

Winstanleylife

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

WINSTANLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
A SPECIALIST SPORTS COLLEGE

LEARNING FOR LIFE

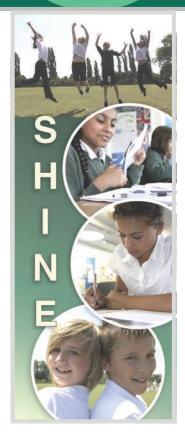
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Issue No.1 October 2012



Alan Russell Principal

A word from the Principal.....

Welcome back to everyone for what has been a superb start to the new academic year. We welcomed a number of new staff at the end of August: Fiona Le Cras joined us as Vice Principal, having worked for the Local Authority and a number of KS4 schools; Ben Kaba has come from Oadby Beauchamp as Head of Modern Foreign Languages; and Raphael King is here with us as sports coach. Congratulations to Suzanne Thornton on her internal promotion to cover supervisor; it is reassuring for parents to know their children receive a quality experience should their usual class teacher be absent. On the nonteaching staff, we also welcome Jane Moore as our Attendance Improvement Officer; as a school that is well on its way to being outstanding, it is vital that attendance improves and she has a key role here. I know you will show all our new staff a warm welcome as they work tirelessly on behalf of all our students.

The new year 7s are settling in to their new surroundings and had a wonderful team building day at Beaumanor. We were privileged to watch outstanding performances by a number of students during the official opening of our new dance/drama studio. The evening of song, dance and drama was exceptional, demonstrating how our *Shine* values underpin everything we do: here, excellence was most evident.

We still await official confirmation about our bid to become an 11-16 school from September 2014. Informal feedback from the DfE, however, has been positive and we hope to have the go-ahead by the end of the year. Parents, staff, governors and students have overwhelmingly said they wish this change to happen. So should we not be given the go-ahead, we will look at what needs to be done and reapply.

On a personal level I would like to thank the whole community for the support you have shown me as new Principal here at Winstanley. The local community is a strong one and we play a central role in maintaining and developing community links. Winstanley is moving in exciting directions but you may have your own ideas about where we need to be. If any parent is interested in being a governor, please contact the office and we can have a chat about what is involved.

On a final note, it is with sadness that we say goodbye at half term to Rob Norbury, our music teaching assistant, who is relocating to the other end of the country. Good luck Rob!

Alan Russell Principal Page 2 Winstanleylife | October 2012



WINSTANLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

LIFE AT WINSTANLEY



Gareth Williams Vice Principal

What a 10 months. As you may be aware, I was fortunate enough to begin my Winstanley journey on Monday 9th January 2012, when I became the Vice Principal with responsibility for the Curriculum and Achievement. It is hard to believe that it is now October, but I have learnt that time at Winstanley moves quicker than elsewhere. There is always some event happening, whether that be students' writing, directing, filming and producing an award winning video, a sporting event of some description, an evening award ceremony, an exceptional musical production or a time capsule burial to celebrate our 50th year at the heart of our community! This is just a sample of the events that I have witnessed in my short time here, but by no means the complete list. When you combine these with the wonderful teaching and learning that takes place every day, it is easy to see why Winstanley Community College students achieve so much during the relatively short time they spend with us.

One of my responsibilities, as I have mentioned above, is to monitor and evaluate the achievement of every student in the College. As I am sure that you are aware, our students do fantastically well during their time with us and actually leave Winstanley Community College having achieved standards that are higher on average than students of a similar age in other schools across the country! This can be attributed to the hard work of our students, but also the hard work and dedication of all of the staff at this school and their constant drive to enable our students to achieve more. I am so proud to be able to play a part in a school where this feeling permeates everything we do.

I also want to share with you my excitement at Winstanley Community College potentially becoming and 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.

We are on the cusp of something very exciting at Winstanley Community College and I am looking forward to playing a major role in its future development and success.

Gareth Williams Vice Principal









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WINSTANLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

LIFE AT WINSTANLEY



Fiona Le Cras Vice Principal

Since joining Winstanley as Vice
Principal at the end of August I
have been on a journey of
discovery. This journey has involved
meeting a large number of
welcoming and friendly students
who take a keen interest in the life
of the school and their community.
I have been impressed by the high
standards shown by the vast
majority of our students, in
particular with regard to
appearance and positive behaviour.

It has been a busy half term and a number of events and occasions have been experienced by our young people. One occasion which made a big impression on me and which, for me, highlights the drive and ambition of the Winstanley community, was the opening of the dance /drama studio. It was a privilege to be in the audience and to experience the quality of the dance and drama that Winstanley students can produce: I am already looking forward to the next production.

