

Newsletter

Term 5 2016/17

A message from the Headteacher...

A real highlight for me this term has been the hard work of Kaan, Ciara, Emily and Martha who have achieved their Priory National Baccalaureate. I had the pleasure of listening to presentations as challenging and diverse as the rise and fall of the Ottoman Empire, the physics of suspension bridges, starting a business and the place of cheerleading as an Olympic sport. So impressive; what articulate and committed young people. As more students approach the completion of their baccalaureate, I would like to thank both Ms Cipieres and Mr Oliver who have worked tirelessly to develop this initiative and our Heads of House, House Progress Managers and tutors who constantly encourage student engagement in all aspects of Academy life. In turn, Ruskin Respects and the Baccalaureate would not be successful if it weren't for the commitment of all of our staff who provide an unparalleled extra curricular offer be it subject based, DofE, sports, the arts, community ventures, preparation for public speaking and many more!

I genuinely believe there is a unique drive and energy at Ruskin - and I would like to thank all students, staff and parents for their part in developing this special ethos.

Mrs R Wyles

Ruskin Students First in Country to Achieve KS3 National Baccalaureate

Four ambitious students from The Priory Ruskin Academy have become the first students in the country to achieve the National Baccalaureate at KS3. Kaan Yaldiz (Y8), Ciara North (Y8), Emily Hollis (Y8) and Martha Bensley (Y7) (pictured front L-R) have demonstrated complete commitment to their studies, the Academy and wider community through the achievement of their 'Ruskin Respect Award', an award scheme developed by the Academy that recognises

students that go the extra mile in 5 key areas: Aiming High, Learning, Health, Community and Creativity. In addition to their exceptional participation and achievement in the Ruskin Respect Award the students have also undertaken an independent learning project, which was presented to a panel, and completed a 'reading passport', demonstrating they have engaged in a wider reading programme.



Our new Twitter account is now live! Please follow @prioryruskin for the latest news, events and announcements.



Students Enter UKMT Maths Challenge

The UKMT Individual Maths Challenges are intriguing and puzzling multiple choice question papers, which are designed to stimulate interest in maths in large numbers of students. The junior maths challenge took place on Thursday 26th April, with our most talented maths students in Year 8 entering. Nationally over 600,000 students enter the competition and can receive either a bronze, silver or gold achievement, with the very best students progressing onto the Olympiad competition held in London. The results have come in and Benjamin Potter achieved best in school and a silver award, James Carlin also achieved a silver award. Oliwier Wnukowski, Erin Oflaherty and Jacob Kirton all achieved a bronze award. There were several students who narrowly missed out on the bronze award too. Well done to all students who took part and we look forward to seeing what they can achieve in future challenges.

Ruskin Students Win Grantham Heat Stages of SlamJam



The Priory Ruskin Academy hosted the Grantham heats of the Rotary's 2017 SlamJam competition on Tuesday 16th May. SlamJam is a performance based writing competition for secondary school students. Choosing to write a poem, a story or a dramatic monologue, students consider the effect they want

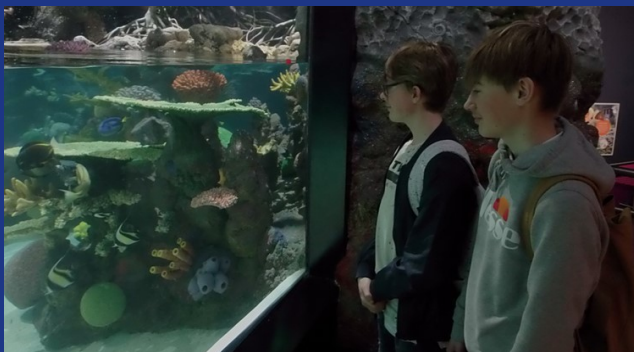
to have on an audience, and craft their writing accordingly. There are few rules...performances must last no more than 3 minutes; and no costumes or props are allowed. It is all about the quality of the writing, and of the performance. The process is ultimately competitive, but the journey is about the enjoyment of creative writing, and sharing it with an audience.

