

# Academy Newsletter



The Priory  
**Ruskin**  
Academy

Term 3 2015/2016 Community and SMSC

## A message from the Headteacher...

The start of 2016 has been eventful with plenty of news to celebrate. The Academy's commitment to raising standards for all students has been rewarded in our excellent Value Added score, which places us within the top three schools in Lincolnshire for GCSE and A Level progress. This is an incredible testament to the hard work of an outstanding staff body, hard-working students and supportive parents.

Our current Year 11 is now working diligently and are taking full advantage of the support on offer at the Academy. As part of this support, our "Learning Zone" is now available on the Ruskin website which details resources and support for forthcoming examinations. In addition, the "Learning Zone" also details subject homework for all year groups in 7-11.

As well as academic success, the students have been enjoying the full "Ruskin Experience". I am incredibly proud of the sporting achievements of our young people, their creative talents and their support for the local and national community. As a result, our "Ruskin Respect" awards, which promote not only Learning, but also Health, Creativity and Community, have been incredibly well received.

The term ahead is equally busy as we prepare for exams and continue to involve students in all aspects of Academy life. We are, amongst other events, hosting the "Biggest Book Show on Earth", a World Book Week, "Miss Saigon" and visits from inspirational speakers such as sportswoman, Sarah Outen.

Ms Wyles



## New York, New York!

During February half term, 19

students and 3 members of staff excitedly travelled to New York for the trip of a lifetime, the first time a group had travelled to America from The Priory Ruskin Academy.

The trip was an unbelievable experience, with a jam-packed itinerary to ensure students got to see as much as possible of the city that never sleeps!

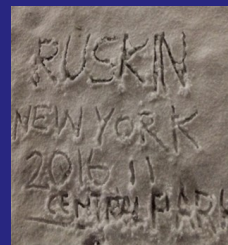
Staying in a hotel situated just off Times Square the group had a perfect base to travel up and down the city. Students went up the Empire state building, the Statue of Liberty and the

Rockefeller Centre providing plenty of fantastic sights and photo opportunities. Cultural experiences were in abundance with visits to the Natural History Museum, the award winning theatre show 'Matilda' as well as the incredibly moving 9/11 Memorial. There was even a film set moment when a walk through Central Park was perfected with snow fall—how many people get to experience that?

Being in New York meant that food was plentiful and students had the opportunity to eat at Planet Hollywood, Bubba Gump and the Hard Rock Café to name just a few.

The group really bonded, which was great to see across such a wide age range, and all went home with new friends and experiences. On returning to the UK the main question asked was 'where's next?' ... it looks like Ruskin students are getting the travel bug!

The students were an absolute credit to the Academy and themselves and Mr Briggs, Mr Finch and Mrs Scott would like to congratulate them all for their impeccable behaviour throughout the duration of the trip—it really helped make it an unforgettable experience!



# Annual Academy Ski Trip

During half term students from The Priory Ruskin Academy, along with students from the other Federation Academies, travelled to Folgaria in the Italian Dolomites, Italy on the annual ski trip. The trip was a huge success and the weather conditions for skiing in Italy were absolutely fantastic, ranging from non-stop snow at the start of the week to bright sunshine by the end of the week. The group consisted of beginners and those who had skied before but, by the end of the holiday, the beginners were skiing down from the top of the mountain and had made fantastic progress over the week. The group had a great time and made new friends whilst also learning new skills and having fun. During the week they dined at a traditional Italian pizzeria and also enjoyed bum-boarding and ice skating! The students were a credit to the Academy and themselves and some are already looking forward to the ski trip to Bardonecchia in 2017. If you are interested in joining us please see Mrs Esam or Mr Charles for a letter!



## Reading Week



The Priory Ruskin Academy had another of its established 'Reading Weeks' throughout the week commencing 11th January. Ruskin's Reading Week encourages all students from Year 7 to Year 10 to indulge, and in some cases rediscover, their love of reading. For the entire week students spend the first 15 minutes of each lesson reading...and then the competition begins! Students battle it out to see which House can complete the most reading quizzes and the results for this reading week are as follows:

4th Place: Hepworth House - 108

3rd Place: Morris House - 134

2nd Place: Mackintosh- 190

1st Place: Knight House - 199

The next reading week takes place week commencing 29th February to coincide with World Book Day.

# Aiming High with Ruskin Flight Cadets

The Ruskin Flight Cadets are gathering momentum and have had a really busy term: learning about the science of flight and basic aircraft design and structure, looking at World War 2, Dambuster raids and some of the design features of the bouncing bomb, researching and delivering presentations on the different aircraft in RAF Service as well as learning about the types of job on offer in the RAF. Whilst continuing to learn and practise basic drill commands, cadets also take part in regular team building activities such as table tennis, basketball and football tournaments.

