

The Priory Ruskin Academy

Term 1 Newsletter 2016/17

A message from the Headteacher...

Ruskin has had much to celebrate this term. We are incredibly proud that the outstanding work of all our dedicated staff, diligent students and supportive parents has been reflected in performance tables, which has placed us as one of the top 3 schools in the East Midlands. This is a real testament to teamwork and a strong sense of shared values across our Academy.

Of course, we are delighted to celebrate this academic success, but equally Ruskin students continue to shine in their valuable wider contributions, which makes our community so unique and vibrant. It is a genuine pleasure to see the students working together to achieve sporting success; support primary school children in new subjects; consider the wider community as they host charitable events and help to create art such as the beautifully moving "Ruskin Wave".

We have also welcomed our new Year 7 students, who have fully embraced Academy life. Many of them are now beginning to receive their first Ruskin Respect Awards as they too show that they are excellent ambassadors for our community.

As ever, there are a wealth of events taking place over the next term and we look forward to welcoming you to them.

Ms R Wyles

Well done Ruskin! Top Of The League Tables for Lincolnshire



October saw the release of the new Government league tables and The Priory Ruskin Academy were delighted to learn we have topped the table based on the new Progress 8 measure, which assesses student progress from Year 7 to 11. The Academy is the number one school in Lincolnshire, including all selective and non-selective schools, and is the only school in Lincolnshire where

progress is deemed 'well above average', the highest grade possible. This places The Priory Ruskin Academy in the top 3% of all schools nationally.

The progress 8 measure is designed to reflect student progress across core academic subjects of English, Mathematics, Science, Languages and humanities alongside three further subjects across the curriculum. Ruskin's P8 score of 0.51 reflects that all students achieve half a grade higher in these subjects than other schools nationally. The national average is set at a score of 0; Lincolnshire schools overall made an average P8 score of -0.11.

Headteacher, Rachel Wyles said:

"This is a superlative reflection of outstanding staff, determined students and supportive parents working together to achieve the best possible outcomes for our pupils. At Ruskin, we work together to create a sense of Academia in a harmonious and highly engaging environment. We believe in challenging our students to be aspirational for their future, working with a real sense of team and purposefulness to nurture and celebrate creative thinking, resilience, respect and sheer hard work. I am incredibly proud of the utter commitment of the Ruskin team – this is a well deserved accolade."

Well done to everyone in the wider Ruskin community!

Date For Your Diary: Festive Evening

The Priory Ruskin Academy is delighted to announce that its popular Festive Night will be returning on the 30th November.

It is set to be bigger than ever before, with even more stalls showcasing a wide variety of local businesses, allowing people to find original Christmas gifts, enjoy festive activities and sample some Christmas treats. Please add the date to your diaries – we hope to see you all there.

Ruskin Sports Leaders

Ruskin students enjoyed the launch of The Sports Leadership Academy on Tuesday 11th October. A joint venture between the School Games Organiser (SGO) Mr Plumb and Inspire+, the programme is designed to support the next generation of sports coaches and PE teachers. Students access free National Governing Body (NGB) bolt on awards and have the opportunity to be mentored by NGB development officers and coaches. A key part of achieving their qualification is volunteering to run coaching session, assisting their PE Departments and supporting the SGO competitions, tournaments and festivals throughout the year. And our Sports Leaders have already made a fantastic start...



The Year 5 & 6 High Fives Netball league, with 15 teams and over 130 pupils taking part, began the first round of league matches at The Priory Ruskin Academy on Wednesday 6th October. The Sports Leaders were responsible for court set up, greeting all the primary schools and running warm up sessions for the teams prior to the matches starting. They demonstrated their knowledge and professionalism through key roles such as umpiring, timekeeping and scoring.

Another highlight of the primary school games competitions is the Mike Bundy Cross Country league. With three races taking place on consecutive Wednesdays in September and with over 200 Year 5

& 6 students taking part in each meet, the Sports Leaders had a busy and vital role to play. In addition to taking responsibility for the course set up, the Leaders also supported the runners around the route by acting as the 'hare' at the front or encouraging those at the back of the race. Others helped at the finish line and handed out results tokens to the participants.



Separate to the Sports Leaders Academy, Sixth Form Sport students from Ruskin have also been supporting and delivering primary events. As part of their 'Sports Leadership' unit, the Sixth Formers helped to support and deliver activities for the Year 3 and 4 Primary School Rugby Festival, which took place on Thursday 29th September at Kesteven Rugby Club. The students worked in pairs delivering and managing five different activities to the nine schools that attended. These activities included Rugby Rounders, Any Direction, Tag Rugby, Statues and Hare & Hounds.