Students from all schools performed brilliantly on the night with a real range of performances. At the end of the evening Ruskin students, Millie Walpole and Tristan Holdford, were announced as winners of this heat but a special mention must go to Max Shepherd and Max Blakey who also performed excellent pieces. Students will now have to wait until all the heats are complete to see to who has made it through to the finals at the Drill Hall in Lincoln on the 22nd June.

Year 10 GCSE Art and Design Students Visit 'The Deep' in Hull

All Year 10 Art students visited 'The Deep' in Hull on Tuesday 16th May, collecting inspiration for their Art projects 'Under the Sea'.

In order to attain higher grades students are expected to draw from first hand experience and to take their own photographs which will contribute to their coursework portfolio.



Students Explore the Use of Mathematics in London



On 14th March fifty-eight Year 9 students went on a maths trip to London. During their time there they studied the maths surrounding them on a trail around Parliament, discovering uses and applications of maths in everyday life. They had fun calculating the height of key landmarks, such as Nelson's Column, and saw the sights of some of London's most famous monuments! The group enjoyed lunch in the sunshine at Trafalgar Square and then headed to the Bank of England to take part in a workshop about finance and how they keep our money safe. The students were absolutely fantastic throughout the day and it was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Local Author Rhian Edwards Visits Ruskin

On Tuesday 2nd May, The Priory Ruskin Academy hosted 'An Evening With Rhian Edwards'. Rhian, a local author, came to the Academy to discuss her first book as well as taking part in a Q&A session with her audience. She explained how she had begun writing the book during secondary school but then almost re-wrote the whole story as part of her university course. Rhian also discussed her inspirations and how she formed the storyline, before reading a short excerpt from the book to the audience. Rhian is currently writing the second book in her 'Aphora' trilogy, the release date for which is yet to be confirmed. Audience members were treated to complimentary champagne and food

platters, supplied by the fantastic Ruskin catering team, and were able to purchase Rhian's book for the discounted price of £5. It proved to be an insightful and interesting evening for all involved.



Exciting Times For Ruskin Sixth Form

Ruskin's Sixth Form continues to grow and flourish, with applications for students starting Year 12 in September standing at 165, including 45 from a range of local schools.

As long as students meet the grade criteria set out by the Sixth Form they will secure a place and we look forward to seeing them at our induction day on Monday 10th July, where they will get a 'taste' of their new

subjects and what to expect in Sixth Form. The day will also allow students to socialise with their new peers and take in some entertainment.

The Academy is delighted to announce that Mr Cairns will be joining the team as Assistant Head of Sixth Form from September and he will driving enrichment across the sixth form as well as the Key Stage 5 Priory

Baccalaureate, along with Mr Porter.

Mr Steptoe, Head of Sixth Form said, "These are immensely exciting times for our Sixth Form. The building of the new Sixth Form Centre is very much on track and we expect to move in shortly after Christmas".

For any details of anything Sixth Form related please don't hesitate to contact Mr Steptoe.

Art Students Get Creative at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park



Year 9 & 12 students had a blast with resident artists from Yorkshire Sculpture Park on 20th April. The Art students were lucky enough to be given a guided tour and the opportunity to experience and discuss some of the park's most popular exhibitions, including work from internationally renowned artists such as Tony Cragg, Henry Moore and Barbara Hepworth. Following this their creativity was

tested to the limit as they took part in an exciting sculpture workshop. Working with a wide range of both natural and man-made materials their task was to create their very own large scale sculptures in response to titles given to them from the resident artists. As you can see from the photos a fantastic time was had by all with some stunning pieces created.



Ruskin Supports Ex-Student Tom with London Marathon Fundraising

Huge congratulations to former student Thomas Liddiard for completing the London Marathon on Sunday, 23rd April! Thomas is currently studying Accounting and Financial Management at Sheffield University and he ran the marathon in support of Sense, a national charity that aids people with sensory impairments and deaf blindness. Following his fantastic achievement, Tom passed his thanks on to the Academy community, "Thankyou to everyone at Ruskin who has contributed. I really do truly appreciate it and I wouldn't have been able to raise the money without everyone's help and support".

