

Bumper Collection!

This year saw us having our biggest and best collection of items for Open Hands ever! All tutor groups in the school were given the opportunity to collect food and toiletries and make hampers for the city's most vulnerable people. Open Hands provide much needed resources for both homeless people and families in need all year round, through the work they do at their centre in Leicester and working closely with two food banks, one based in Braunstone. Compassion for those less fortunate, and a desire to improve the world around us are core to our values across the LiFE Multi-Academy Trust. Once again students made a fantastic effort and competed against other tutor groups to see who could collect the most items.

Mrs Cooke's tutor group (11CE) collected a massive 203

individual items, and in total as a school we collected 1073 items which will be gratefully received by people in Leicester and Leicestershire over the Christmas

period. It's amazing to see that our students have so much thought and care for those less fortunate. A massive thank you to all who contributed. The people at Open Hands are incredibly grateful and the hampers will go a long way in ensuring that more people have a Merry Christmas.

The best tutor group in each year: 7SMO (82 items), 8BTO (76 items), 9HN (81 items) and 10RN (82 items).



Welcome to our Christmas Newsletter. 'Your students are absolutely delightful.' We have always thought that, but that was the comment from the Lead Inspector after our two day OFSTED inspection. We haven't had our full report yet, but I look forward to sharing it with you near the beginning of next term. As

this newsletter shows we have had a hectic, but exciting term with students having the opportunity to 'shine brighter than they thought they could' in more ways than ever before. There have been more tips, visits and visitors to the school than we have ever had and the students have clearly relished the chance to get involved. As always thank you for all your support through this term - our partnership with you is crucial. I wish you and your families a Happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous 2020. **Mr Bennett, Head of School**



Winstanley Life

Christmas 2019

Spreading Cheer

On Friday 13th December Mrs Boyce's Year 7 Religious Studies class went out into the community to perform a **'Random Act of Kindness'**. Mrs Turner, Head of Year 7 and some student council members had been busy wrapping their small gifts of 'cheer' and writing Christmas cards to give out to local residents. We have been doing the Random Act of Kindness for a few years now and students really enjoy getting out of school and meeting our neighbours nearby. As a school we think it's important to demonstrate that Christmas is a time for thinking about other people and that giving a gift is often more rewarding than receiving one.

- There are a number of elderly people who live alone near the school who enjoyed seeing a friendly face at their door and a surprise mince pie.



Community Service

At Winstanley we see part of our role as being an integral part of the **Braunstone Town Community**. During December we invited local community members to join some of our students in a small Christmas service and a chat about how we can help out and form new bonds with local people and organisations. It was the first step towards establishing new relationships and everyone enjoyed the beautiful performance by the choir, the readings by Dhanya, Anopa and Reuben....and of course the mince pies!

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Festive Show Time!

Thank you to everyone who came along to our Christmas Concert this year. It was a fantastic evening of entertainment and students worked really hard not just on their performances but in making sure that the show ran smoothly, the hall looked christmassy and that everyone had a lovely evening. All the students who performed were amazing and for many their performances go from strength to strength every year. A big thank you to Mrs Olnor for once again providing students (and staff too!) with lots of opportunities to get involved with music and singing.



Black Roses

During Anti-Bullying Week our Year 9 and 10 students were shown the film 'Black Roses', a moving and emotional film that was created by the charity 'Sophie' to raise awareness and prevention of hate crime. Sophie Lancaster and her partner were violently attacked by a gang of teenagers in a park in Lancashire and Sophie died over a week later of her horrific injuries. Her family wanted to ensure a lasting legacy to their daughter.



Following the film students were able to ask questions of a panel made up from Odette Freeman - close friend of Sophie's Mum, Julian Robinson - Victim Impact Worker, Inspector Emma Maxwell from Hinckley and Blaby Police and Isla Dixon - Hate Crime Officer from Leicestershire Police.



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Winstanley Life



See what #winstanleyelf has been up to on Instagram! [@thewinstanleyschool](https://www.instagram.com/thewinstanleyschool)

Remember Together

On Monday 11th November we held our first ever whole school Remembrance Ceremony. We were joined by Braunstone Town Deputy Mayor, Cllr Darshan Singh, Cllr Phil Moitt, Vice Chairman of Blaby District Council, Rev Keith Magee, Vicar of St Peter's Church, Marianne Birtwistle from Friar Lane and Braunstone Baptist Church and representatives of our Board of Governors. The visitors met with our Prefects and Head Boys and Girls before we assembled outside the school to pay respects to lives lost in conflict and the fight for freedom.



