

The Priory Ruskin Academy

Term 2 Newsletter 2016/17

A message from the Headteacher...

We have had an incredibly successful year at Ruskin; our Academy has topped the Lincolnshire league tables for progress, has showcased Arts talents and continued to grow sporting successes. We are particularly proud of the unique and vibrant energy we have at Ruskin and it has been a real pleasure this term to celebrate that sense of community in a number of Christmas festivities.

Staff and students have been particularly keen this term to share these values with the wider community and there has been a real and commendable generosity of spirit, fitting for this time of year. Our local primary and secondary schools have benefited from the world class Young Americans experience, managed by Mrs Rossington and her team, which culminated in a spectacular and highly professional show at The Meres. Our students have also worked alongside primary schools to showcase singing talents during our Christmas shows - another two night treat of music and dance. Alongside this, our students, supported by Mrs Geeson and our Heads of Houses, have been working tirelessly for charitable causes, including the Rotary Shoe Box Appeal, Grantham Foodbank and Passage. I am incredibly proud that our students have ensured that their efforts have supported the homeless at Christmas, providing enough resources to supply hot meals over the Christmas period.

I would also like to thank parents who have supported all of the events, academic evenings, causes and showcases at Ruskin this year. Your support is invaluable and a key aspect of Ruskin's community.

I would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a prosperous 2017; we look forward to seeing you in the new year.

Ruskin Christmas Carol Service

Monday 12th December saw Years 7, 8 and 9 join together, in the beautiful setting of St Wulfram's Church, for the Academy's annual Christmas Carol Service. The service included a mixture of traditional carols, in addition to performances from soloists and the Year 7 and Senior Choir, as well as readings from Year 7 students and the Head Boy and Head Girl. The Priory Ruskin Academy would like to thank Dr Williams for playing the organ, Reverend Boland for his heartfelt address and St Wulfram's for welcoming us to the church.



Young Americans Rock Grantham



How wonderful it was to see the Young Americans return to Grantham in November! Billed as the flagship project of their UK tour, the community event, managed by The Priory Ruskin Academy, saw the largest number of students taking part in the biggest venue of the entire Young Americans UK tour.

The Young Americans, a world renowned dance and musical group, conducted workshops with over 300 students from local schools, including Barrowby, Belvoir High, Cliffdale, The Grantham Preparatory School, The Priory Ruskin Academy, National and Walton Girls' High School, across the 10th and 11th November which culminated in a spectacular performance to a packed out audience at the Meres leisure centre on Friday night. The energetic, inclusive, funny and emotional performance was met with a standing ovation from the audience – the memory of the evening will remain with the students and the audience members for many years to come.

The Young Americans Director said: "There was something very special about the Grantham event. It's the biggest performance of the UK tour and the students seemed to bring a special quality, such enthusiasm and commitment. In the current climate Performing Arts has never been more important, we don't need to be looking for the best singer or the best dancer but for something that brings communities together and lets them celebrate who they are". Headteacher, Ms Rachel Wyles, said: "The Young

Americans performance was a spectacular success. Grantham students created an evening of, energy, creativity and joy. The workshops also supported key values of teamwork, tenacity and discipline - it takes an immense amount of effort and concentration to create a slick production involving over 300 pupils. I'm incredibly grateful for the support of the schools, parents and wider community; feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. I'd particularly like to thank Vic Rossington, Assistant Headteacher at The Priory Ruskin Academy who oversaw all aspects of the event. Her vision to share the quite literally world class experiences on offer at Ruskin with local schools, under the umbrella of the Arts, ensured that Grantham's collective talents truly shone".

Well done to all the students who took part and thank you to all the members of staff who helped make the event happen.



SOS Fashion Show



Ruskin students took to the catwalk on 14th November when the Academy hosted an SOS charity fashion show. A range of fashion brands such as Topshop, White Stuff, Phase Eight, Dorothy Perkins, M&S and other major high street stores were on sale at a significantly reduced price.

The event raised over £500, with proceeds going to support Grantham cancer patient, Karl Bullimore, in his fight against an aggressive form of the disease. Karl's family have set up the Fix our Father Campaign to help raise money for his travel to London for treatment as well as for research into the rare bladder cancer that he has been diagnosed with. A huge thank you to everyone who came along and supported the event.