My Adventure By Bruna Leitao

We are delighted to feature something a little different in this term's newsletter...a beautiful and heartfelt piece of writing that our ELA department brought to our attention. Bruna is in Year 10 and completed this work as part of her English speaking exam. We hope you enjoy reading her story...

Emigration. Adventure. Life change. All words that somehow are connected, one way or another. Emigration is the act of leaving one's country or region to settle, permanently, in another. Moving abroad. Permanently. Those are strong words, there are a lot of choices surrounding these words, that affect not just yourself, but people around you. Life is made of choices; some are more difficult than others, some we are forced to make on our own and some involve more people.

It's funny, every time I think of some kind of migration, I always think of animals, especially birds! I guess I'm like a bird then... My body is here in England. But my mind is still in Portugal, my home.

An adventure is an unusual and exciting experience. I suspected that my parents wanted, well, more they needed to move. I didn't want to talk about it, what one doesn't know won't hurt one. As the time passed by, my suspicions grew bigger and bigger... I saw so many changes, I cried so much. My parents weren't well, something needed to change and their best and only option was to exchange countries, exchange homes, exchange lives! I talked to some teachers, they helped me to see the bright side, the adventurous part. I heard what they had to say: "You are not the first girl to move into another country and you will not be the last!", "Life is not always fair, but when a door shuts a window opens!", "You have a life ahead of you, new places and people to meet, just wait and see, you'll like it!". I understood what they were saying but I didn't want to believe that we would, actually, need to move away. However, somewhere deep, deep in me I wanted to go. Before the bombastic news, I saw myself going and visiting London, that's what I wanted to do, only just to visit.

Sometime later, I accepted all this, wondering all the time how would it be for me, for my parents, what would change? Would it be a big or a small change? I was fine with the idea then, though when the time to buy the tickets arrived I had a bit of a revolt with my parents; I refused to buy the tickets. I knew that my revolution wouldn't take me anywhere, but I needed to scream what I was thinking at the time. My life was about to begin, that was the time I had to choose what future I wanted, which school I wanted to go. I had my target already set, I would take the humanities course and then I wished to finish my course in the navy. Except that, my plans were not going to be accomplished, now I needed to make new plans, new targets, a whole new life!

The time has come I'm here in England, the land of Her Majesty, there's no looking back, I tried to think... I never wanted to come but I thought it would be different, that I would be excited. But of course life is not like we wish it to be. I was sad all the time, 24/7, it just didn't feel right, it felt lonely. There was nobody to talk with, I knew my parents were there but it felt wrong crying in front of them, I didn't want to make them feel guilty. Months passed... Tears streamed down my face... Old places were even more missed... I felt a huge emptiness in me and I isolated myself from everyone due to emotional exhaustion, I was afraid of showing weakness by letting tears out.

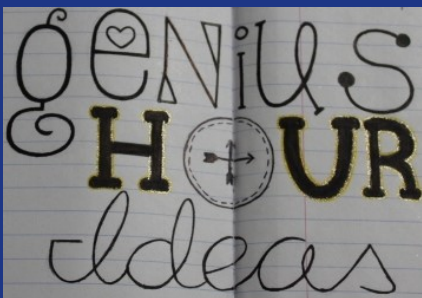
And then came Spring Break, great news arrived with it... We went back home, back to Portugal! Two weeks passed by quickly like a ride in a formula 1 car, though it was wonderful. When I noticed we were back in England, it didn't feel different now. The big hole in my heart is now filled with new memories and hopes. I have realised that I like being here, knowing I have a future ahead of me with exciting opportunities.

'Ruskin Renegade' Knight to Feature in Lincoln's Knight Trail

The Priory Ruskin Academy has been incredibly fortunate enough to take part in the Lincoln's Knight Trail this year. The trail will commemorate the 800th anniversary of the English victory at the Battle of Lincoln and will see a variety of knight sculptures placed around Lincoln city centre, including our very own "Ruskin Renegade". A House competition was launched to find the best design for our knight and the fantastic winning design was by the incredibly talented Fausta Trimakaite. Her winning design is currently in the process of being completed and will go off to join the others on June 9th and will be available to see on 21st June. Will you find him?