Year 5 & 6 Ruskin Science Extravaganza



The Priory Ruskin Academy was delighted to welcome over 250 local Year 5 students to partake in the annual 'Ruskin Science Extravaganza' on the 15th and 16th September. Students were able to enjoy hands on activities, conducting a number of different experiments to enrich their science curriculum, as well as getting an insight into life at secondary school. Following the extravaganza, events were transferred to the George Centre as part of the town's Gravity Fields Science and Arts Festival where parents and members of the public were given the opportunity to see and try for themselves what their children had experienced in our laboratories in the previous week. The stand was incredibly busy with parents and children building some pretty impressive marble runs! The Priory Ruskin Academy is looking forward to working with the students at future events as we continue our primary school science outreach work.

Roald Dahl 100



At the beginning of term, staff and students at The Priory Ruskin Academy joined in national celebrations marking 100 years

since the birth of the world's No. 1 storyteller, Roald Dahl.

The Academy's main reception was decorated to bring the magic of Roald Dahl's books to life, including a stack of giant books created by the talented Art Department. A competition ran throughout September, with students being asked to recreate their favourite Roald Dahl book moment in a poster. Mrs Geeson, Reading Room & Community Manger said, "Instilling a love of reading, and the positive impact this has on attainment across all

subjects, is a central theme at Ruskin and Roald Dahl 100 events have provided a perfect spring board to launch our first reading week of academic year".

And, not that we are a competitive bunch at Ruskin, for those that are interested...the results of the first reading week of 2016/17 were as follows:

4TH Morris

3rd Mackintosh

2nd Hepworth

1st Knight

Year 11: Idle Motion Theatre Trip

Year 11 Performing Arts students were privileged to work with Idle Motion Theatre Company who were briefly visiting Lincolnshire. Students were focussed, enthusiastic and enjoyed learning puppetry techniques and the art of prop manipulation. By the end of the workshop, they were inspired by their own creativity.

After working with Idle Motion during the day, our students, along with other secondary schools, witnessed the professionals in a stunning new show at the Terry O' Toole theatre in Lincoln. Physical Theatre, convincing characterisation, clever lighting, a simple multi-use set and an emotional plot evoked a few tears from the



Ruskin shines for Cancer Research UK - Shine Walk 2016

One Saturday night in September Mrs Anne Hill, Pastoral Manager (Mackintosh House) and Mrs Alison Wilson, PA to the Headteacher, took part in the Shine Walk Marathon in London to raise money for Cancer Research UK. Overnight they completed the 26 mile route through the streets of London in 8 hours 45 minutes and were part of a team of ladies who all work at The Priory Federation of Academies in Grantham and Lincoln. To date they have raised over £3,600.

Mrs Hill and Mrs Wilson were overwhelmed by the support from both Ruskin students and staff. Head of House, Mr Rob Gough, and students from Mackintosh House organised a 'Mackintosh Mile', where participants walked a one mile course of the school field during registration time. Mrs Geeson, with the help of Mackintosh Ambassadors, Darshan Patel, Sam Desmond, Ciaran Durham and Rosie Milner, organised a Cake Sale and Sixth Form girls, Aiste Stankeviciute and Nela Ondrejкова, also collected loose change during tutor time.

Over £325 was raised by the students from all 3 events, with Ruskin staff donating a further £400 in sponsorship. Mrs Hill and Mrs Wilson would like to extend a huge thank you to everyone for their tremendous support.



CANCER
RESEARCH UK
SHINE
NIGHT WALK



Ruskin Awards: Celebrating Success



The Priory Ruskin Academy has been celebrating its fantastic students over recent weeks, as the annual awards ceremonies take place. Looking back at academic year 2015/16, students are nominated across subjects by their teachers for awards recognising both effort and progress. Parents of award winners are welcomed into the Academy to enjoy their proud moment and are invited for refreshments following the ceremonies. Well done to all the award winners!

SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING-24th NOVEMBER

The Priory Ruskin Academy will be holding a Sixth Form Open Evening on Thursday 24th November, 6pm-8pm, with Head of Sixth Form Address at 6pm. This is aimed at internal and external students, and their parents, currently in Year 11 and looking to join Sixth Form in September 2017.