As part of their training 15 lucky Ruskin flight cadets and maths students visited the University of Lincoln to attend a presentation by Squadron Leader David Montenegro, the team leader of the Red Arrows. David explained how his life-long ambition to learn to fly led to him leading, arguably, the World's best aerobatic display team; although his journey was by no means easy, he talked about making the most of opportunities, the importance of teamwork, honesty, communication leadership and above all never giving up on your ambition. A good recommendation for all students!



## ‘Top 3 in the County’: Academy Success in DfE Performance Tables

Staff and students have been celebrating the Priory Ruskin Academy's best ever results this term after the Department for Education released their school performance tables.

The Academy's GCSE Value Added score places Ruskin in the top 3 schools in Lincolnshire and the top 12% nationally. This has been matched in the Academy's Sixth Form, with Value Added putting Ruskin in the top 3%

of schools, sixth forms and colleges.

This is a huge testament to the dedicated and enthusiastic team of staff, students and parents who continue to raise standards at Ruskin.

## ‘Waves’ Inspires Future Engineers



BAE Systems visited the Academy to promote engineering as a career choice, focusing particularly on the role women have within the industry.

Staff from both the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force joined forces to present a show entitled 'Waves'. Using exciting equipment such as lasers and smoke machines, they were able to reinforce aspects of the KS3 Physics syllabus and 'wow' the audience of Year 7 and Year 8 students (and teachers!) with a series of experiments based around sound and light. The students further

reinforced their learning by producing their own 'KEYWORD' dance track using a loop pedal and some thumping backing rhythms. An informative and fun time was had by all, BAE will be returning next year with a new production.



# Students Present The Grantham Passage with Cheque for over £1000



Students at The Priory Ruskin Academy were delighted to present Mr Andy Maddison from The Grantham Passage with a cheque for £1003.40 on Friday 22nd January. Raised by the

Academy's hugely successful Festive Evening, which was held before Christmas, the money will be used by The Grantham Passage to help homeless and vulnerable people, providing them with hot food, clothing and assistance to access relevant agencies and community support.

The Festive Evening is an incredibly popular event at The Priory Ruskin Academy and brings together all elements of our local community: businesses, residents, students, parents, friends and

staff. We are so grateful to everyone for their support and delighted to have raised such a fantastic amount of money for a wonderful charity.



## Sixth Form Extended Project

In January Jack Perry and Charlotte Johns, two of our Year 13 students, successfully received their grades in the Extended Projects Qualification.

Our popular EPQ allows students to extend their abilities beyond the A-level syllabus and prepare for university or their future career. It is worth half an A-level so can be used to earn extra UCAS points. Students are able to write a dissertation, design/make an artifact or produce a performance on anything that interests them that is not part of their current studies.

Jack's interesting project was on whether money in football had spoiled the game, whereas Charlotte looked into the title 'If the Emancipation Proclamation issued by Abraham Lincoln in 1863 never came about, would slavery in America still exist to this day?' These students achieved a



C and a B respectively. An excellent achievement.

Current students are looking into the use of magnetic bearings in hydroelectricity, a diary account of a German soldier in WW2, research into whether the American justice system breaches human rights, and research into the causes and effects of the French Revolution. We look forward to the results of these projects in the summer.

## Hetty Feather: Theatre Royal

On Thursday 4th February 100 students went on a trip to the Nottingham Theatre Royal to see a live showing of Jacqueline Wilson's 'Hetty Feather'. They were treated to a wonderful, colourful performance that told the story of Hetty and included aerial work and physical theatre. six performers and two musicians played multi characters that were convincing, including horses. An imaginative use of set, props and drama techniques were witnessed and have hopefully inspired the students to incorporate ideas that they have seen into their own work.





## Upcoming: World Book Day

Watch this space! The Priory Ruskin Academy is excited to be one of only eleven venues in the country hosting 'The Biggest Book Show on Earth Tour' as part of this year's World Book Day events. A full report will follow in next term's newsletter...

### New Age Kurling: Ruskin Storm to Silver Success in First Ever Competition



On 5<sup>th</sup> February, The Priory Ruskin Academy entered our first ever Kurling team at Sleaford St George's to play in a New Age Kurling tournament. It was the first time that the boys had played this

sport competitively and only the third time they had played kurling including practises! There were 12 teams competing in total and our boys performed extremely well, finishing in second place silver medallists!