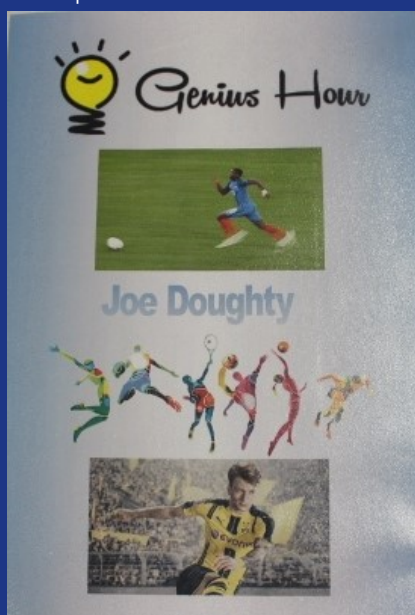
Genius Hour Inspires Students to Learn Independently



Year 9 Psychology students have been spending Period 5 on a Tuesday exploring their own passions as part of a growing national initiative called 'Genius Hour'. Genius hour allows students to select an area of particular interest that they wish to find out more about and then dedicate one hour a week to research and development. The idea stems from search-engine giant, Google, which allows its engineers to spend 20% of their time to work on a project of their choosing. Its policy has worked so well that it is said that 50% of

Google's projects have been allowing students to indulge their created during this creative time interests and passions for this one period. And the same principles hour a week, they are apply to genius hour in our Ruskin developing so many vital skills classrooms! Ms Lynch, teacher of they will need to apply to their the Year 9 Psychology class says, GCSE studies and far beyond. "As teachers, one of our key They have had to spend time objectives is to develop life long, researching their project and independent learners. By have learnt the skill of developing

(and fine tuning!) a research question. They are now developing their project and I can't wait to see the final result of their hard work at the end of this academic year."



Sixth Form Quiz Night Raises Funds For Leavers Party



raise funds towards the Sixth Form Leavers Party, the idea was the brain child of Deputy Head Girl Sophia Welby and Senior Prefect Lucy Frisby.

Tables were laid out with cheese and biscuits, which were enjoyed by all, and a large raffle took place. Thanks must go to Café Leo, The Lunch Box and The Grantham Flower Club for donating some fabulous prizes.

Friday 5th May saw seven teams, made up of Year 13 students, parents, siblings, grandparents and friends, pitched against one another for the quiz of the year! Organised to help

Aaron Emburey did a fantastic job as Quizmaster, whilst Sophia and Lucy did the scoring.

At the end of the night it was the 'Newton Nerds' who topped the scoreboard! Well done to all and thank you to everyone who contributed to such a successful night.



Big Bang Fair Welcomes Students to NEC as Part of STEM Programme

As part of our STEM programme, a group of keen young scientists were invited to attend this year's Big Bang Fair at the NEC in Birmingham. They had the opportunity to crawl into the 'Darkened Dome', for an immersive, interactive planetarium show that explores the Life of Water, build and launch a chemically powered rocket using Di-Hydrogen Monoxide and L-Ascorbic Acid, be inspired by hands-on bridge building activities and enjoy the UK final as students hope the robots they have designed are victorious. To top it all off, students had chance to see exciting, mind-boggling, interactive shows which took place throughout the day, such as 'BodyHacking' and 'Do try this at home projects!'.



Students Successful in Highly Competitive Professional Programme Applications

Three ambitious Ruskin students are a step closer to their dream careers, having been successful in their applications to partake in the renowned Social Mobilty Foundation's professional programme. The programmes, which demand students meet very high academic criteria, provide comprehensive support for students to undertake a one or two

week internship with top employers across the country. We are delighted to announce that two of our students, Joseph McGarrigle and Joe Brighten, have been accepted onto the Banking Internship with J.P. Morgan, one of the largest financial institutions in the United Kingdom. In addition, Muhammad Ahmad has been

successful in his application to partake in the APP Medicine Residential Programme, hosted this year by the world renowned James Cook University Hospital in Middlesbrough – one of only 54 successful applicants out of 230. Well done to all students involved – we hope your internships are insightful and thoroughly enjoyed!

