



Winstanleylife

"Keeping you up to date on all things Winstanley!"



WINSTANLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
A SPECIALIST SPORTS COLLEGE
LEARNING FOR LIFE

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Alan Russell
Principal

I want to keep parents informed about our new build plans. We await news from the Government about when they are receiving bids for funding, and at that time we will submit our proposals. Separate to the building, I am pleased to let you all know that governors have approved plans to build a new playground so that students are able to play ball games when the field is too wet.

Year 9 parents received a list of the options subjects we are looking to offer for our first year 10s, and we look forward to meeting with year 9 parents on Thursday 9th January to present the options available for the exciting year ahead.

Wishing you all a very pleasant half term.
Alan Russell - Principal

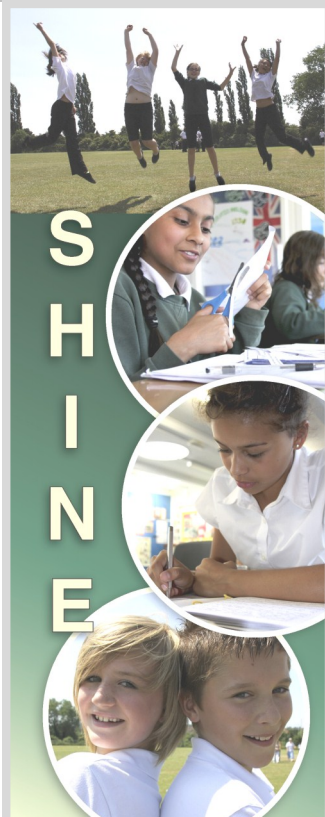
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We were delighted to receive a monitoring inspection from Ofsted on Wednesday 16th October, where they judged the school to be taking effective action in order to address the points made in the previous inspection. A copy of the inspector's findings should be published on the Ofsted website in around two weeks' time.

Many exciting developments are taking place. Plans are afoot for a new reception building and additional fencing so that all visitors will be vetted by reception before gaining access to the school site; we were delighted to welcome Ms Cooke as a permanent addition to the maths department in September, and have secured the services of an additional and highly experienced teacher to the maths department from January, Mrs Stafford.

As well as our new pastoral support team having begun in September (I am sure you will congratulate Miss Hughes, Mrs Rai and Mrs Turner on their new roles), we are also interviewing for an attendance support worker in November. Elsewhere in this newsletter Mr Williams writes about attendance matters, and I would like to remind parents that term time holidays are no longer allowed and that students with poor attendance (below 80%), and not making progress, will have to repeat their year and not go into the next year group with their peers.



NEW TIMETABLE

8.35 - 8.50 a.m.

Registration /tutor time

8.50 - 9.50 a.m. Lesson 1

9.50 - 10.50 a.m. Lesson 2

10.50 - 11.10 a.m. Break

11.10 - 12.10 p.m. Lesson 3

12.10 - 1.10 p.m. Lesson 4

1.10 - 2.00 p.m. Lunch

2.00 - 3.00 p.m. Lesson 5



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LIFE AT WINSTANLEY



Gareth Williams
Vice Principal

My role and responsibility for this academic year has changed

to overseeing student development across the college. This includes all pastoral issues, attendance, behaviour, uniform and of course the wellbeing of every student who attends Winstanley Community College. One of my major challenges this year will be to raise attendance across the school. This is obviously something that I need your help to do. I have tried my best to explain the constraints that we face when it comes to attendance and why it is so important that we make quick improvements.

Attendance Matters

Ofsted were concerned about our attendance of 93.0% for the academic year 2012/13, stating clearly that it required improvement to reach the national average attendance figure of 94.1%. What we really have to take into account is that the 94.1% includes all secondary schools, so of course Year 10 and 11, which statistically always have poorer attendance than the younger years of schools. This makes the challenge of improving our overall attendance figure even more of a challenge as we move towards 11-16 from next September. Ofsted were not interested in the fact that 93.0% was the highest attendance rate that Winstanley Community College has ever attained and that it was on the back of a 3 year trend in attendance improvements. They simply felt that compared to all second-

ary schools in England, too many students were missing too much school to be able to make good progress.