Macmillan Coffee Morning Raises £620.40



Friday 30th September saw Ruskin host a Macmillan Coffee Morning, as part of Macmillan's nationwide fundraising initiative. The morning was incredibly well supported and raised a grand total of £617.90.

A huge thank you to staff, students, parents and members of the public who contributed - whether it was baking, donating tombola prizes or buying and eating the delicious cakes!



THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR COMING

“The Ruskin Wave”



Inspired by Paul Cummins and Tom Piper's sculptures at the Tower of London, staff and students have been working incredibly hard to produce over 1300 poppies to be displayed in this beautiful installation at the front of the Academy for Remembrance Day 2016.

The poppies are available to

reserve, at a cost of just 50p each, and will be available when the work comes down. All proceeds will go to The Alzheimer's Society and The Royal British Legion.

A huge thank you to all staff and students who have contributed to the making and presentation of these beautiful poppies.

Personal Development Day-October 2016



On Tuesday 18th October students at Ruskin enjoyed another fun-filled and informative Personal Development Day. Over the course of the day students took part in various activities such as looking at different world cultures and cooking cultural dishes, designing and creating a product with EON Engineering and taking part in team building exercises with visitors from the Army. In addition to this students attended workshops tackling important subjects such as cyberbullying and drugs and alcohol awareness as well as practical sessions looking at job applications and the growing popularity of apprenticeships.



SOS Fashion Show - 14th Nov 2016

On 14th November Sixth Form students will be hosting the SOS Fashion Show. A range of fashion brands such as Topshop, Dorothy Perkins, M&S and other major high street stores will be on sale – all items will be half price or less! This is a ticket only event and tickets are on sale from reception NOW!



Ruskin Students Enjoy Centre Stage at Gravity Fields Festival

Performing Arts students from The Priory Ruskin Academy were delighted to perform alongside students from other schools and professional performance artists as part of Grantham's Gravity Fields Festival.

The breath-taking performance was the culmination of weeks of hard work and rehearsals, which provided students with an insight into the commitment required to succeed in the industry. The performance itself was complex, requiring focus and team work to ensure the dance techniques being used were effective. It was a really exciting night for all students involved and they were extremely proud to have taken part in this wonderful festival.



Year 5 & 6 Arts Workshop



The Art Department was very pleased to welcome students from Huntingtower Primary school on October 14th. The students worked in VA 1 with Miss Maloney making ceramic poppies for a Remembrance Day display at their school. A huge thank you to Year 11 students Danny Weaire, Arriesh Wijayakumar, Dominic Moore and Jake Eaton-Grey who assisted with setting up and supporting the Year 6 students with their practical work. The poppies looked amazing even before they were fired. Well done everyone!



Sixth Form Guildhall Trip

September saw Year 12 and 13 Performing Arts students treated to a 'behind the scenes' tour of a professional musical theatre company rehearsal.

Grant Koper Productions kindly invited our Sixth Form students to experience their preparations for their 'Some Enchanted Evening' show, which took place at the Guildhall in Grantham. They saw both solo and ensemble

microphone sound checks, a 'top and tail' technical rehearsal of the full show and full run-throughs of some of the more complex numbers. They also had a tour of the venue (both backstage and front of house) and were given the opportunity to ask the cast about their work. It was a rare treat to witness a group of such talented performers rehearsing and sharing some trade secrets and students were truly inspired by their visit.



Exciting New Beginnings: Welcome Year 7

Ruskin's new Year 7 students have had a jam-packed start to their secondary education and have proved themselves to be an enthusiastic, polite and hardworking cohort. The opportunities open to them are numbered and varied and they are throwing themselves into all sorts of activities from choir to sports teams, sewing and textiles club to science club. Many are already gathering badges, working towards their Ruskin Respect Awards and taking on various roles and responsibilities as well as helping with primary school events and our recent Open Mornings-we could not have hoped for more articulate, polite and passionate ambassadors.

New lessons, new friends, new teachers, new journeys - it is has been an exciting start to the year and we look forward to seeing and hearing more from the students as they continue their education at Ruskin.



Year 6 Open Mornings

The Priory Ruskin Academy has been overwhelmed by the interest shown by families looking for their children to start secondary school in September 2017. Despite the huge numbers attending our Open Day and Evening last term we have now also held two further Open Mornings in October! As always, these events would not have been possible without our army of willing student volunteers who give tours, answer questions and demonstrate just what it means to be a Ruskin student. We are always so proud to hear the glowing feedback from parents as to how polite, informative, confident and engaging our students are - so a huge thank you and well done to all students who were involved.

