



Winstanleylife

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



WINSTANLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
A SPECIALIST SPORTS COLLEGE
LEARNING FOR LIFE

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December 2013



Alan Russell
Principal

way to build a new reception that will be the first point of contact to any visitors, along with security fencing to increase further the safety of students. Building work is scheduled to start in the summer.

Wishing you all a happy and peaceful Christmas break.

Alan Russell

Inside This Issue....

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The end of term is upon us again and staff and students are entering into the festive spirit. Our carol singers were delightful when performing at a local church and also when visiting one of our local partner businesses, GE.

Our partnership with GE continues apace, with a highly successful *Build My Future* day being delivered by them to our gifted and talented students in November. The day covered the life choices one needs to make in order to succeed at elite universities and the world beyond.

It was a delight to see our year 9s receive their first ever options booklets in preparation for their GCSEs starting in September. I am sure you will be as impressed as I am at the wide range of courses on offer. Year 9 students and parents are warmly invited to our options evening on Thursday 9th January at 6pm in order to find out more.

Some of you may have met our new attendance officer, Mrs Rai, who is making great strides to promote high attendance and I am sure you will support her in ensuring your child attends school. As you will know, there is now a ban on term time holidays and any student who has attendance below 80% will be required to re-sit the year and not progress to the next year with their peers.

Further to the buildings update in the October newsletter, I am pleased to inform parents that we have plans under-



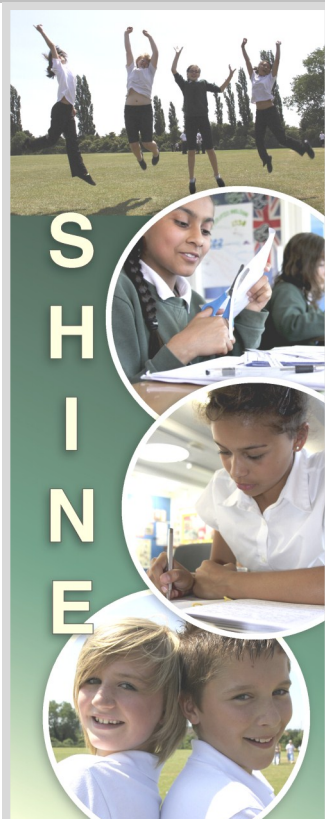
Winstanley Christmas Card 2013
Designed by Reed Lydon Year 7

LAST DAY OF TERM

Students finish at **12.30 p.m.**
Friday 20th December 2013.
The morning will be non-school dress but appropriate clothing must be worn.

SPRING TERM BEGINS:

Tuesday 7th January 2014





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LIFE AT WINSTANLEY



Gareth Williams
Vice Principal

Following on from my last newsletter, I would like to share with you what we have achieved so far in our battle to drive up attendance at Winstanley.

In the autumn newsletter, I explained that last year's overall attendance of 93.0% was deemed by Ofsted to require improvement when compared to the national average attendance in secondary schools across England of 94.1%. To put this in context, 93.0% was also the highest attendance ever achieved here at Winstanley, and was on the back of a 3 year improving trend. Therefore the challenge is clear. Put simply, more students have to attend school more often.

What have we done so far?

Following on from Ofsted, the Heads of Year and I worked extremely hard with our Attendance Improvement Officer to try and establish any patterns in general attendance and also early recognition of students who were showing signs of poor attendance. In addition to this, we also appointed Mrs Rai to be our full time attendance officer on 12th November. In the month or so that Mrs Rai has been in post, she has set up numerous initiatives aimed at improving attendance across the college.

Attendance initiatives undertaken so far :

- Specific intervention groups set up for students across the college.
- Students who have already missed 15% of their schooling this term (known as persistent absence) are receiving 1:1 sessions.
- Attendance cards monitored daily, where students are encouraged to review their attendance and reflect on why they need to attend more.
- Weekly meeting with the Heads of Year to flag up any early warning signs over a students' attendance.
- Letters sent to parents when attendance falls below 95% and 90%. Letters also explain about students repeating the year if their attendance is below 80%.
- Medical evidence sought for all absences over 3 days.
- We send a text message to advise parents/carers that their son/daughter is not at school. If we receive no contact following this to explain the absence, we telephone home to check the student is not truanting.
- Regularly meet with parents who have concerns regarding their child's attendance.
- All lateness is challenged. It is not accepted at school, as it is not accepted in the world of work.
- **ALL** truancy concerns are challenged and followed up.

So how are we doing so far?

Currently (at the time of going to press), the whole college attendance stands at 93.6%.

I am pleased that it is higher than the overall figure for last year, but I know that there is still room for considerable improvement, something I look forward

to sharing with you in the next newsletter.

Good attendance has never been more important -

Of pupils who miss more than 50% of school, only 3% manage to achieve 5 A*-Cs including English and Maths.

Of pupils who miss between 10 and 20% of school, only 35% manage to achieve 5 A*-Cs including English and maths.

UNIFORM

Please note that the blue PE Polo tops are for PE only. They should not be worn instead of a white polo top.