Attendance

A pleasing start to this year has seen overall attendance across the school is up on last year. We are committed to ensuring that our students attend regularly, and on time. This year's improved attendance probably also reflects the support which many parents have shown for our new policy on holidays in term time. Nearly a third fewer holidays have been taken so far this year, with only students that have got attendance above 95% having holiday requests authorised, except where there are exceptional circumstances.

We are very keen to ensure that all our students make the most of all their learning opportunities. As we move towards becoming an 11-16 college this becomes even more important with external exams to prepare for.

Students repeating a year

At Winstanley we equip students for life and in order to be well equipped with good exam results and life skills attendance needs to be good. DfE research shows that students that attend well are more likely to achieve well. Similarly students with poor attendance have vastly reduced life chances. Where students have poor attendance, below 80%, we are considering supporting those students by making them repeat the year. There will of course be exceptional circumstances where this may not be

appropriate. As usual we are keen to hear your opinions on proposals such as this, so please feel free to contact me.

Open evening

The 20th September saw Winstanley open its doors for the annual open evening. The event was well attended with many parents bringing their children to look around the school and meet students, staff and governors.

All subject areas showcased a wide range of learning activities as well as displays of student work which show the high standards achieved. Current students were on hand to share their enthusiasms for the whole range of subjects as well as the many extra curricular activities which are on offer. A number of students that couldn't participate on the evening ensured their enthusiasm for school was conveyed via an excellent film which presented their views of life at Winstanley.

The feedback from the event was positive whilst also providing a number of suggestions for improvement, which are always welcome. If you were unable to attend, or would like a further opportunity to visit the school to help you to decide on the next school for your child, do contact the school office. Please remember the closing date for applications to the next school (for September 2013) is 31st October 2012.

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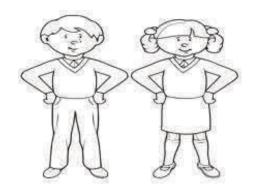
Just A Reminder

SCHOOL DRESS

We would like to thank parents for their continuing support with school dress, particularly in the light of the problems that were experienced with the uniform supplier. We do appreciate how parents and students have worked with us to ensure that our high standards are maintained and the students as a whole look very smart.

This year for those students whose dress does not comply with the school dress policy we have given time to allow parents to ensure their child is dressed according to the policy. We are very keen to work with parents to ensure that students do not miss vital learning time at school. However, as in the past, persistent failure to comply with the school dress policy will ultimately result in students being sent home.

Fiona Le Cras Vice Principal



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Trousers	Plain black trousers, no jeans, combats, tracksuit bottoms or leggings.
Skirts/Shorts	Plain black skirts of sensible length. In the summer term plain black tailored shorts of sensible knee length and design will be acceptable.
Shirts	Long or short sleeved PLAIN white shirt, long enough to be tucked in, with a collar. White Airtex or polo shirts are acceptable.
Socks / Tights	White or black socks and for girls the option of black or flesh coloured tights.
Belts	These should be plain and black with a small buckle.
Shoes	Sensible plain black shoes. No trainers, no logos and no coloured markings. For health and safety reasons shoes must have a low heel and a back.
Coats	Preferably dark green or black. Definitely no denim.
Sweatshirts	Green sweatshirt with logo for Years 7 & 8 students. Black sweatshirt with logo for Year 9 students
Hair Styles / Colouring	We discourage parents from allowing their children to dye their hair. Any colouring outside the range of natural shades and hairstyles that are, in the College's opinion, extreme, are not allowed.
Jewellery	Students are allowed to wear one pair of small earrings, such as sleepers or studs and one finger ring. We do not allow any ornate jewellery, particularly large sovereign type rings, or badges with slogans in school. N.B. we class body piercing as jewellery.
Make up	Excessive make up is not allowed and students will be asked to remove this. If make up is worn it should be barely noticeable.

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WINSTANLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

KEY EVENTS AND ACADEMIC CALENDAR 2012—2013

Mid Term Break Monday 22nd October - Friday 26th October 2012

College Closes Friday 21st December 2012 College Opens Tuesday 8th January 2013

Mid Term Break Monday 11th February - Friday 15th February 2013

College Closes Friday 22nd March 2013 College Opens Monday 8th April 2013 May Day Monday 6th May 2013

Mid Term Break Monday 27th May - Friday 31st May 2013

College Closes Friday 12th 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 http://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.

GET ONLINE

For many of those who do not have regular access to a PC and are not enjoying the benefits of the internet, a barrier to getting people connected is the cost of a PC at home. Schools have been informed of an organisation supported by Microsoft which offers refurbished Windows 7 computers for as little as £95.

www.getonlineathome.org/ Visit the site to see if it will be able to help you. Page 6 Winstanleylife | October 2012



WINSTANLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Missing School.....Is Missing out!

