

Academy Newsletter



The Priory
Ruskin
Academy

Term 4 2015/2016 Community and SMSC

A message from the Headteacher...

Once again, Ruskin has had a term replete with academic, creative and sporting success. We have been recognised by the Department for Education as a top 100 school for sustained improvement which is a tremendous accolade to staff and students alike. This really is reflected in the daily life of the Academy; there is a tangible sense of purposefulness, shared goals and aspirations as we continue to ensure students make outstanding progress.

The creative and sporting talents of our students have really shone this term. The Sixth Form BTEC Music performance showcased some amazing talent; the ACM Gospel Choir joined forces with Ruskin for a memorable musical night and our Year 10 students took to the stage in their "Inspired Concert". Most recently, our Rock Challenge performers have won third place in the county event hosted at the Meres, whilst the backstage crew took away a plethora of awards for choreography, performance skill, entertainment, drama skill, lighting and soundtrack. In sports, our students have been inspired by outside visitors such as Sarah Outen, and in turn are inspiring themselves with some resounding victories for our football, netball, kurling and gymnastic teams.

It has been particularly pleasing to see Ruskin's work with the community continuing to flourish. The Biggest Book Show On Earth saw hundreds of primary school children benefit from listening to renowned authors. In addition, our Duke of Edinburgh students have developed their own healthy food business and have supported Sports Relief with their incredible rock climbing challenge whilst our Sixth formers have raised money for a number of local charities.

We look forward to an equally busy term, where the students will be encouraged to work hard and take full advantage of all the academic and extra-curricular opportunities we have at Ruskin.

Ms R Wyles

Sport Relief 2016



Staff and students at The Priory Ruskin Academy have raised over £1500 for Sport Relief this year following a jam-packed day of activities on Friday 18th March.

In addition to donations for wearing sports attire rather than Academy uniform for the day, all students took

part in the national 'Sainsbury's Run a Mile' event and were even treated to a staff 'lip sync' battle at lunchtime – much to everyone's amusement!

Mr Wheelwright cycled in his classroom all day (whilst teaching!) and Duke of Edinburgh students led the 'Climb a Mile in a Day' challenge which saw a climbing wall brought to the Academy for the day...



ultimately students climbed almost THREE miles combined (which is 4,827

metres or 534 ascents). Sainsbury's kindly donated a raffle prize of a Sport Relief bag of goodies which was won by Year 7 student, Archie Stanley. A huge well done and thank you to everyone who took part and raised such an impressive total during what was a fantastic day.



Ruskin Duke of Edinburgh Students Launch New Business Venture

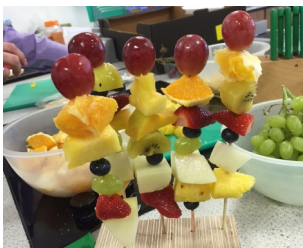


Duke of Edinburgh students at The Priory Ruskin Academy were delighted to see their 'Basecamp Bar' officially opened by Sainsbury's, Grantham on Thursday 17th March.

The healthy snack bar is the brain child of the dedicated group who have set up this venture as part of their skills and volunteering sections of the Award. Utilising their varied talents, the students have taken responsibility for designing the logo, signage uniforms, menus, loyalty cards and packaging as well as organising the staffing of the bar, all food preparation and baking and stock control, pricing, cash flow and book keeping. The bar, which is initially opening two

days a week, is open in the morning and at break and lunch with competitive pricing and the clear aim of promoting healthy eating within the Academy.

Mrs Greenfield, Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator at the Academy, said, "The D of E runs from fundraising alone, so students are tasked with making money in order to fund their expeditions, buy equipment and pay for exciting events like rock climbing. The students have worked really hard over the last few weeks to prepare for today and watching them work for this has really made myself and Mr Dale (D of E Leader) proud - they are a great bunch of young people and I wish them all the best in their business venture. A huge thank you to Sainsbury's who kindly donated fruit, cereal bars and other healthy snacks, and also Tyrells who donated a box of vegetable crisps to help kick start Basecamp Bar's trade."



One Last Time..