Primary School Christmas Concerts



On Wednesday 7th and Thursday 8th December The Priory Ruskin Academy welcomed choirs from six local primary schools to come together for a Christmas celebration. Performing Christmas songs they have been busy practising throughout the term, the children brought a real magic to the stage...and almost certainly a tear to the eyes of their proud parents! Harlaxton C of E Primary School, St Mary's Catholic Primary School and National C of E Junior School performed on the 7th December, with Barrowby C of E Primary School, Huntingtower CP Academy and Cliffedale Church of England Primary School performing on the 8th December. The event also included performances from Ruskin's Jack Palin (Year 12), singing 'Christmas (Baby Please Come Home)' and Jamie Jessop (Year 9), who drew gasps from the primary schools with his remarkable dance performance. The Academy were also incredibly grateful to Grantham School of Dance, who performed the beautiful 'Dance of the Snowflakes' and Mrs Wright and her breath-taking harpists who performed their own special versions of 'Silent Night' and 'Jingle Bells'. The evening, which also saw festive canapes served by parent helpers from the Academy's newly formed 'Friends of Ruskin', gave everyone the chance to get in the Christmas spirit and celebrate the collective talents of all the students who took part.



Mrs Greenfield Heads to the Abbey: Duke of Edinburgh Diamond Anniversary



2016 marks the 60th year of the Duke of Edinburgh Award. To celebrate this the DofE charity launched the 'Diamond Challenge' campaign which calls on people of all backgrounds, ages and abilities to set themselves a challenge for 2016 and in the process raise money for the DofE charity. Mrs Greenfield, the Academy's Duke of Edinburgh Award Co-Ordinator, decided she should set a good example to her students and challenged herself (and her Dad!) to cycle the 170 miles coast to coast route from Morecambe to Bridlington. They raised over

£700, which goes directly to the DofE charity, and Mrs Greenfield is now a 'Diamond Ambassador' for the DofE. Being social media savvy, Mrs Greenfield expertly tweeted and hash tagged during her expedition across the country and the DofE charity were obviously watching because, a few weeks later, she received an invitation to Westminster Abbey for a service of thanksgiving to celebrate the DofE diamond anniversary! In the company of people equally as passionate about DofE as she is, including the Duke of Edinburgh, the Queen, and Prince Edward, Mrs Greenfield was part of a celebration that recognised the vital role the DofE award can play in young people's lives and how, by participating,

ordinary people have gone on and achieved extraordinary things.

The Priory Ruskin Academy now has 65 students working towards their Bronze Award, with the opportunity to continue participating and achieving their silver and gold awards during their time at the Academy. If you or your child would like more information about the DofE award and the what it entails please contact Mrs Greenfield.

COMPULSORY SESSIONS

- Always in the Great Hall - for both groups always 3.30- 5pm - wear your own outdoor clothing/boots*
- Thursday 12th January
Equipment with representative from Go Outdoors
 - Thursday 19th January
Map Reading and compass training
 - Thursday 9th February
Cooking and nutrition on a Trangia
 - Thursday 23rd February
First Aid training
 - Thursday 2nd March
Rucksacks and Equipment Care
 - Thursday 9th March
Expedition Aim and Presentation plus the 20 conditions

You will not be allowed to go on expedition if you miss any of these sessions. This will mean that you will have to wait another year to do your expedition and you will not get your Bronze Award. In exceptional circumstances and if you have seen Mrs Greenfield or Mr Dale prior to these dates, we may offer one to one training to ensure you can participate.

EXPEDITION DATES

Friday 17th March - Saturday 18th March - TBC - 3.30 Friday - 5pm Saturday
DofE training Weekend at school.

20th-21st May - Practise Expedition - All groups
Grantham Area.

Thursday 25th May - Review of Practise Expedition - 3.30- 5pm Great Hall
17th- 18th June - Final Qualifying Expedition - All groups
Grantham Area.



November



Ruskin Families Donate to The Foodbank



The Grantham Foodbank was delighted to receive a range of food donations which students from The Priory Ruskin

Academy have been collecting over recent weeks.

Mrs Vicki Geeson, Community Manager at the Academy said: "As Christmas draws nearer and winter sets in, the Foodbank's wonderful work becomes even more poignant and important. Thank you to everyone who donated so generously".

Sixth Form Open Evening

A huge thank you to all staff and students who took part in the Sixth Form Open Evening on Thursday 24th November. This was the best attended Sixth Form Open Evening we have held and the numbers of students from other

local schools was higher than ever - Ruskin's popularity continues to grow! The deadline for applications was December 9th and Mr Steptoe will be following up with applicants in the new year.