Year 7 House Trips to France Commence



Year 7 students have been enjoying the annual House trips to France, as the end of their first year at the Academy begins to draw to a close. Knight, Mackintosh and Morris trips have taken place during this term, with Hepworth still having their week to look forward to in July. The Priory Federation owned 'Centre Des Etoiles' provides students with a beautiful base from

which to explore the interesting and varied sights of Northern France.

Students enjoy a jam-packed schedule: visiting Zoo du Jurques, exploring the slate mining caves at Les Souterroscope, as well as a trip to the beautiful Bayeux Cathedral, including seeing the famous tapestry which depicts the events leading up to the Norman conquest of England. Bayeux also allows the students to spend some time at a French market—sampling foods and obviously practising their language skills! A more sombre day includes the Juno Beach Museum and the beautifully maintained, and incredibly moving Commonwealth war graves.

Finally students visit the first French nuclear submarine and get to enjoy

the Titanic experience, topped off with a trip to the amazing 'L'Aquarium'.

Amidst all of this students also have free time to enjoy the French Centre and the chance to get to know their fellow House members better - bonds that will endure throughout their time at the Academy.



St Barnabas Hospice Visit Academy to Support Dying Matters Week

May 8th - 14th saw the nation mark 'Dying Matters Awareness Week' and this year Dying Matters was asking everybody a simple question - "What Can You Do?"

Talking and planning ahead for dying, death and bereavement is really important. But people also need practical help and support and there are plenty of things we can do to help each other.

At Ruskin we invited St Barnabas Hospice in for the morning. They talked informally to students and staff, offering advice to those that have suffered the loss of a loved one as well highlighting the importance of sharing thoughts, wishes and celebrating life.



SOS Fashion Show Raises Funds for DofE



SOS FASHION



Ruskin hosted another popular SOS Fashion Show in April, this time in support of the Duke of Edinburgh Award. The successful and enjoyable evening saw the latest fashions from various high street retailers modelled by Sixth Form and Year 11 students as well as some willing members of staff!

The event raised over £200 for DofE and a huge thank you must go to our fantastic 'Friends of Ruskin' volunteers who ensured the event ran like clockwork!

Students Complete DofE Practice Expedition in the Vale of Belvoir



Through torrential rain, muddy trails, getting lost, being attacked by cattle and swans, leaking tents and a sleepless night thanks to noisy cows, students did themselves and the Academy proud...and are one step closer to completing their Bronze Expedition Section.

A massive thank you to the following staff for helping, without them, weekends like this couldn't happen.... Mrs Scott, Mrs Phillips, Mrs Lewis, Ms Brooker, Miss Adie, Miss King, Mr Dale, Mr Moore, Mr Chambers, Mr Phillips, Mr and Mrs Milner and Mr and Mrs Amey.

A special thank you to Miss King for taking these photographs.



THE PRIORY RUSKIN
ACADEMY

Join us....



*Duke of Edinburgh Information Evening for parents of students in Year 8 & 9
Wednesday 7th June 2017 - 6pm - Great Hall*



RUSKIN
A PRIORY ACADEMY



The **No.1 School** in Lincolnshire
for academic progress

OPEN DAY

Thursday 29th June 2017

Day Tours: 9.30am - 11.00am & 1.30pm - 3.00pm

Evening Tours: 6.00pm - 8.00pm

Headteacher Address: 6.00pm, 6.40pm & 7.20pm

Email: generalenquiries@prioryruskin.co.uk

The Priory Ruskin Academy, Rushcliffe Road, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 8ED

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

Sports Digest Term 5

Ruskin's PE and Sports programme has moved onto our summer activities, which have been extremely welcomed by staff and students. The department has placed a great deal of emphasis on tennis and athletics where we are seeing great success and a number of students gaining district and county representative stripes.