How are we responding to this? What is different this year?

- **We will no longer authorise most absences of students who come to Winstanley without evidence or an exceptional reason for the absence. Term time holidays are now unauthorised. The final decision rests with Mr Russell on cases of exceptional circumstances.**
- **We will and have issued fixed penalty notices to parents whose children do not attend school. There have already been 6 cases where this has happened in this half term.**
- **ALL students who attend school less than 80% of the expected time will be required to stay behind and retake the year of education that has been badly disrupted through absence. This means that students will not move into the next year with their peers.**
- **We currently employ an Attendance Improvement Officer to tackle our most serious attendance issues, but from early next half term we will also be employing an Attendance Support Worker to work on a daily basis tackling and chasing up absences of all our students and making home visits to discuss why students are absent so often.**

- **We have set ourselves the target of 94.9% attendance for this academic year. It currently rests at 93.7% which highlights the work that needs to be done to tackle the poor attendance rates of some of our students.**

I have been asked recently why attendance at school is so important. I have listed some of the stark reasons below:

- Over 430,000 children miss a month of school lessons a year
- Government has changed the definition of persistent absence in school performance tables from 20 per cent to 15 per cent absenteeism

The Department for Education is changing the definition of "persistent absence" to deal with the reality of pupil absenteeism in schools and its impact on their learning.

Latest figures show that while 184,000 pupils miss 20 per cent of lessons, more than 430,000 pupils miss 15 per cent of lessons a year - the equivalent of having a month off school a year.

- Of pupils who miss more than 50 per cent of school, only three per cent manage to achieve five A* to Cs including English and maths.
- Of pupils who miss between 10 per cent and 20 per cent of school, only 35 per cent manage to achieve five A* to C GCSEs including English and maths.



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- Of pupils who miss less than five per cent of school, 73 per cent achieve five A* to Cs including English and maths.

I really do look forward to working with you to continue our improvements here at Winstanley Community College, allowing all of our students the life chances that they deserve.

UNIFORM

Most students have made a fantastically smart start to the year. I look forward to this being continued throughout the year. As we approach the winter months there should be nobody in UGG boots or any other item of inappropriate footwear. School shoes should be plain black and suitable for school. Thank you to everyone for supporting us in providing your son or daughter with the correct uniform. It really does make a difference around Winstanley in many different ways.

Trousers	PLAIN black
Skirts /Shorts	PLAIN black - sensible length
Shirts	Long or short sleeved PLAIN white shirt with collar—must be tucked in. White Airtex or polo shirts are acceptable
Socks / tights	White or black / Flesh or black
Shoes	Sensible plain black. No trainers, no logos and no coloured markings. For reasons of health and safety shoes must have a low heel and have a back to them
Coats	Black or dark green. No denim
Sweatshirts	Years 7 and 8 wear a green sweatshirt with the Winstanley logo. Year 9s wear a black sweatshirt with the Winstanley logo
Hair	We discourage parents from allowing their children to dye their hair. Any colouring we judge outside the range of natural shades and hair-styles we judge as extreme are not allowed. For health & safety reasons students with long hair must tie it back when requested to do so
P.E. Kit	Blue polo shirt with Winstanley logo and black shorts/tracksuit. In cold weather a blue hooded top with Winstanley logo should be worn



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Fiona Le-Cras
Vice-Principal

Over the past few weeks Curriculum Leaders and the Senior Leadership Team have been finalising the curriculum for Key Stage 4. As the year 9 students, parents and carers know already our KS4 curriculum will provide a broad choice of subjects such as GCSEs and BTECs. The subjects we are offering include all those which students have studied at Key Stage 3 as well as Business Studies, Catering, Dance, Drama, Health and Social Care, Media, Sociology, and Travel & Tourism. The process of choosing which subjects to study at Key Stage 4 officially begins in early January with the year 9 options evening on 9th January. However we will be making sure that the students and their parents and carers have plenty of time to think about these important decisions by ensuring that the options information booklet is ready for publication by the start of December. As we progress through this exciting phase of our transition as an 11-16 school we are aware that many people will have questions they would like answering: we are always happy to talk about this journey so don't feel that you have to wait until parents evening to get your answers.