The Priory Ruskin Academy Raises Over £1200 for Children In Need



Ruskin students and staff dug deep on Friday 18th November and raised over £1200 for Children In Need.

With events including a non-uniform day, a cake sale and even a Children In Need 'Dance Off', Ruskin demonstrated how to have fun whilst remembering what an important job Children in Need does and raising a fantastic final amount to support the charity's great work.



Rotary Shoebox Appeal



Students at The Priory Ruskin Academy collected over 50 shoeboxes as part of the Rotary shoebox appeal 2016. This year's collection was organised within tutor groups and the boxes were crammed full of all sorts of treats including little toys, colouring pencils, household items and toiletries.

The annual scheme, run locally by the Rotary Club of Grantham, collects boxes full of items which will help children, teenagers and the elderly in poverty stricken areas of Eastern Europe. For many recipients, the gift of a shoebox will be the first present that they have ever received and it lets them know that somebody, somewhere cares. Grantham Kesteven Rotarian Tony Griffin said the Grantham scheme was doing well and passed on his thanks to Ruskin students, parents and staff.

Ruskin Wave Raises Money For Charity



As featured in last term's newsletter, the main reception at The Priory Ruskin Academy was transformed into a poppy wave to mark Remembrance day 2016. Inspired by Paul Cummins and Tom Piper's sculptures at the Tower of London, staff and students worked incredibly hard to produce over 1300 poppies which were displayed in this beautiful installation at the front of the Academy. The poppies were then sold off after the installation was taken down, with all proceeds to the Alzheimer's Society and the Royal British Legion. Here are some photos demonstrating the artistic process!

Art Students Visit Prestigious Galleries

Art students from Year 11, 12 and 13 were given the opportunity to visit two of London's most prestigious galleries this term. 57 students were given a guided tour of the "Champagne Life" exhibition at the Saatchi gallery by one of the gallery's artists in residence. The Champagne life exhibition is designed to celebrate the work of a group of female artists, and in doing so provides a rare and pertinent moment to reflect on what it means to be a female artist working today. The students then moved on to the V&A, the world's leading museum of Art & Design, where they had the opportunity to explore a collection of over 2.3 million objects that span over 5,000 years of human creativity. The museum holds some of the greatest resources for the study of architecture, furniture, fashion, textiles, photography, sculpture, painting, jewellery, glass, ceramics, book arts, Asian art and design, theatre and performance.



Ruskin Festive Evening

Wednesday 30th November saw the return of The Priory Ruskin Academy Festive Evening, signalling the start of the Christmas Period. With more stalls and more visitors than ever before, guests at Ruskin were able to get a head start on their Christmas shopping with an array of unique gifts. From handmade decorations, to food treats, clothes and pet treats; there was something for everyone. In addition, there were prizes to be won with raffles

and a 'guess the birthday' and 'guess the name' of a cuddly penguin and reindeer, kindly donated by Clinton Cards, Grantham. Both the senior choir and Year 7 choir performed during the evening, giving the finishing touches to a wonderful festive evening. The event raised over £800 with all proceeds going to the Grantham Passage to support their work this Christmas.



House Christmas Lunches

Throughout the week commencing 12th December the House Christmas lunches took place – the perfect opportunity to bring the students and staff of each House together over a good old

fashioned Christmas dinner! The restaurant was packed each day with Christmas party hats donned and the festive spirit in abundance. Sixth Form students served the dinners to the rest of the school and were rewarded

with their own Christmas meal on Friday 16th December. A huge thank you must go to the wonderful Ruskin catering staff who work tirelessly during this period to ensure these fantastic House events happen.



Sophie Cleverly Visits The Priory Ruskin Academy

On Monday 7th November all Year 7 and 8 girls were visited by Sophie Cleverley, well known author of the Scarlett & Ivy series. Sophie took time to explain how she became an author and also the process she takes when writing her books, including scene and character development.

The students were able to buy her books at a reduced price and get them signed by Sophie. The

Academy's A Level Creative Writing students also benefitted from an informal Q&A session with Sophie, gathering useful advice and encouragement to develop their own writing skills.

Sophie's visit was part of a programme of events coinciding with the latest Academy Reading Week, during which students read for the first ten minutes of every lesson and then compete, in house

groups, to complete as many book quizzes as possible.