One Last Time

Starring:
Lucy & the BTEC Boys



When and where?
The Priory Ruskin Academy
March 17th at 7:00pm
Tickets: £3 each



On 17th March, the talented Year 12 and 13 BTEC Music students performed in a highly entertaining music concert in the Great Hall. As part of the BTEC Music course, students had to organise a concert which included choosing an appropriate repertoire, planning a rehearsal schedule, marketing, ticket design, posters, costumes and lighting. The skilled music students performed to a full house; the audience were extremely supportive and this really helped the students to perform to the best of their ability. One member of the audience said, "I had an amazing time and I have nothing but praise for the performers and the teaching staff who have obviously spent lots of time with the students". The music students are now straight in to rehearsals for the Summer Concert...the final swansong for Year 13 students before they leave the Academy to pursue, what will inevitably be, very bright futures ahead of them.

Sarah Outen Inspires Year 7 Students



The Priory Ruskin Academy were delighted to welcome British adventurer Sarah Outen MBE on Wednesday 2nd March. Sarah had Ruskin Year 7 and 8 students gripped with the story of her 'London2London: Via the World' expedition during which she rowed, biked and kayaked around the Northern Hemisphere. Covering 25,000

miles over 4 ½ years, Sarah had to endure extreme conditions and overcome many challenges. Mr Gunter, Director of Sport at the Academy, said, "Sarah's story is an inspiration and demonstrates to our students what can be achieved with tenacity, passion and commitment."

Ruskin Makes The Top 100

Staff and students at The Priory Ruskin Academy have more cause for celebration having received official notification that the Academy is one of the top 100 non-selective state-funded schools in England for progress. In a letter from Nick Gibb MP, the Minister of State for Schools, the Academy was praised for showing 'the greatest sustained improvement in the percentage of pupils achieving five or more A*-C grades, including English and Mathematics GCSE'. This news follows Department for Education Performance Table

Data released in January putting the Academy in the top 3 schools in Lincolnshire for both GCSE and A level value added.

Headteacher, Ms Wyles, said, "To have our journey recognised, and to now be in the top 100 schools showing most sustained improvement is an outstanding accolade. We have a unique enthusiasm and vitality at Ruskin; we are absolutely driven in securing the best outcomes for our students and I am incredibly pleased that our energy, enthusiasm and tenacity has been

recognised. We have a truly inspirational staff and a hard working student body – this really is a testament to them."



Year 10 Inspire Concert

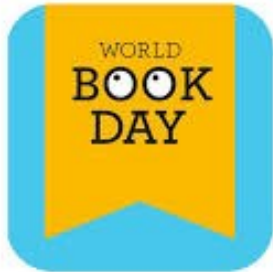


The Year 10 GCSE Performing Arts students put on a wonderful evening of entertainment on March 10th. The performance, known as the 'Inspire Concert',

included singing, dancing and acting and demonstrated, once again, the talent we have at Ruskin. The Inspire concert is an important part of their course as it demonstrates that students have a full understanding of the 17 key skills within the industry. As a team they had to schedule rehearsals, design posters, tickets, organise costumes, hair, make-up, sound, lighting and provide front of house duties such as refreshments. A full

technical and dress rehearsal was held, just like professionals! For some of them this was the first time they had performed outside of the classroom, on the stage and in front of an audience and they were extremely nervous. They gave some fabulous performances throughout the evening and even though the lights failed to work they carried on in a true professional style and didn't let it phase them. As they say...the show must go on.

Students Enjoy a Range of Events to Celebrate World Book Day



Students at The Priory Ruskin Academy celebrated World Book Day with a host of different literary activities. Throughout the week another, now established, 'Ruskin Reading Week' took place with students reading for 15 minutes at the start of each lesson. Houses competed against each other to see which could complete the highest number of reading quizzes. It was a closely fought battle but Knight were crowned champions again!

Select Year 7 students were treated to a return visit from Sarah Hindmarsh, a successful local author, who ran a creative writing



workshop. Year 7 student, Stephen Thornley thoroughly enjoyed the session, "It was outstanding! I loved the bit about describing people", whilst Tye Parsons said, "My favourite bit was writing our own story and when we made a poem up – that was really fun". Year 8 student, Alfie Hardman, was presented with a copy of Sarah's latest book which actually features a character created by Alfie! Alfie and his character won a competition Sarah ran last time she visited and it is fantastic to see his work published.

Another visiting author, Jonathan Stroud, gave an engaging talk to

Year 8 and A-level Creative Writing and English Literature students. Focusing on creative writing and sharing tips and skills on how to improve your writing, students really enjoyed the session. One lucky Year 8 student was given the opportunity to dress up as one of the ghost hunters from his book 'Lockwood & Co'!