Skirts need to be knee length and no shorter.

False eyelashes, make up and nail varnish has proved problematic with some girls in the college.

Please be reminded that none of these are acceptable when attending Winstanley.

As we move towards our first year 10 intake, it seems like a reasonable time to look at uniform and consult on what uniform will look like for Winstanley Community College in the future. Suggestions so far have included Key Stage 4 having black sweatshirts with Key stage 3 having green sweatshirts. There has also been a suggestion that we move to blazers and ties and a more formal uniform to reflect the high standards we expect at Winstanley Community College. I will forward more information regarding this in the New Year and please let me know any comments you have on next year's uniform.

Have a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.



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UNIFORM

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 hairstyles 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

POPPY APPEAL

Thank you to all for supporting the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal at Winstanley.

Together we raised £82.73



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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LIFE AT WINSTANLEY



Fiona Le Cras
Vice Principal

As our exciting journey as an 11-16 school continues we have reached another significant milestone: the issuing of the Year 9 options booklets. A lot of 'behind the scenes' hard work enabled us to issue the curriculum offer for our year 9s in good time for Christmas. The options booklet is comprehensive and details the twenty options subjects that we are offering in addition to the core curriculum.

Whilst we have tried to anticipate questions which students, parents and carers may have, we know that you may still require more detailed information regarding the suitability of specific subjects for your child. This is why we have scheduled an Options Information Evening for 9th January 2014 and are also offering all parents and carers the opportunity to take advantage of an interview with a senior member of staff to discuss choices further. These interviews will take place from 20th January onwards and you will be able to sign up for specific dates/times during the Options Information evening on January 9th.

Year 9 students and their families need to ensure that a lot of thought and reflection leads to decisions which are right for each individual. To help this process all year 9 students will be given a copy of an independent publication called 'Which Way Now?' which supports researching option choices and choosing subjects for study in years 10 and 11.

As this important next step in our transition occurs we are very mindful that we have made decisions regarding our

curriculum whilst the government still has not confirmed the measures by which it will judge schools in the future. We are confident that our curriculum offer is broad and balanced, although should the government make it necessary to amend our offer we will of course contact parents.



EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSURE

With the possibility 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

ACADEMIC YEAR 2013/2014

Spring Term 2014

College opens: Tues 7th Jan 2014

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

College Closes: Fri 11th Apr 2014

Summer Term 2014

College Opens: Mon 28th Apr 2014

May Day Holiday: Mon 5th May

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

College Closes: Fri 11th July 2014



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GE Build My Future Event

On Friday 22nd of November we were delighted to be involved in the UK launch of the Build My Future resource. This is a new learning activity commissioned by our business partner GE Druck which will be run out across schools in the UK and North America. We selected our Gifted students to attend and the event ran for a whole day in the hall. As well as our students, the day was also supported by volunteers from GE Druck, Mrs Underwood our Respect co-ordinator, governors and Mandy Forrest our Gifted volunteer mentor. The day was a fantastic success and we are very grateful for the support that GE offers the college in developing our students skills and abilities. This is what 3 of our students thought about the day.

Richard Bastock
Assistant Principal



At the GE day we learnt many life skills including the four main ones; citizenship, health, socialising and expertise. The students were divided into 9 teams of 6 and we all had a volunteer mentor from GE Druck to work with. We all introduced ourselves to each other and we asked them questions about their Jobs and what their strengths and weaknesses were. My mentor was best at expertise but weakest on health. His role at GE Druck was as a purchaser who buys all the materials and equipment they need. The part of the day I enjoyed the most was the game we played. We created a small unique life about a character. There were events

which strengthened or lowered our character's life skills. Using the personality of the character we then made puppets which resembled the appearance and characteristics of our character.

At the end of the day all of the groups had a scenario to put their puppet into demonstrate their characters. Some of the scenarios were that the puppet had a chance to go to the moon, the puppet had the chance to start an alien invasion or the puppet had a chance to live there again. All of the scenarios had 6 questions. At the end there was a review of what we had learnt from the day. My learning was that to be successful you need to be good at all aspects of life.

Kieran Khan 7ST
Ben Carlill 7ST
Oliver Lewis 7ST

Singing Club



Students from our Singing Club performed at the Braunstone Family of Churches annual Christmas Carol concert. Their performance was very much appreciated by the congregation, many of whom praised our group highly. Year 9 student, Macy Tullis, delivered a reading and Grace Silverside mastered the technical side of the sound system and backing track!

Many thanks to all involved.





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Winstanley Project Report



Since the start of the school year, six year 9 students have been working on a Wednesday with Environmental Studies Ltd and have been responsible for the development of the grounds at the Braunstone Skills Centre which now has lottery funding to offer horticultural training to the local community.

The students have been working really well together in all weathers to create a wildlife pond and seating area on the site, which come spring will prove an essential part of the community garden. The surrounding area will be seeded with meadow flowers and marginal wetland plants to encourage wildlife to use the area and improve the site visually too.

In order to fill the pond the students took it upon themselves to visit the local fire department for assistance who praised them for the way that they conducted themselves.