Outside of the summer sports the Year 8 football team had to play one more match to confirm the winners of the district league. The match between Ruskin and Carre's Grammar School was a league decider and we are extremely pleased to report that Ruskin came through as winners after a very close finish. Great news for Ruskin and another bit of silverware for the cabinet!

In athletics the Academy teams have competed in the district athletics track and field as well as the national track and field cup. In the district athletics competition the greatest team accolade was achieved by the Year 7 boys who topped the table finishing first place in the district, following closely were the inter boys (Year 10) who came in a very respectable 3rd position. Within this event a number of students were successful in their quest to finish in the top four and be selected for the district athletics team to compete at the county event on Wednesday 7th June. The names of qualifiers are detailed below: Brandon Keggan (100m/relay/long jump); Charlie Plant (100m/relay); Matthew Dunstan (800m); William Salter (Shot); Joshua Crane: (100m/Hurdles); Rhys Askew (High Jump); Piotrek Kudla (High Jump); Zak Draycott (Shot Putt/Javelin); Charlie Sharman (Hurdles); Kyle Davidson (Hurdles); Luke Rowland (200m/Long Jump); Jakub Nowak (800m); Adam Meffen (800m); Logan Grieh (Shot Putt); Casey Hare (Discus); Gustavo Lima (Javelin); Georgina Smith (800m); Melanie Church (100m/Javelin). It is fantastic to see so many Ruskin students making up the district team and I am sure you will join us in wishing them all the best of luck in the next round.

The track and field cup saw some fierce competition from Lincolnshire schools with some excellent performances across the age range. The Inter Boys put up a great performance totaling 328 points to take them through to the Regional B final on Wednesday 14th June. With the experience gained at the first round and continued practice on a Thursday after school the team is hoping to better this score in the next round.

It has been a busy start to the tennis season for the boys having 2 teams in 2 age groups. The standard of tennis has been incredible, and the number of students playing regularly both at lunch and after school clubs is growing each week. If you are enjoying your tennis then please come to after school sessions on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesday's each week, there will be a house tournament taking place after



half term for doubles and there are still many matches to play before the end of the season if you are interested in playing for the Academy team. The results so far are below:

Year 8 Div 1 (Lincolnshire) :

QEGS, Horncastle lost 4-8

Carres, Sleaford lost 0-12

Branston Community Academy, Lincoln lost 0-12

Year 8 Div 2 (Lincolnshire):

Lincoln Minster won 10-2

Bourne Grammar lost 6-7

Year 10 Div 1 (Lincolnshire):

Spalding Grammar lost 6-7

Bourne Grammar won 8-4

Year 10 Div 2 (Lincolnshire):

Priory LSST won 10-2

Carres, Sleaford lost 6-7

Lincoln Minster won 12-0

Branston Academy 'A',
Lincoln won 12-0

Branston Academy 'B',
Lincoln won 10-2

The girls have satisfied one fixture so far, putting up a great display to finish runners up to KGGS. The girls have a number of fixtures planned in for next half term.



KEY DIARY DATES FOR TERM 6

Students Involved:

ALL	5th June	Term 6 2016/17 Begins
Sixth Form Performing Arts	8th June	BTEC Show
Y9	20th-21st June	Geography Trips
Y10	26th-30th June	Trip to France
Y10	26th June	Geography Trip
ALL	27th June	PD Day
Year 5 students	29th June	Open Day and Evening
Y10	30th June	Geography Trip
Y11	30th June	Leaver's Prom
Y11	3rd July	Reward Trip to Alton Towers
Year 6 New Starters	4th July	Year 6 Induction Day
Year 5 Students	6th July	Sport Aptitude Test (Arrive 15:45)
Year 5 Students	8th July	Sport Aptitude Test (Arrive 08:45)
ALL	7th July	Sports Day
Y7	10th-14th July	Hepworth Trip to France
Year 11	10th July	Sixth Form Induction Day
By Application Only	13th July	House Fishing Competition
ALL	14th July	Term 6 2016/17 Ends