Clothes Show

On December 5th 45 students and 4 staff visited 'The Clothes Show'. The Clothes Show has been running for 27 years at the NEC Birmingham and was originally started by Jeff Banks and Caryn Franklin. This year, the event was relocated and took place in Liverpool.

A fantastic day was had by all, plenty of Christmas fashion and jewellery at bargain prices, celebrity hunting, make-overs and the highlight of the day being the fashion show in the main arena. For the first time, Year 8 students who have been attending the Sewing Bee Club held on Mondays and Thursday evenings, were invited to come along to the show as inspiration for their dress making projects. Universities and Colleges of Higher Education use the Clothes Show to encourage young people to take up qualifications in fashion and textiles and there were some most inspirational fashion and sketch books on display for our students to view.

At Ruskin, Fashion is taught as part of the GCSE Art and Design Course and our students were amazed at the examples of work they can aspire to. Any students who are interested in learning how to make their own clothes or soft furnishings are very welcome to come along to 'The Sewing Bee Club' on Monday and Thursday 3.20-4.20pm in VA6.



Year 9 Health & Social Care: Paramedic Led First Aid



The Year 9 HSC group were visited by EMAS Paramedic, Dave Turner, this month. Dave is a Team Leader of EMAS HART (East Midlands Ambulance Service Hazardous Area Response Team) and came in to teach some basic first aid skills to the group of students as well as to inspire them to pursue a career within the HSC field. The students were taught basic CPR on both adults and paediatrics.

As well as basic CPR, the students were also taught how to put a person into the recovery position, deal with choking in adults and paediatrics, deal with epileptic fits and also understand how to deal with trauma incidents.

The students gained some valuable skills during the afternoon and will hopefully feel more confident to use them should they ever be in a situation where first aid is needed.

Sixth Form Performing Arts: University Workshops

It has been a busy term for our Sixth Form Performing Arts students. On 8 November, students went to Lincoln to get a taste of higher education in the field of Performing Arts. They enjoyed a tour of the university, a drama technique class led by professional actors as well as a Q & A session to get further insight into Performing Arts at university. The Academy plans to team up with BGU next year on a TIE (Theatre in Education) project, where our BTEC Level 3 Performing Arts students will work

with BGU students on a joint project to support the whole school PSHE curriculum. We have also established links with the University of Lincoln, who included our BTEC Level 3 Performing Arts students in a physical theatre workshop, led by a professional company based at the University called 'Push to Shove'. The workshop was both inspiring and challenging and one of our students said, 'During the workshop I learnt how to effectively create a scene using a stimulus, as well as being able to

perform purely through movement'. In addition, students also worked with the University of Lincoln on 9 December, again to gain experience of the Higher education sector in Performing arts but also to see some site specific performance from the third year dance degree students and to take part in a technique class. This will support our year 13 students in their site specific work and also help our Year 12 students develop their performance skills.

Y11 Performing Arts Students Visit London: The Lion King



Early in November, Year 11 Performing Arts students visited London's West End to see 'The Lion King' live. The production was a vibrant showcase of colour and culture that engaged the students with humour and elaborate changes of set and musical variations. This was a fantastic opportunity for the students to understand how the individual roles of dancers, musicians and actors collaborate in order to produce a successful, large scale production. Students returned to The Academy with an abundance of creative knowledge and inspiration which they quickly applied to their own performance pieces. An wonderfully, innovative day for all students!

House Singing Competition

On December 13th we held our annual House Singing competition, 2016. The morning started with a solo by Year 12 student, Jack Palin, and then each House performed their selected two songs. It was a close fought competition and the difficult final decision was in the hands of Ms Cipieres and Mrs Rossington. Ultimately the winners were Knight House! After the event Mrs Rossington said, 'I would like to personally

congratulate and thank everyone who was involved in this event. The Great Hall was full of students from Year 7 through to Year 13 who had all dedicated their time and energy to their performances. In addition there were obviously a number of staff who have worked tirelessly preparing and rehearsing with the students. It was a thoroughly enjoyable hour of music and entertainment and it was evident

that the overall standard of performance has really improved over the last four years that the competition has been running'.



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Sports Digest Term 2

The PE Department extracurricular and representative program has seen some fantastic successes again this half term.