Ockham's Razor

On Thursday 22 September, Sixth Form BTEC Music and Performing Arts students were treated to a Triple Bill of aerial theatre in the wonderful setting of St Wulfram's church as part of the Gravity Fields Festival. The three performances used physical theatre to explore different relationships and emotions, utilising the height and light of the church to great effect. The performance was breathtakingly thought provoking and each student took something different

away from the experience to support their studies in physical theatre and site-specific performance.



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Sports Digest Term 1

The Priory Ruskin Academy PE Department has spent the first half term focusing curriculum based lessons and a comprehensive fixture program on the sports of football, rugby and netball, and we have made a very positive start.

The girls' netball teams have continued their progress from last year. Games of particular note were Ruskin comprehensively beating local opposition Walton Girls across the age groups, as well as snatching wins in two very close games against Sir William Robertson at Year 10 and 11. The girls football teams have had a real push this term and have had good numbers of Year 7 girls attending training sessions, this group had a very difficult start in their run of fixtures against a very strong St George's side, however, the Year 7 girls have grown with each game and clocked their first win against Sleaford High after drawing with KGGS.



In boys football, success has been seen across the age groups. The Sixth Form teams are facing a new challenge this year with two teams included, and the first team stepping up into the A League. This is a huge step up with many Sixth Form centres reluctant to make this step, a huge well done must go out to the A team boys for achieving one win, one loss and a draw. A great start that we hope will continue. The B Team have found the initial fixtures difficult, but it is great to see so many representing the Academy on a Wednesday afternoon. The Year



7 boys have their first win over Nene Park (5-2). The Year 10 team outplayed William Robertson with an 8-0 win. The Year 8 and 9 teams have started very positively progressing into the third round of the national cup after beating high levels opponents across the region.

In rugby the teams have begun their account in the Lincolnshire League. The U14 and U16 teams have made a very positive start comprehensively beating Bourne Academy and St George's, Sleaford. The U13 team started their campaign against a very strong Carre's Grammar side and are looking to bounce back in their next fixture against Deepings. The Year 7s have represented the Academy in their first rugby competition; winning three game and drawing one they shared first place with St George's, Sleaford.



Another great achievement for Ruskin in 2016 was winning the B team county tennis event and this term saw the team represent at the regional finals in Loughborough. A great achievement by the boys

who faced tough opposition and finished 5th at the regional event.



The Priory Ruskin Academy has a very comprehensive

extracurricular program in PE. Morning sessions run from 0800 every day in the Sports Hall, lunchtime sessions and after school activities (Monday-Friday). If you would like any further information on the activities we offer throughout the year please do not hesitate to contact the Academy.

Young Americans Are Coming to Town!

On November 10th and 11th The Young Americans will be coming to Grantham to run a two day workshop with our students and students from other local schools. The experience was opened up to all Year 7 and 8 students as well as Performing Arts students taking GCSE or Sixth Form options. The workshops will culminate in a spectacular performance, 'The Priory Ruskin Academy and Friends', at the Meres Leisure Centre on Friday 11th November. It will be a wonderful showcase of our students' talents and is sure to be a night to remember.



The Priory Ruskin Academy

Term 1 Newsletter

KEY DIARY DATES FOR TERM 2

Students Involved:

ALL	31st October	Term 2 2016/17 Begins
ALL	31st October	Rotary Shoebox Appeal Begins
Y7 - Y9	2nd November	Diwali Cultural Day
MORRIS HOUSE	7th November	Grantham Food Bank Collection Begins
Y7 & Y8	7th November	Author Visit - Sophie Cleverly
Y7, Y8 & PA Students	10th - 11th November	The Young Americans
	14th November	SOS Fashion Show
Y11	16th November	West End Theatre Trip - The Lion King
Y11 & Y12	17th November	NEC Skills Show
ALL	18th November	Children in Need
Select Prefects/Students	24th November	Sixth Form Open Evening
Select Students Only	30th November	Ruskin Festive Night
Y10	2nd December	Photography Trip
Y8 - Y13	5th December	Clothes Show Trip
Y12 & Y13	6th December	Photography Trip
Select Students Only	7th & 8th December	Primary School Christmas Concerts
ALL	12th December	Christmas Carol Service
ALL	12-16th December	House Christmas Lunches
ALL	13th December	House Singing Competition
Y8	16th December	Pantomime Trip
ALL	20th December	Term 2 2016/17 Ends



Healthy Schools

