inspirational trip for all.





# “Oh What a Night” Year 11&12 Show



A budding young performer from The Priory Ruskin Academy in Grantham has made his directorial debut to a sold out audience. The inspirational Year 11 student, Lewis Fitt, came up with the idea of directing and producing a show, based on the popular West End production, 'Jersey Boys', after he performed in the hugely successful school production of Les Miserables at the Academy over the summer. After 8 weeks of intensive rehearsals including casting, choreographing, lighting and directing, Lewis and his committed cast were met by a standing ovation from the audience as the show came to a close on

Friday evening. Mrs Rossington, Assistant Headteacher at The Priory Ruskin Academy and Musical Director said, 'I am so proud to have worked with such a dedicated and talented cast; the show was a huge success and the work they have put in embodies the 'Ruskin Respects' ethos evident throughout the Academy'. Due to the huge success of the show, it was performed a further twice more!



## Primary School Christmas Concert

The Priory Ruskin Academy held its annual Primary School Choir Concerts on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of December to the delight of all the parents that attended.

The National Junior School, Harlaxton and Barrowby attended on the 8<sup>th</sup> with St Sebastian's, Marston Thorold's and Colsterworth

performing on the 9<sup>th</sup>. The show was packed with a variety of acts between the primary school performances including Priory Ruskin Sixth Form music students, Grantham School of Dance and even a collection of local harpists, Mrs Victoria Rossington, Assistant Head and Musical Director at the Academy,

said 'It's wonderful to see people from across the local music and dance community coming together to celebrate Christmas and the talents of our performers. There is never a dry eye in the house when the primary school children perform and the older students demonstrate just what can be achieved with dedication and commitment in the future'.

## CAROL SERVICE 2015

On 14th December, Year 7, 8 and 9 students all participated in the Academies annual Carol Service at St Wulfram's Church. Staff and students walked from school, down to the church, ready for the morning service.

The Full Choir, which consisted of students in Year 7 to 12, rehearsed for eight weeks in preparation for their stylish performances of a varied Christmas repertoire. There were various readings that were read out by students in Year 7—13. A great way to start the festive season!



# Clothes Show Live 2015



The Clothes Show Live trip in December is always a trip to look forward to for students that are considering a career in Art or Fashion. The highlight of the trip was the main fashion show in the main arena. The show was hosted by the celebrity Jamie Laing from 'Made in Chelsea'.

The show started with an amazing performance by X Factor's girl group, '4th Impact' followed by a small selection of this year's high street fashion.

The more outrageous and arty fashion was really inspirational for our students who want to specialise in the Art and Design element of fashion. The students also enjoyed spotting celebrities such as Joey Essex, Charlotte Crosby and many others. The Colleges and University stands were worth a visit this year and it was interesting to hear that British students are still very much in demand especially in the Fashion, Business and Marketing areas.

Students have already started to save for next year's trip!



## Year 8 Pantomime Trip

On Wednesday 16th December 2015, over 100 Year 8 students went to The Guildhall Arts Centre in Grantham to see this year's pantomime, Beauty and the Beast.



Make-believe, magic, music and mayhem provided a "beauty-full" Christmas treat for the students. There was plenty of audience participation, modern songs to sing along to, huge amounts of laughter with the great story which ensured everyone left with a smile on their face.

## Table Tennis Club

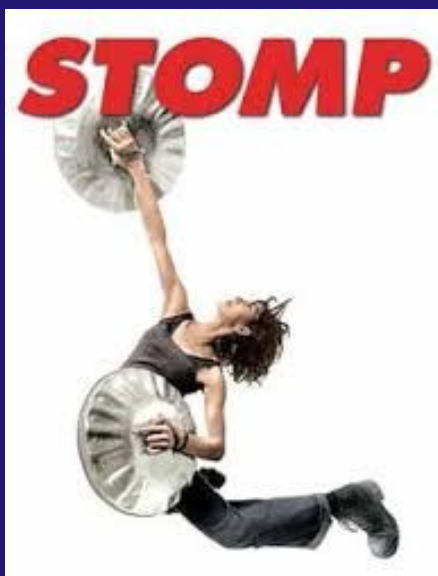
The Priory Ruskin Academy continue to support the Lincolnshire Schools Table Tennis Championships in spite of a decline of entries in the County. Congratulations to both the U16 and U13 Boys teams who were runners up to Kings School this year. We also played friendly matches against West Grantham Academy both at U16 and U13 and won both matches.

Mrs Spencer, Academy Table-Tennis Coordinator said, "We would like to thank Mr John Mapletoft, who tirelessly gives up his own time to coach table tennis on Monday after school and on Friday morning before school. Without John's help, table tennis would not continue to flourish as much as it does at the Academy".





