



Winstanleylife

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

WINSTANLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
A SPECIALIST SPORTS COLLEGE
LEARNING FOR LIFE

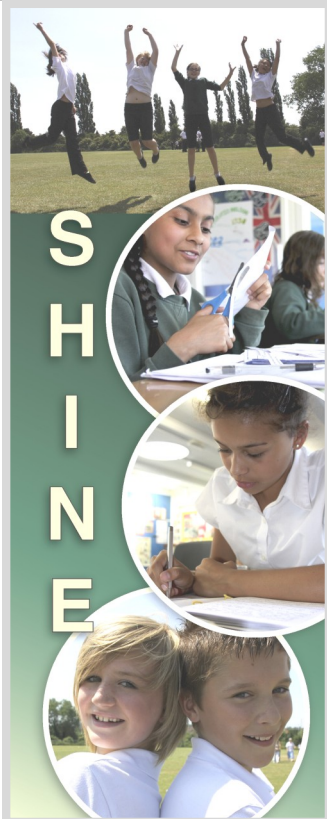


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Issue No.2

December 2012



**Alan Russell -
Principal**

WINSTANLEY TO BECOME 11-16 FROM SEPTEMBER 2014

It is with great pleasure that we can formally confirm that Winstanley will become an 11-16 school from September 2014. All students who are currently in years 8, year 7 and younger, will be able to take their GCSEs and KS4 courses with us and will not need to change school at the end of year 9.

When the local community was asked if they supported the change in age range, 89% of respondents (there were hundreds) were in favour – an enormous mandate for change and an enormously positive step forward for the local community. When asked what they thought of this latest development, two students chosen at random this morning replied: “it’s a good opportunity because you don’t need to get on the bus” and “it’s good because lessons are interesting, fun and we learn well at Winstanley”.

Winstanley provides an excellent education for its students, not least because it is a small school where staff know the children well. We do not wish to change this feature of the school when we have five year groups, and so, as per our consultation on 11-16, will be looking to reduce the size of each year group from 175 to 140. Our formal consultation on reducing our admission

number is on our website if parents are interested. If you do have any views on the proposed changes to the admission number, please email office@winstanley.leics.sch.uk by Monday 25th February. Should you wish to meet with me informally to discuss the matter, please contact my PA, Ms S Hambleton, who will be happy to make you an appointment.

I will, of course, keep you updated with any further developments.

As ever, staff, students and parents have been outward looking, ensuring we support those outside the college in most need: an impressive £541.24 was raised for Children in Need, and £112.09 through the poppy appeal for the Royal British Legion. We acknowledge the links that members of the Winstanley community have with the armed forces and remember the sacrifices they have made, especially at this time of year.

Finally, I would like to thank all parents, governors, staff and students for their tireless hard work this term. Winstanley is a good school, poised to become outstanding, and it is a privilege to serve as Principal. Exciting times are ahead.....

LAST DAY OF TERM

Students finish at **12.25 p.m. Friday 21st December 2012**. The morning will be non-school dress but appropriate clothing must be worn.

**SPRING TERM BEGINS:
Tuesday 8th January 2013**



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LIFE AT WINSTANLEY



Gareth Williams
Vice Principal

I would like to begin with the penultimate paragraph from my last entry.....

"I also want to share with you my excitement at Winstanley Community College potentially becoming an 11-16 school in the near future. I can think of no better place to allow our students to continue to flourish and develop academically, than by allowing them to stay here through Year 10 and 11. In my opinion it can only be beneficial for students to stay on at a school where they have been taught by teachers who know them, recognise their talents and needs and who have seen them flourish and grow into responsible young adults. It would also allow us to keep our close knit, caring ethos, which we know is appreciated by every student in the school." Autumn newsletter.

Of course, we have now had this wonderful news confirmed and personally it is the green light I have been waiting for. It means that I now have the chance to create an exciting Key Stage 4 curriculum to suit the needs of every student that will attend Winstanley from September 2014 onwards. There will be consultation with students and parents as we construct what I believe will be a curriculum offer suitable for

the 21st Century and the ever changing needs of students as they develop and the world changes. Every student who commits their future to Winstanley will continue to receive an outstanding education, taught to them by an experienced, professional and caring staff who want all students to flourish and reach their full potential by the end of Year 11.

At this time our **SHINE** values - Supporting Others, **H**ard Work, **I**ndependence, **N**ever Giving Up and **E**xcellence have never been more important and these are the values that will remain dear to us as we embark on Key Stage 4 from September 2014.

The last term has seen many excellent opportunities for our students, including the trip to Caterpillar, the girls' trip to G E Druck to discuss future career opportunities in the world of science, technology, engineering and mathematics and the continuing success of our RESPECT curriculum in widening the outlook of all of our students. This term, students have been engaged across the college by a speaker on the holocaust as well as various students being involved in the "Giving Nation" charity work. Mrs Underwood is also planning the introduction of the Duke of Edinburgh Awards from January onwards, as a taster for one of the new curriculum areas we may offer from September 2014, when we convert to 11-16.