I would like to introduce myself as the new Attendance Improvement Officer for the four schools of Kingsway, Millfield, Ravenhurst and Winstanley in the Braunstone Town area.

This article is to explain the expectations for excellent attendance at school and the support available. I believe that families and schools in the Braunstone Town area need to work as a community to maximise the learning opportunities and life chances of our pupils by ensuring good attendance at school.

Going to school every day means:

- Better life chances for your child
- Building lasting friendships
- Taking part in exciting learning activities
- Being able to achieve their full potential
- Developing a love of learning

There is a very strong link between high absence rates from school and • poor academic performance.

This link has been well researched and is true across the country. Over the 5 years of secondary school if a child has 90% attendance then that

child will miss a total of half a school year of lessons by the end of secondary school.

You are legally obliged to send your child into school every day unless they are sick or have already agreed a period of unavoidable absence with the school's Principal.

There is no automatic entitlement to holiday absence and the school will not automatically authorise such absence.

To help your child achieve 95% plus attendance:

- Encourage your child to attend school every day
- Watch the clock at breakfast time in order to be punctual for school
- Ensure your child arrives in school on time each day
- Phone the school if your child is ill
- Try to avoid medical appointments during school time unless it is an urgent appointment
- Arrange holidays outside of term time

To help your child achieve 95% plus attendance we will:

 Give certificates and other rewards to award good and

- improved attendance
- Monitor attendance and invite you to discuss attendance problems with the Year Heads and the school Attendance Improvement Officer
- Provide support with attendance problems and concerns
- Legal sanctions may be used in some cases

If you require any help or support with attendance please contact the school for more information.



Jane Moore Attendance Improvement Officer



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WINSTANLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

STEM* Sustainability Day

YEAR 9 VISIT TO CATERPILLAR, DESFORD, LEICESTERSHIRE

Caterpillar and LEBC (Leicestershire Education Business Company) invited year 9 students to take part in a STEM Sustainability Day designed for those who may be considering engineering or a career using the STEM subjects. Caterpillar are particularly keen to encourage female students to think about engineering and we were pleased that so many of the girls took the opportunity to attend the visit, accompanied by Emma Thorpe, Teaching Assistant, and Mrs Stephens, Head of Art, Design & Technology.

On arrival at Caterpillar the students were welcomed by the STEM Ambassadors – Elise Morgan, Judith Payne and the Caterpillar Apprentices - for a day jam packed with presentations, tours and activities giving the students an insight into how Caterpillar works to reduce its environmental impact - both in the products which it sells and in the manufacturing process.

The day included an overview of the company and its sustainability policies,



a tour of the State-of-Art production facility, the chance to meet some of the graduates and apprentices, interactive sustainability workshops and the chance to get up close and personal with real Caterpillar vehicles.

Sustainability

"Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." (Bruntland Report 1987)

The students learnt about Caterpillar's **Sustainability** policies – building on the knowledge that the students gain in year 7 at Winstanley Community College in **Recycle and Create**. Students learnt that sustainability has an effect on the Environment, Society and the Economy.



Ping Pong Productivity Activity

The objective of this activity was to move the ping pong balls as efficiently as possible over the time period. This involved operating a remote controlled miniature version of a Caterpillar digger to scoop ping pong balls out of a container and to deposit as many as possible into a miniature Caterpillar dumper truck. Each ball was worth £1 once deposited into the dumper truck with costs for fuel being deducted. This activity included the students having to think about the best strategies for being the most productive maximising the most profit.

"The trip was fun and it gave me an opportunity to see what it



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WINSTANLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

STEM* Sustainability Day

would be like working there, and the process of making machines. The best activity was the digger controlling, where you had to get balls into a truck. Overall the day was good and I'd do it again." Emma Proctor

"On Monday, 17 September we went to Caterpillar. We did a lot of activities throughout the day. One of the best activities was when we had to control a toy digger and it was a competition



against the other schools. The day was really enjoyable and we got to learn new things about Caterpillar."

Kaushali Pathak

Wind Turbine Design

Students worked in pairs or threes to assemble the Wind Turbine following the instruction pamphlet and with advice from the Caterpillar apprentices.

Once built, the students then had to test their Wind Turbines —

if the light did not illuminate then

the Turbine needed adjustments to the propellers/sails. The students then had to work out what was the optimum number of sails – cost verses efficiency/productivity.

"The trip was great! It was interesting; there were so many machines. And I now know how to make a wind turbine."