## Cultural Fridays – BTEC Music Stomp Workshop



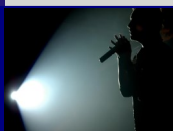
### Cultural Friday

The Priory Ruskin Academy is committed to educating students in a rich and varied curriculum. Next term, Cultural Friday includes lunchtime workshops on 'Victorian London', 'The Universe', Art and Beauty, to mention but a few...

Following on from the Sixth Form BTEC Music students inspirational visit to London to see Stomp, the Year 12 & 13 BTEC Music students have been planning, creating and delivering Stomp workshops to Year 7 and 8 pupils at lunchtimes as part of the Cultural Fridays programme. Mr Webb and Miss Haywood were really impressed with how professional the students were and how well the younger pupils did at creating rhythmic music with body percussion as well as earning themselves Ruskin Rewards for creativity!



## HOUSE SINGING COMPETITION 2015



On Wednesday, 16th December 2015 the Academy held their Annual House Singing competition. There was tension in the air as each House performed their chosen song. As usual, there was a wide range of genres but this year, several of the groups chose to re-write the lyrics of their chosen song. All of the performances were highly entertaining and the students had a great time. After much deliberation by the judges, the winning House was Knight. Much to the delight of Ms Shelford and Ms Jallow. Mackintosh gracefully handed over the title whilst demonstrating excellent sportsmanship. Well done to everyone who participated.



## Special Report: PE Term 2

The Priory Ruskin Academy PE Department has continued with a very comprehensive extra-curricular and fixture program. There has been further success in the Academy rugby, football and netball teams. In addition, the Academy has taken part in the Kesteven Schools' Basketball, Cross Country and Girls football competitions. In the basketball competitions the Academy finished runners up in both boys' age groups, and the girls finished on top sending them through to the County Championships in January. Seven of our students were selected to represent the District at the Lincolnshire Champion-

ships on Saturday 16th January. The recent girls' football competitions proved successful for our students who outperformed their previous years and were cup winners in the Year 7 competition. Another club doing exceptionally well this term is the thriving Gymnastics club that runs on a Monday after school; at the recent gymnastics competition the Academy had a number of individual and team based medals including Gold within the U19 boys category.

Also within the Academy we have a large number of students who under-

take leadership programs in sport. Students have assisted with the running of a number of events including Primary School cross country and volleyball competitions, girls football, and badminton. The students involved are a credit to our Academy and have been praised on their efforts and work at all events attended.

The Priory Ruskin Academy has a very comprehensive extracurricular program in PE. If you would like any further information please do not hesitate to contact the Academy.



# Morris Charity Event



Members of Morris Academy  
Student Council

Morris Academy Council students lead by Year 12 students, Carla Haith and Aaron Emburey collected various items for the festive season which were donated to Grantham Foodbank. The students were overwhelmed with the response from both staff and students including over 40 Advent calendar's.

The Academy always try to support local charities and at this time of year it has made students reflect on those in need.



## Sixth Form Update

Following a highly successful and well attended Sixth Form Open Evening, The Priory Ruskin Academy Sixth Form has been overwhelmed with the number of applications it has received to date for entry into Year 12 in 2016-17.

Application numbers have increased both from internal applicants as well as those looking to join us from other schools in the area. Places for 2016-17 entry are limited to 100 whilst we eagerly await the building of a brand new dedicated Sixth Form Pavilion which will enable us to accommodate up to 250 students across Year 12 and 13.

Other highlights from the term are that the Year 12 enrichment programme has been effectively embedded into the Year 12 curriculum with students able to access a wide range of sporting, life skills and employment enhancement activities every Wednesday afternoon. Its success means this will be rolled out to both Year 12 and



Year 13 in the new academic year as part of our commitment to ensuring our students leave us not only equipped with excellent exam results but as rounded individuals with real prospects in a





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## KEY DIARY DATES

### Term 3

#### Students Involved:

None	4th Jan	Staff Training Day (no students)
ALL	6th Jan	Back to school for students
Yr 7—9	11th—15th Jan	Reading Week
Yr 12 & 13	11th—15th Jan	Year 12 and 13 Mock Examinations
Yr 9	14th Jan	Year 9 Photography Trip to Newark
Various	18th Jan	County Schools Cross Country Championships
Yr 8—13	23rd Jan	Summer Musical Auditions (Saturday—all day)
Yr 12 & 13	25th Jan	Year 12 and 13 Photo shoot—location TBC
Various	6th Feb	Anglian Schools Cross Country Championships
ALL	8th—12th Feb	House Sports Competitions
Year 11	10th Feb	Year 11 vaccinations
Various	12th—20th Feb	Federation Ski Trip
	12th Feb	Last day of term
Various	13th—18th Feb	Trip to New York
	15th—22nd Feb	Half Term