In all my career, I have never felt as energised as I do now about the future here at Winstanley Community College. Merry Christmas everyone and watch this space.....





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Just A Reminder

DRESS CODE

As the term comes to a close it is good to see how smart the vast majority of our students still look. We really do appreciate the support we get from parents and carers with maintaining our high uniform standards. As the weather grows more wintery we will maintain our vigilance and continue to challenge any students that are not correctly dressed. It is important at this time of year especially that you ensure that footwear in particular is sturdy enough for the weather conditions. We also ask that trousers, for boys and girls, are not the skinny fashion items but are a tailored style which is appropriate for school. Details of the dress code can be found opposite.

Fiona Le Cras - Vice Principal

POPPY APPEAL

Thank you to all for supporting the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal at Winstanley. Together we raised £112.09.



◆	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	Year 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.
◆	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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TERM DATES 2012—2013

College Closes	Friday 21 st December 2012
College Opens	Tuesday 8 th January 2013
Mid Term Break	Monday 11 th February - Friday 15 th February 2013
College Closes	Friday 22 nd March 2013
College Opens	Monday 8 th April 2013
May Day	Monday 6 th May 2013
Mid Term Break	Monday 27 th May - Friday 31 st May 2013
College Closes	Friday 12 th July 2013

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

www.winstanley.leics.sch.uk

(this will be updated as early as possible with an aim of no later than 7.30am.)

Listen to BBC Radio Leicester for regular updates. We will always remain open where we possibly can, closing only for health and safety reasons.

It is important too that children are sent to college wherever possible, bearing in mind the College cannot take responsibility for health and safety on the roads.

Please make sure that your children wear appropriate footwear for the conditions and a warm coat.

ATTENDANCE

Following a good start to the year the overall attendance at school is still higher than it was this time last year. However more students have had to take time off school due to illnesses than last year. Overall this shows that attendance is still improving and that parents and carers are supporting the school's drive to ensure that all students make the most of their learning opportunities. We are very aware of the need to continue to develop good habits of attendance, even more so as we move towards being an 11-16 school, as all learning, from year 7 onwards, plays a vital part in preparing students for exams as well as life beyond school.



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SHINE EXPECTATIONS



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

Year 7 obtained :

Shine Principal's Award	48
Shine Expectations Awards	104

Top tutor group for Shine Principal's Award	7BH
Top tutor group for Expectations	7KA

Year 8 obtained :

Shine Principal's Award	45
Shine Expectations Awards	78

Top tutor group for Shine Principal's Award	8RN
Top tutor group for Expectations	8DY

Year 9 obtained:

Shine Principal's Award	45
Shine Expectations Awards	93

Top tutor group for Shine Principal's Award	9FT
Top tutor group for Expectations	9FT

CHILDREN IN NEED

Students and staff raised an impressive £541.24p for the Children In Need appeal. A wide range of activities took place including cake baking, sponsored silences and the wearing of funny costumes. Congratulations to everyone who took part.



WINSTANLEY CHRISTMAS CARD DESIGN WINNER

Oruj Chaudhry 8RN





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Around the Departments.....

Humanities

HOLOCAUST SPEAKER

On 16th November we hosted a presentation by Fred Naftel, a Jewish man who spoke about his experiences of discrimination in this country and his family's experiences during the Holocaust in Nazi Germany during the Second World War. All Year 9 students saw this presentation and were moved by what he had to say. We will follow up on this during the rotation slot in Year 9. Fred was educated in Manchester and later taught in schools in the north of England. He experienced prejudice, largely based on ignorance of his religion, as a student and as a teacher. He spoke with passion on how his mother's and grandmother's distress and reluctance to talk openly about the holocaust encouraged him to investigate and find out as much as he could about what happened. He lost a number of family members in the concentration camps and the rest of his family fled Germany after seeing neighbours rounded up and taken into the woods and shot.

The students received Mr Naftel very well and listened with interest. Some were visibly moved by what was said and we have been able to generate some really meaningful discussion based on

this experience.

Year 7 students were also involved and came to interview Mr Naftel as they are studying 'Boy in the Striped Pyjamas' in English.

Mr Naftel thought very highly of our students and the interest that they showed.

CONSTRUCTION CRAFTSWOMEN

To open our girls' eyes to the opportunities available to them and to get them to meet some inspiring women, who have fought prejudice and shown the determination to succeed in a male dominated industry, we hosted an event run by Leicester City Council. The event gave all our Year 9 girls the opportunity to find out about and have a go at a variety of construction crafts from women who work as plumbers, electricians, carpenters, painters and decorators. This was obviously a challenging environment for our girls but they soon warmed to the speakers running the workshops, got involved and had a good time. Many of the girls enjoyed having a go at something that would help them with DIY at home, many spoke about family members who have skills and experience in these trades and all expressed interest.

The City Council runs a popular 5 year apprenticeship in construction crafts which is open to both boys and girls aged 16 or over. This provides training that can lead to a job with the Council or to a qualification that is recognised elsewhere.