Elsewhere around the Academy students enjoyed a 'Book Scatter' where students searched for (and won!) hidden books as well as a second hand book sale run by Year 12 students.



Biggest Book Show on Earth!



Ruskin students, once again, displayed their manners, confidence and exemplary behaviour when the Academy welcomed over 550 primary school students on 25th February. Ruskin was the fourth of eleven venues hosting the national 'Biggest Book Show on Earth Tour' and select students helped

as guides and the 'welcoming committee'...and got to enjoy the show!

Planned in conjunction with The Federation of Children's Book Group, students were treated to the side splitting humour of Steven Butler, author of 'The Diary of Dennis the Menace', who compered the event as well as getting a fascinating and inspirational insight into the process of writing and illustrating from four famous guest speaker including Chris Mould, Will Mabbitt, Sophy Henn and A. F Harrold.

Students all had a great time with

laughter pouring out of the Academy's Great Hall. Some Year 7 students from The Priory Ruskin Academy said they, 'liked the one with the beard. He was hilarious and really active and just made a poem up on the spot! The illustrator had so much in his head and could draw the most amazing pictures'.



Funds Raised for Cumbria Flood Victims

A huge well done to Year 10 students Nina Tinkler, Caitlin Foalkes and Eleanor Potterton who collected £85.50 for Cumbrian flood victims by holding a cake sale and tombola!

Young Americans Visit Ruskin

On 21st March, something awesome happened in the Great Hall! Forty-five Young Americans visited the Academy. They were no ordinary Young Americans but highly talented Performing Arts students. They worked with some of the Year 7 and 8 students in the Great Hall, teaching them a dynamic dance routine and truly inspiring them with their energy and passion. The Academy students sat in complete silence as they showed respect to the inspirational Young Americans as they sang a beautiful version of Morning Has Broken.

The Young Americans are a group of people who are focused on providing music education and performance opportunities to young people around the world. The international music outreach tours promote the importance of music education by bringing music workshops to students around the world. The Young Americans College of the Performing Arts provides an innovative and creative learning environment that fosters artistic, intellectual and personal growth for those interested in becoming performers or arts educators.



ACM Gospel Workshop and Concert



On 22nd March students from the Academy Choir were invited to participate in a vocal workshop at the Epic Centre in Lincolnshire Showground. The key vocal workshop leaders all form part of ACM Gospel choir; their Musical Director is Mark Delisser. Mark is a Vocal Coach and Director who works on various TV shows such as 'The Voice' and has coached vocalists including Jessie J, Nicole Scherzinger and Joss Stone.

As a reward for the Academy Choir's hard work and commitment over the year, they were all invited to participate in a workshop with Mark and also with the gospel choir members. That in itself was inspirational, however, after the students returned to the Academy, they were then invited to perform in a Concert with ACM Gospel Choir. It was an energetic, powerful and beautiful night of music which lifted the soul and inspired the students in their music making. The Sixth Form BTEC Music students performed four pieces for the audience and then at the end of the show the Academy Choir performed with the ACM Gospel Choir. A Year 7 student said, "I love coming to school. We are given so many chances to try out new activities and work with brilliant people".

Once again, the Academy provided students and the local community with a night of outstanding entertainment.

St Barnabas Fundraising

Sixth Form students, along with Morris House, successfully raised nearly £500 for St Barnabas Hospice in Grantham. Over £200 was raised by selling knitted Easter chickens (with Cadbury's Creme Eggs included!) whilst another £250 was raised by Sixth Form who raffled off a giant chick and chocolates and also held a Sixth Form only non-uniform day. All money raised will go to the Hospice who do a fantastic job at a very difficult time for both patients and families. Other events are planned to raise further funds for St Barnabas so keep an eye out for upcoming events.



Focus on...Art & Design

Mask Montage



Our Year 10 students have spent this term producing some outstanding large scale masks based on work from a variety of different cultures.

Here you see Gary Smith and Hayden Mapletoft modelling their hard work.

Kick Start Masterclass

Gifted and talented Art students have made a fantastic start with the exciting 'Kick Start Masterclass' workshops this term. The exciting workshops are designed to give the students the opportunity to experiment with a range of techniques and media. These are examples from the first workshop where the students produced paper sculptures based on abstract architecture.