Gymnastics

In the recent Lincolnshire Secondary Schools' Gymnastics Floor and Vault competition, Ruskin not only represented well but had some excellent individual and team performances. The individual accolades were; Toby Doughty and Oliwier Wnukowski who were first and third respectively in Level 1 U13 boys, Isla Pexton third in the Level 1 U13 girls, Abbie Phillips third in Level 1 U16 girls. Both mixed teams did exceptionally well with the U13 team finishing first and the U16 team taking second.

Indoor Rowing

Ruskin have been making great waves on the indoor rowing scene in recent years and the latest KSSA competition was to be no exception. The Ruskin boys took a clean sweep in ages 7-11 with Stanley Pocock, Caius Hamilton, Zak Draycott, Ben Tunnicliffe and Jack Pirie all winning their individual age groups. To no surprise the boys won the team event.

Cross Country

The District Cross Country Champs took place on Thursday 17th November. This competition gives students the chance to be selected to represent the district at the County Champs next term. Students selected for the district team are; Domenika Svanka, Mia Ellis, Georgina Smith, Jack Brewster and Kian Moore. We wish them all the best in the next round with places up for grabs to represent Lincolnshire at the English Schools' event.

Netball



The Ruskin Netball squads have continued to develop hugely. With commitment to training and a very hard work ethic they are becoming a force to be reckoned with in the Grantham and district area. An achievement of particular note this half term were the results

against KGGS; going into games is always difficult when you have never beaten the opposition. However, for the first time in Ruskin history the Year 8 girls grabbed hold of a draw at 19-19, and to top that the Year 9 girls beat KGGS 12-11. Super results which we are sure will continue.

Football



The league and cup football competitions have continued. A number of the football teams made the challenge of reaching the fourth

round of the national cup. It appears that Hull schools are doing quite well as we have made a number of journeys 'Up North'. The pick of the fixtures was the U16 football team against Ashfield, the biggest single site school in the country and Ruskin beat them 7-5. The U13 girls have been competing in the district league and have been developing with each game, a number of Year 7 girls' play in this team and are showing great promise for the same competition next year.

Basketball

The U16 KSSA basketball competition has taken place. Unfortunately, a number of key players were missing from this team due to involvement in mock examinations. This gave way for a number for Year 9 and 10 students to step up. The first game they played against St George's went very well, comprehensively beating their Ruskington team 25-2, however the opposition from Carre's and King's were too strong and the difference in height between their Year 11 students and our Year 9 students gave them a great advantage. Well done to those students that played against much older opposition, they certainly have the capability of doing well in the future.

Rugby

The Lincolnshire rugby league has been going well for the Academy. The U16 team have been making great strides with a very strong forwards pack and a dynamic backline they are proving to be a very strong team, scoring 60 past St George's Academy is no small task. Also the Year 7s are developing well, with another first

for the Academy; we have been able to put out an A and a B squad within this year.



Calling All Keen Swimmers!



The Priory Ruskin Academy will be entering numerous student teams into the Rotary Swimarathon on the 4th February 2017. Students don't have to be the fastest swimmers - just enthusiastic, able to swim a length of the Meres' swimming pool and willing to raise some sponsorship money for a good cause. If you are interested, please collect a letter from Student Reception or speak to Mr Moore for further details.

The Priory Ruskin Academy

Term 2 Newsletter

KEY DIARY DATES FOR TERM 3

Students Involved:

ALL	4th January	Term 3 2016/17 Begins
KS3	17th January	Art Gifted & Talented Trip
Y11	24th January	Photography Trip
Y7 & Y8	26th January	Chinese Cultural Day
Y13	26th January	Y13 Parents' Evening
Y7-10	w/c 30th January	Reading Week
Sixth Form PA Students	30th January—1st February	Disneyland Trip
Y8	2nd February	Y8 Parents' Evening
Various Sixth Form	8th February	University Fayre, Manchester
Y12 & Y13	8th February	Photography Trip
Y8	9th February	Options Evening

We Need Your Books!



Do you have reading books gathering dust? Students and staff at The Priory Ruskin Academy are currently collecting books to add to the shelves of our wonderful Reading Room.

If you have unwanted books at home, suitable for secondary school aged students, the Academy would be really grateful if you could donate them and help us add some new reading choices to our bookshelves. It is really important that these are suitable for our Renaissance Reading programme, which requires students to take a text/quiz on the books they have read, so please follow the link below and enter the title or author of the book and, if it appears, then we will gladly give it a home in our Reading Room! <http://www.arbookfind.co.uk/UserType.aspx>



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