Eoin Greenwood

Shop Floor - Factory Visit



safety goggles and high visibility Jackets were handed out in preparation for the factory visit - where Caterpillar workers assemble the vehicles. As the factory floor was a working assembly area we were told strictly to remain on the marked walkway and were also not able to take photographs in this highly sensitive area. Our guides informed us that Caterpillar is 100% 'waste efficient': cardboard, plastics etc are recycled and the remaining waste is processed into pellets to be used in power plants - nothing is sent to the landfill sites.

Caterpillar Vehicle Demonstration

The highlight of the day was being shown a spectacular display of the various Caterpillar Vehicles being put through their paces – demonstrating the vehicles' capabilities. We were then able to walk amongst the vehicles and to take photographs.





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WINSTANLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

STEM* Sustainability Day

Further Student Comments:

"I enjoyed the day at Caterpillar. I have now experienced what it's like in a factory and it's given me some good ideas about the future. I enjoyed the day and had fun!"

Lauren Toon

"I think Caterpillar was a great day because I learnt important skills and enjoyed the activities we participated in. It was fun to learn how a business operates and how engineering can actually be interesting to work in. I also learnt about sustainability." Chloe Szczurek

"Brilliant, learnt new things –
everyone was friendly. I would go
again." Ellis Martin

"It was amazing, a great experience and a good way to think about the future. I enjoyed all of the activities and it was a shame that others missed a fabulous day out"

Emily Carrington

The day came to a close with a prize ceremony for the winners of the various competitions that took place during the day. A team from Winstanley came second overall in the Ping Pong Productivity activity and they each won various Caterpillar promotional products. All those attending were also given a Caterpillar cap as a memento of the day.



Both the students and staff would recommend visiting Caterpillar should the opportunity arise

Frances Stephens Head of ADT

Student Council:

The Student Council has been very busy this year meeting four times already to train new members and to discuss and make decisions on a variety of issues.

A key issue they have been working on is trialling a limited outdoor eating area in the second half of the autumn term. The students are very keen on having the opportunity to eat outside and council members have debated where this area should be, what food should be allowed outside and also considered how we manage the additional litter this may incur. We will keep you informed as to the success of this plan.

We have also discussed how to improve the quality and regularity of home learning tasks at the college. We would welcome the views of parents and carers as to how successful we are as a college in supporting your child's learning after the school day has finished.

Richard Bastock Assistant Principal

SAFETY AND BIKES



As a recognised 'Healthy School' we are delighted that so many students come to college on their bikes. To help highlight security please ensure your son/daughter brings in a good quality lock for their bike. Emphasise also that on site they must walk their bikes in order to avoid accidents to themselves or others with so many students on the move.

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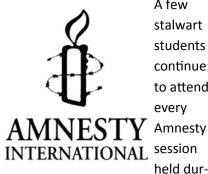


WINSTANLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Around the Departments.....

Humanities

AMNESTY YOUTH GROUP



A few stalwart students continue to attend everv held dur-

ing Friday lunchtime in H4. We have drawn silly faces on balloons, written all over my whiteboard and cut up newsletters to create a poster. All of these actions were to bring hope to those who are in need, raise awareness of the wrongdoings of governments around the world and to show the students that their actions can make a difference.

We hope to see more students in the coming Fridays, taking fun and sometimes serious actions to help make a difference in the world.

You can join Amnesty yourself directly or take action at amnesty.org.uk. Membership in the school's youth group is free. You receive a passport of rights and free stickers.

Alan Stevenson History Teacher

GLEE CLUB

We continue to watch video clips every Wednesday lunchtime and sing along with the hits from the TV show. Glee club is a safe environment where boys and girls are encouraged to come along and enjoy the show and take their lunch in a non-threatening environment. Our Science Department does not need to worry about us coming through the ceiling, as we no longer have the time or space to perform dance moves. Glee Club will live on and we hope to rouse up the Humanities department with our voices. Won't you join us?

Alan Stevenson



Humanities Links

Dual maps combines Google Maps, Google Street View and Microsoft Bing Maps into one embeddable experience. Free to use, & no registration is required. http:// www.dualmaps.com/

Find out what History is on your television by visiting www.historyontv.co.uk

"Wherethepath" gives you the power to see different map formats, side-by-side. It is also possible to toggle between modern maps and old 1940s maps.

http://wtp2.appspot.com/ wheresthepath.htm

Timelines.tv is a free-to-use, video-rich history resource. Scroll the site to find a story that interests you, and let your journey begin. http://timelines.tv/

REMEMBER! BRITISH SUMMER TIME ENDS: CLOCKS GO BACK ON 28TH OCTOBER

The official time changes at 2.00 am BST, moving back to 1.00 am Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) across the UK.