The boys were fantastic, really focussed and put all of their effort into placing every stone. Their sportsmanship was excellent and they must be commended for initiating handshakes and offering their congratulations after each game. A real credit to the Academy and more importantly a real credit to themselves!



### Preparing the Next Generation of Leaders

Senior Prefects at The Priory Academy have successfully completed a Leadership Course hosted at Allington Manor.

As our Sixth Form students draw closer to the end of their education at the Academy it is important they leave us prepared for the competitive world they are about to enter. This one day course was designed to encourage independent thinking and develop leadership skills. The sessions included inspirational lectures from local

entrepreneurs and leadership activities from the Royal Air Force. Students then took part in group workshops which culminated in a test.

Congratulations to all that passed and received their certificate.



### NHS Re-enact

On the 5th February Year 9 students experienced a dramatic performance from NHS re-enact exploring the different career options available within the NHS. The production engaged students in the realities of various jobs from therapist, dietician, midwifery, dentistry, chef, nursing, doctor, to even gardeners. Hopefully this fun and thought-provoking drama production has encouraged students to think more widely about the career options available to them!



### Text Santa—Ruskin Christmas Jumper and Accessory Day

Well done to all staff and students at Ruskin for raising £288.98 on Christmas Jumper and Accessory Day which was held in December. We contributed to helping raise a national total of over £11 million pounds, and





# Art Students Inspired by Trip to the V&A Museum

Both Year 10 Art and Design groups have enjoyed a busy trip to the V&A museum in London. The students were given research boards to collect information and complete sketches whilst in the museum.

Staff were impressed with conduct of our students throughout the day. They took full advantage of the opportunity of seeing a range of artwork and particularly enjoyed

visiting the specialist exhibitions that we booked to see.

One group, who have been working on a 3D shoe project since September, were able to visit the 'Pain and Pleasure' exhibition of shoes, which was absolutely fascinating and has given them a first hand experience of different types of shoes which also supports their GCSE coursework.

Another group, who are working on a mask project, were able to use this opportunity to sketch and research a range of artefacts to support their work.

Trips to exhibitions and galleries for students choosing Art as a GCSE or A level option form a vital part of the course and enrichment of their learning.



## Miss Saigon is Coming to Ruskin

After the immense success of the 2015 Academy summer musical production, Les Miserables, we are proud to announce that our next musical is Miss Saigon; a modern day version of Madame Butterfly.

On 23<sup>rd</sup> January, over 70 students attended the audition day in the Great Hall. Matt Hewitt, Producer and Director is looking for the stars of the future. The Academy is keen to support this venture because it allows students from a range of schools to come together and work on this amazing show. Rehearsals have now begun on Tuesday and Wednesday nights. The actual concert dates are 27th July - 30th July. We look forward to seeing you all.

# Rotary Swimarathon

Students from The Priory Ruskin Academy rose early on Saturday 6th February to take part in The Rotary's Swimarathon at The Grantham Meres Leisure Centre.

All students showed fantastic determination and dedication as they swam for an hour with smiles on their faces. High spirits and wonderful encouragement between the teams, along with a little competition of course, led to the completion of over 500 lengths and the raising of over £300.00 in sponsorship, which is increasing daily as participants return their pledges. The final sum shall be of great benefit to local charities in Grantham. A truly wonderful morning that demonstrated the great sense of community within the Academy.



## Ruskin Respects Update

We are delighted with the way students have taken to our new initiative the 'Ruskin Respect' Award. Since starting in September 314 bages have been awarded!

The idea behind Ruskin Respects is to be able to capture a holistic view of each student and to be able to recognise students' achievements and celebrate their participation in all aspects of Academy life.

Students work towards gaining awards in Learning, Aiming High, Health, Community and Creativity. Some students have achieved their bronze, silver and gold badges already and are now working hard to achieve their awards in other areas.

Well done to all students who are working hard to achieve their awards.



## Josh and Hepworth House Saving

Year 8 student, Josh Farrington, has raised a fantastic £58 by running a bear raffle. This money will be added to the £649.03 raised through other events hosted by Hepworth House, including the ever popular Year 7 disco, and will be sent to 'LIVES' (Lincolnshire Integrated Voluntary Emergency Service).



Winners of the 3 Bears were .....Miss Meadwell, Adam Wright (HEP 7) and Mrs Pexton. Thank you Josh and Hepworth House!

## Non-Uniform Day Raises Money to Support Local Families



Sixth Form Students successfully raised £223 for Grantham Homestart by holding a non-uniform day.