Artwork Showcase

Below is a selection of the fantastic work produced in the Art department this term:

- Year 7 Hundertwasser style mixed media figures on Year 8 printed mechanical mandalas
- Year 12 Colourful cogs – Brusho inks, chalk and fine liner
- Year 7 Fauvist leaf forms
- Year 12 Origami flowers from Morris inspired prints
- Year 7 Islamic tile inspired dodecahedrons
- Year 7 Wax resist still life



Ruskin Artwork Displayed in Grantham

A display of stunning examples of the artwork produced by students at The Priory Ruskin Academy has been on display near Grantham Library in The Isaac Newton Centre.

The work ranges from graphic T-shirts, clocks and embellished shoes to photography painting with light images, Toby jugs, Jomon inspired pottery and beautiful paintings. A huge well done and thank you to the students and staff in the Art Department.

Sports Digest Term 4

Well, what a term it has been in The Priory Ruskin Academy PE Department! The half term was jam packed with fixtures and county finals that were excellently represented by Academy students. Term 4 saw the Academy enter teams at the Winter School Games in Badminton, New Age Kurling and Rowing, competing in the county finals of these events!

Within Badminton the girls team, consisting of Mel Church, Romaizza Herrera, Lucie Plant and Jade Sinclair, finished a very respectable 6th in the county. The boys team of George Railton, Gytis Vysniauskas, Korban Read and Callum Turner performed superbly well and finished in 2nd place behind a very strong William Farr team.



The newly developed New Age Kurling team took on the challenge of competing against Lincolnshire's best, played smartly, were cool under pressure and took home the Gold medals. The students representing this team were Liam Atkinson, Peter Merryweather, Markus Cotterill, Kyle Morton and Angus Brown.

Medals were also brought back to the Academy from the rowing team; the Year 8 team of Caius Hamilton, Piotrek Kudla and Zak Draycott bringing home Gold, and the Year 10 team (Alec Stewart, Jack Pirie, Logan Grieb and Ben Tunncliffe) achieving Silver.



The football fixtures have now come to an end with the U15 team topping the district league. Two notable results from this team were a 6-0 win over Carre's Grammar School and a 4-0 win over local rivals Kings to secure the top spot. We are hoping that this team can continue this success next year and have a good run in the National Cup.



The first 11 football team have played 16 fixtures in the league format and finished in third place, after the success of this year we are hoping to run two teams out of the Sixth Form next year.



Rugby has turned from the 15 a side game to 7s; the U13 boys had a good run in the County Championships at Market Rasen RFC, qualifying for the top cup competition after finishing 2nd in their group, were then

knocked out at the quarter final stage by De Aston A team. The U15 boys' team qualified for the plate competition and took home silverware after finishing runners up. The girls have also had a good run in rugby attending the county rugby festival at Lincoln RFC; the U13 team finished in second place and the U15 team finished joint 1st with KSHS.

There has been further success with the Gymnastics team who have achieved much greater feats than any previous year. Some major highlights from the Grantham Gymnastics results were; Neeve Pexton winning Gold in U13 novice category, U13 intermediate girls Alisha Shepherd won Gold, U13 boys Joe Taylor won Gold and Toby Doughty won Bronze, U16 Girls novice Abbie Phillips won Gold, and in the U16 boys Kyle Dickinson won Gold. In the team event the U13 girls also took the Silver medals home. This is by far our best results in this competition.



The girls' netball training has seen continued high numbers attend and this is really showing in their levels of performance. The U13 team were invited to attend the DRET league at meres and finished in a very pleasing 4th position from a very strong field of eight teams. The Year 7 team outplayed local rivals Walton

winning 11-6, and the year 8s beat Will Rob 5-1.

Keep up with the latest sports news on twitter by following [@ruskinsport](https://twitter.com/ruskinsport)

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KEY DIARY DATES FOR TERM 5

TERM 5

Students Involved:

ALL	11th April	Term 5 begins
Y7-Y10	11th—15th April	Reading Week
Various	12th April	Rock Challenge
Y7	28th April	Y7 Parents Evening
ALL	2nd May	May Day Bank Holiday
Various	3rd May	Jade Winley Sport Mentor Visit
All Y7 Mackintosh	9th—13th May	Y7 Mackintosh Trip to France
All Y7 Morris	16th—20th May	Y7 Morris Trip to France
All Y7 Knight	23rd—27th May	Y7 Knight Trip to France
ALL	28th May—3rd June	Half Term
ALL	6th June	Term 6 Begins