Benjamin Franklin, the American

inventor was one of the earliest advocates of moving the clocks forward. In 1907 an Englishman,



William Willett, campaigned to advance clocks by 80 minutes. However, Summer time was first used during the First World War but it doubled during the Second World War.

Alan Stevenson

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WINSTANLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Around the departments......

Humanities

iPhone PARAGONS



O2 Learn, the education branch of the O2 phone network, have provided the school with four iPhone 4Ss. Their aim is to have students and staff produce videos for their educational website, www.o2learn.co.uk.

To view videos for every subject area from Key Stage 3 to University level just visit the website

and browse it on your PC. Please vote on our upcoming videos, which will have the code SCH017 in the title and description. Let's hope our students take this opportunity to become iPhone paragons.

Mr A Stevenson



Respect

FILM CLASSIFICATION

Why does Film Classification Matter?

Anyone wanting to release a film, video or DVD for showing in cinemas or watching at home has to make sure that their movie has a BBFC classification symbol. It's against the law to try and sell videos and DVDs without this. Films that you see at the cinema also have to display the right symbol. Parents, students and teachers can view the BBFC information in a child friendly way at www.cbbfc.co.uk. Whilst there you can rate a trailer, enter competitions, play games and find out much more.



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WINSTANLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Around the departments.....

Respect

GIVING NATION CHALLENGE

This year we are asking all our Year 7 students to take part in the Giving Nation Challenge. This invites them to fund raise, campaign, raise awareness or volunteer for a charity or good cause of their choice. Already we have groups of children who want to run a 'Carnival Games Event' at the end of school one day and hopefully this will give our students, parents and students from Kingsway Primary School the opportunity to support us. Also, a small group are going to sell cakes in the evenings at school to coincide with the evening classes at school. We have students wanting to organise fun runs and a wide range of other activities. I do hope as many of you as possible will be able to visit and support our events. We are looking to support Cancer Charities, RSPCA and the Air Ambulance initially but LOROS is coming in to work with the students and we will hopefully get an event off the ground for them too.

If anyone has contacts with charities who may wish to benefit from one of our events please contact me.

sunderwood@winstanley.leics.sch.uk

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE EVENT

On 16th November Fred Naftel will be coming to talk to Year 9 students about his family's experience of the Holocaust in Germany. Fred's mother escaped Nazi Germany, his grandmother survived in a concentration camp and he has put together an inspirational presentation about the Holocaust and his family's experiences. It is hoped this will take students on a journey of discovery and encourage them to be more open and tolerant of others.

HEALTHY SCHOOLS

I am sure many of you will have heard of STOPTOBER, the NHS campaign to encourage people to stop smoking in October. Over the next twelve months we are going to be involved in the 'Smoke Screen' project which is designed to show the true picture of smoking amongst young people. That is a minority habit – the vast majority of young people at Winstanley do not smoke and have already made the commitment not to start smoking in the future. We need to continue to support them in keeping themselves and their peers

smoke free and will be looking for No Smoking ambassadors to produce publicity materials and enter the 'Cut Films Competition', which incidentally we won last year so no pressure there kids!

Anyone who smokes and would like to stop smoking can access help, support and NRT from our school nurse. Please contact reception to make an appointment to see the nurse (you do not need to give a reason or be referred by staff to make an appointment).

Can I also take this opportunity to remind all users of the school site that smoking is not permitted on the school premises.



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WINSTANLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Around the departments.....

Sports

Table Tennis

SPORT AT WINSTANLEY - SPECIALIST SPORTS COLLEGE

I would just like to introduce the table tennis club (see below) to the community. It has been set up to provide a pathway for our talented players to improve and develop their game. Anyone is welcome to attend, beginners, students and adults alike.

WINSTANLEY WIZARDS TABLE TENNIS CLUB

Table tennis for everyone from beginners to experienced players with instruction and coaching offered in a friendly atmosphere. We have nine tables in two halls – six tables for juniors and three tables for adults. Juniors are adult supervised at all times. All equipment is provided at no cost.

The club operates from Winstanley Community College on:—

Tuesdays: 6.30pm – 8pm for juniors - £1.00 (please note this will change to Monday 6.30pm – 8pm from Monday October 22nd.)
Tuesdays: 7.00pm – 9.00pm for adults - £3.00 (to continue on Tuesdays.)

For further information please contact:

John Greening on 0116 2388364 or mob. 07835094937 or e.mail

john.greening@mypostoffice.co.uk or visit www.winstanleywizardstabletennisclub.