Students approached the Headteacher to organise the event themselves and were delighted to be able to present a cheque to Homestart, a charity which supports ordinary parents in and around Grantham and the wider surrounding rural area who

are going through challenging times. Sarah Patel and Sarah High from Homestart had the opportunity to explain to students about the charity and how the money would be used to support local families.

## Year 10 Maths Feast Competition



On Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2016, some of our finest Year 10 mathematicians visited Loughborough University to represent the Academy at the annual 'Maths Feast' event.

Prior to taking part, a tour of the university campus was enjoyed by

all. Our team were given access to some of the world class facilities in situ on campus and gained a strong sense of what life might be like as a resident undergraduate of the university.

After a brief lunch break, it was down to competition, where our two teams of four, pitted themselves against twenty two other elite teams from across the region.

The competition comprised of six rounds in total, with challenging

questions being set to test both mathematical knowledge and team working skills.

Whilst the top prize evaded our maths wizards, we can be proud of them for securing a top half finish amidst such talented company!

As you would expect, our students did us proud and drew praise from staff and students of the university and from the other competitors. A huge well done to them all!



# Sports Digest

The Priory Ruskin Academy PE Department has continued with a very comprehensive extracurricular and fixture programme. There have been a number of highlights.

The Academy U16 rugby team had a successful campaign in the county league, topping their group and coming runners up in the County final to neighbours Kings. The Academy has continued to develop the badminton within the Academy where we have great numbers attending Monday to Thursday mornings. In badminton the U16 team finished third in the county finals taking nationally ranked players very close in both the individuals and doubles. Both the U14 boys and girls teams have won the district event and will be competing for the county title at the Winter Games on 9<sup>th</sup> March.

This year's Winter Games will see The Priory Ruskin Academy have 6 teams competing in Level 3



events, across the sports of badminton, football, volleyball, boccia and new age kurling. All teams have qualified through success at the District events.

The very successful Gymnastics Club again saw success at the East Midlands Schools Floor and Vault Championships; the U14 mixed team finishing in 2<sup>nd</sup> place, and the U19 boys team finishing in 1<sup>st</sup> will now go on to compete in the National Schools Gymnastics Finals in May. A huge congratulations must go out to the competitors; Alisha Shepherd, Oliwier Wnukowski, Joe Taylor, Isla Pexton, Neeve Pexton, Declan Parkes, Lucas Kokocinski, Kyle Davidson and George Lodge.

In football, the Academy 1<sup>st</sup> Team have competed throughout the season on a jam packed Wednesday afternoon fixture programme, the team have now secured a very respectable fourth position in the league table and are hoping to grow on this success with the increasing numbers the Academy is now seeing within the very successful sixth form.

The cross country season is in its full and six of the Academy students qualified to compete at the prestigious county finals and represent the district of Kesteven.



Mr Cairns has for the first time entered the Academy volleyball team into the Lincolnshire league, with the students gaining much more success than the staff team! The students are playing against adult teams and have shown great skill taking Lincolnshire's top team, Lincoln Cannons to five sets and proving to be very difficult opponents against Lincoln University. We are very confident that this team will grow into a formidable force on the volleyball court.



Keep up with the latest sports news on twitter by following @ruskinsport

Alternative to  
Christmas  
Cards Raises  
Money For  
Breast Cancer

Every Christmas staff at the Academy have the opportunity to send Christmas wishes in a different way to help raise money for Charity. Rather than giving Christmas cards to one another, staff pay to decorate a bauble with a Christmas message and place it on our 'Christmas Card Tree' in return for a donation and last Christmas staff raised almost £100 for Grantham Breast Cancer—a big thank you to all!





# Academy Newsletter



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## KEY DIARY DATES FOR TERM 4

### TERM 4

#### Students Involved:

ALL	22nd February	Term 4 begins
ALL	23rd February	PD Day
Year 8	25th February	Year 8 Parents Evening
Year 7—10	29th Feb—4th March	Reading Week
Year 8	29th February	Author Visit (Johnathon Stroud)
Year 8	1st March	Author Visit (Sarah Hindmarsh)
Select Year 10	2nd March	Visit to Bishop Grosseteste
Year 7 & 8	2nd March	Sarah Outen Presentation
Various	5th March	English Schools' Cross Country Championships
Various	8th & 10th March	Badminton—Birmingham Arena
Year 9—13	10th March	Inspire Concert
Year 12 & 13	17th March	Sixth Form Music Performance
Various	17th March	Girls Country Rugby
Year 7	18th March	Boys County Rugby
Year 10 & 11	18th March	Move it Dance Trip
Various (Choir)	22nd March	ACM Gospel Choir Academy Workshop and Concert
ALL	24th March	End of Term
ALL	11th April	Term 5 Begins



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