In recent weeks the group has started clearing an area of overgrown and unmanaged woodland on the Leicester Riverside Park, assisting the Councils Riverside Rangers team. They are learning how to coppice and thin species of tree and undergrowth allowing the area to become safer and more accessible for local residents to use and to increase the levels of biodiversity in the park.

Environmental Studies Ltd also work with children from Ellesmere College

and have on a few occasions mixed the two groups together. In previous years this would not have been appropriate, but due to the nature of the students from Winstanley, this has not only been possible, but has proven to be a fantastic opportunity for both groups of students. During this time the Winstanley group have acted as brilliant advocates for the school assisting the students from Ellesmere College with practical tasks and leading games for them to join in with.

Sport at Winstanley

On Wednesday 13th November Winstanley Community College was honoured to be visited by the Commonwealth 200 metre gold medallist from 2010, Leon Baptiste. Leon kindly came to work with a select group of students as part of the Sky Living For Sport initiative. Throughout the day he carried out workshops and activities and took part in a question and answer session which the students felt inspired by and thoroughly enjoyed. It was a great day and a change for the students to hold a real Olympic gold medal!

A big pat on the back goes out to the year 7 and 8 boys' table tennis team, who made it to the final of the Hinckley and Bosworth Sports Partnership table tennis competition in October. They were unlucky to lose in such a competitive final, but fantastic work for getting so far.

Winstanley hosted an indoor athletics competition in September as part of the Hinckley and Bosworth Sport Partnership. Winstanley came third out of the eight schools that took part, so well done to all competitors.

The boys' basketball and girls' year 8 and 9 badminton teams have shown strength and determination in recent matches. Keep up the hard work as

you're a credit to the school.

The year 7/8 school ruby team were crowned winners of the City Festival tournament at Aylestone, St James in October. The boys battled through many rounds, displaying slick passing and tackling skills, and now look to keep this momentum rolling into the New Year.

Kevin Higgins—Head of P.E.

Annual Sports Awards

The school held its annual Sports Awards evening back in October which highlighted all of the hard work and great achievements of the awarded students.

Former Leicester City captain and Scotland International footballer Matt Elliott kindly presented the awards to all of the evenings' winners.

Awards were presented to students for half colours which are representing the school for one particular team or event. Full colours are awarded to students who have represented the school for more than one team or sports event.

Shaun Ruzvidzo won the outside of school achievement award, and is currently a member of the Leicester City Academy. The year 9 football team were awarded sports team of the year for winning the cup during last season.

The award for sports person of the year went to Taylor Carvell who has demonstrated exceptional skills and determination over the course of the year.





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A message from ...

LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Children in Employment

The Pupil Services Team (within School Admissions & Pupil Services) at Leicestershire County Council aims to raise awareness in relation to Child Employment Legislation. The team are committed to promoting, maintaining and developing safe employment to ensure that children are working legally and protected from exploitation and harm.

Children in the county, who are still of compulsory school age, can benefit greatly from part-time work providing that the type of employment is suitable and properly regulated in line with the Leicestershire County Council Byelaws on the Employment of Children 1998.

Children remain of compulsory school age until the last Friday of June of the academic year (01 Sept – 31 Aug) in which they are 16.

A child/young person is 'employed' if he/she assists in any trade or occupation carried out for profit (this includes charity shops). It does not matter whether the child is paid (or receives payment in kind), or if the child is assisting his/her parents in their business, working for relatives or working for a major company.

The purpose of this article is to raise awareness of the fact that **ALL** children between the ages of 13 to 16 inclusive must register with the Local Authority when starting any part time work. It is the employer's responsibility to request a **work permit**, but parents can ask for an application form too.

UNDER 13 YEAR OLD – ALL WORK IS PROHIBITED!

The Pupil Services team will register and issue a work permit if:

- the work and hours comply with the legislation
- the pupil attends school regularly and on time
- there are no health or welfare concerns

It is important that, as a parent, you monitor your child's employment. Most children's experience of work will be a positive one, but it is a fact that there are people who will use the opportunity to exploit children.

For further information and work permit application forms contact:

Pupil Services Team
School Admissions & Pupil Services
County Hall
Glenfield
Leicestershire
LE3 8RF

Telephone : 0116 305 2071, Email: childemployment@leics.gov.uk

Visit the Leicestershire County Council website at www.leics.gov.uk/pupil_services and read the 'Child Employment' section.



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Some things to do in the evening at Winstanley.....

Tel: 0116 2898688 or email: community@winstanley.leics.sch.uk



Spanish for Beginners

Going away to Spain next year? Fancy learning a few phrases to help you get by?

This is your chance to impress family and friends!

Call or email us to register your interest in this short course due to start in February 2014.



Drum Lessons

Children and Adult Drum Lessons available on Monday evenings. Kit provided, all you need is enthusiasm!

Call or email for more details.

Cake Decorating

Every Monday or Thursday 7.00 - 9.00pm, learn the art of sugarcraft. Birthdays will never be the same again!

Call or email for more details.