A really exciting part of our drive to improve opportunities and experiences for students, parents and carers, is coming on line before Christmas. We are moving to cashless payment in the dining room at break and lunch time in order to speed up the delivery of the food and reduce the time spent queuing.

We have done a lot of research into the different types of systems available and are using a company called Nationwide which provides cashless payment systems for schools up and down the country. This system will be used by the dining room, the office and for community activities too. A letter is being sent to all parents and carers explaining this in more detail and giving the exact dates.

The system uses Biometric identification so each student has a unique identifying code which is created from a scan of a finger or thumb. Cash will be put into a revaluation machine to put credit on the student's account and this can be done at any time before or after school hours. Free meal students will have the correct amount automatically credited to their account at the start of each school day. We will also be able to accept on-line payment and Pay-Point payments. We are aiming for all payments, not only lunch money, to be made through this system. A Parents meeting will be held here on Monday 4th November at 6pm where the system will be explained in more detail and questions can be answered.





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EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSURE



With the likelihood of heavy snowfalls ahead of us please make a note of the following in order to clarify if Winstanley is open each day:

The college website will be updated as early as possible with an aim of no later than 7.30 a.m. Also listen to BBC Radio Leicester for regular updates.

www.winstanley.leics.sch.uk

EMAIL ADDRESSES

Where possible we circulate our Newsletters via email. If you receive a paper copy it is likely that we do not have an email address for you. If this is the case please provide the School Office with your email details.

ACADEMIC YEAR 2013/2014

Autumn Term 2013

Mid-term break Mon 21st Oct to Fri 25th Oct

College closes: Fri 20th December 2013

Spring Term 2014

College opens: Tue 7th January 2014

Mid-term break Mon 17th - Fri 21st Feb

College closes: Fri 11th April 2014

Summer Term 2014

College opens: Mon 28th April 2014

May Day holiday Mon 5th May

Mid-term break Mon 26th - Fri 30th May

College closes: Fri 11th July 2014

NEW BREAKFAST SERVICE



We often hear that breakfast is the most important meal of the day so, between 8.00 to 8.30am, early mornings at The Deli (the school kitchen) will comprise a breakfast service with toast, crumpets, breakfast flapjacks, fruit bags or pots and soft drinks all available at the standard prices.

This is something different for the students at Winstanley and we hope it will fulfil a need where they have not had time to get a breakfast before coming to school.



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ART, DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

GREEN POWER FORMULA 24 CLUB

Winstanley students have the opportunity to build and race an electric car against other schools at organised events.



Every Monday 3pm to 4:30pm students from years 7, 8 and 9 have been working together to design and fabricate a car chassis by reusing materials found around school or donated to us. (Can you spot the maths table ?)

Students interested in joining the car club should see Mr Sarris in D3 for a permission form.

SHINE EXPECTATIONS



In the October round of Shine Expectations many students achieved awards.

Year 7 obtained

Shine Principal's Award	64
Expectations Award	112

Top Tutor Group for Shine Principal's Award	7ST
Top Tutor Group for Expectations	7SN

Year 8 obtained

Shine Principal's Award	45
Expectations Award	62

Top Tutor Group for Shine Principal's Award	8HN
Top Tutor Group for Expectations	8RO

Year 9 obtained

Shine Principal's Award	45
Expectations Award	79

Top Tutor Group for Shine Principal's Award	9DY
Top Tutor Group for Expectations	9DY