Head Girl, Lucia read aloud the poem 'In Flanders Fields' by John McCrae before the last post was played by Mr Greenwood. A two minutes silence was respectfully observed by everyone; we are very proud of the respect shown by our students and the importance they all place on remembrance.



Christmas 2019

Wedding of the Year

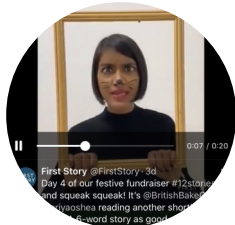
- On the 19th November the whole of Year 10 took part in a mock wedding to support the GCSE Religious Studies topic on Marriage and the Family in Christianity. Students played the roles of the wedding party and were supported by Heads of Year (as mother of the bride and groom) and Mr Bennett as Father of the Bride. Mya and Brad played the happy couple and representatives from Friar Lane & Braunstone Baptist Church led the service. Students all took part in the ceremony which was brought to life by the fact that we were in a real place of worship. It created an authentic learning experience for all involved and made for a thoroughly enjoyable Religious Studies lesson.
- Special thanks should also go to students who played an active role in the ceremony - Michael who had the important job of best man, Ashley and Shalom who provided some amazing musical performances, Vanessa, Julia and Iye who were the bridesmaids, Khalid who did the scripture reading, Sukhpreet, Toby, Rahul, Sam and Reegan who were ushers and especially to everyone at Friar Lane and Braunstone Church who enabled us to provide this fantastic opportunity for our students.





Independence

Well done to budding writer Siobhan from Year 9 whose 6 word challenge was featured on First Story's Twitter page and read by The Great British Bake Off's Priya O'Shea. Her very short story was picked from hundreds of entries to feature on their countdown to Christmas Advert Calendar.



Hard Work

We have had another very successful year supporting the Poppy Appeal thanks to the generosity of staff and students at Winstanley. Well done to Mrs Chambers for organising the fundraising this year. The total raised was £137.48 which will go towards supporting service personnel and their families. Mrs Chambers also created an amazing display in the Cube which was made up from poppies made by every student and member of staff in the school.



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Never Giving Up

On a cold, wet Thursday in December the English department treated students who had worked hard and demonstrated determination to a 'chippy' lunch. It was a lovely treat for students and staff alike, well done to everyone who was selected and keep up the hard work.



Supporting Others

Two of our fast-acting students supported a local gentleman back in October when he had a stroke and collapsed outside the local shop. They quickly called an ambulance and waited with him until the emergency services were on the scene. Mr Spiers, who lives near the school has now made a good recovery and has extended his thanks to the students for their kindness and assistance. Well done to Billy and Chanice from Year 11 for supporting others when it really mattered.

Let yourself SHINE Excellence

Students who have produced outstanding work are entered into a special book and given a head teachers' award. This term the following students have been sent to show their work to Mr Bennett; Roni, Eva, Thomas and Tonya (all from 7SDE) for work in Religious Studies, Ruby for PE course work, Ellis (8HA) for History, Dylan and Adam (9MME) for Geography, Seth (8HBA) for a model he made in Kickstart, Jack (7PL) for 100% in a music test and Rabeeka (8HBA) for this amazing pottery model of a spider.



Good Bye John

John Siddons retired from The Winstanley School on 6th November, after working at the school for 31 years. John joined Winstanley in 1988, first employed as a caretaker and then as Lead Premises Officer from 1991, at which time he moved into a bungalow on the school site with his wife Pam. Nothing has ever been too much trouble for John and he always performed his duties with a smile on his face, whilst ensuring the smooth running of the school site.

During his time at Winstanley, John has served under 5 headteachers and has seen many changes during this time. Over the years, John has assisted with community groups, adult education classes and youth clubs, as well as helping staff and students. John, has now moved to Narborough to be close to his two sons and two grandchildren, and plans to enjoy his retirement with his wife Pam and family.



Attendance

Well done to students in the following Tutor Groups for great attendance over the last term!

7SDE - 96% . 8HA - 96% . 9HN - 95%
10SH - 95% . 11MBR - 95%