

A helping hand for Open Hands

Thank you to all the students, families, teachers, LSAs and support staff who made this year's Open Hands Christmas hampers collection exceptional.



We collected 62 hampers which is amazing considering the financial challenges the pandemic has placed on so many individuals and families.

Your contributions will make a real difference to the recipients who

Open

Hands support all year round.



A special mention to 10HN, who as a tutor group, managed to put together 6 hampers! They really are demonstrating the 'S' from our SHINE values!



Odd Socks kick off Anti Bullying Week

In November we all participated in Anti Bullying Week, which began on the Monday with Odd Socks Day, it was great to see so many students participating and having conversations about how we can prevent bullying. We have had huge success promoting Anti Bullying within our school and the ongoing work around promoting our values and culture have had a real impact on lowering incidents of bullying and promoting kindness to others. Tutor groups created some fantastic pledges, which together formed a jigsaw puzzle, demonstrating if we all work together we can make a society where everyone feels they have a role to play in being kind and supporting others.



We have had a real focus on hope this term - it is easy in the midst of all the current challenges to lose sight of hope. One of the quotes we have focused on is: '...transform the valley of trouble in the gateway of hope.' I think this newsletter shows how we have been a 'gateway of hope for all in our community'. That is only possible because of the support and partnership we have got with you as parents. As parents and students I am sure you will want to pass your thanks on to the amazing staff

team who have made sure that students have continued to enjoy high quality teaching and learning and know that they are loved and cared for. I also want to thank the students for the way that they have stepped up and continually shown their best side despite all the difficulties. It is true to say that as a community we have been 'shining brighter than we thought we could.' Finally I just want to say have a very Happy Christmas - may you know hope at this uncertain time and may you keep healthy and well and be blessed with peace.

Mr Bennett, Head Teacher



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In touch...

Why not follow us on social media?

We post regularly on **Twitter**, **Facebook** and **Instagram** with our news as it happens..



Jolly Jumpers

On Friday 11th December staff and students joined national Christmas Jumper Day, to raise money for Save The Children, school was very festive which was really uplifting as we approach the last week of school after a very long and difficult term. Staff have created a montage of their hopes for Christmas which will be shown during assemblies this week.

You can view the video on our website too by following this link - [Christmas Hopes](#).



Look after the pennies!

Students have made a fantastic effort to collect loose change and bring it to school for Children in Need on the 13th November. In these difficult times it's great to see that we can all still [#supportothers](#), and even a small amount from everyone can go a long way when we all work together.



Stand Up!

Earlier in the term we were joined by Kelly and Dr Manny Barot from the National Holocaust Centre who delivered workshops to our Year 8 students. They spoke to students about how we can learn important lessons from the horror of the holocaust, how hate crime is still happening and how students can become ambassadors for social justice by recognising and standing up to discrimination and hatred. Students were really engaged in hearing about Dr Manny's experiences and they also contributed to the class discussion about how they can become upstanders and speak out about unfair treatment and bullying. We are glad to be able to welcome back outside organisations who are able to provide authentic learning experiences for our students to enrich their curriculum.

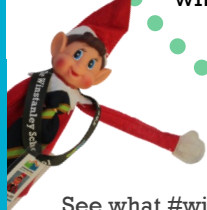


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Winstanley Life

See what [#winstanleyelf](#) has been up to on **Instagram!** [@thewinstanleyschool](#). Make sure you take part in his quiz, available on 17th December, see our SM and website for details.



Christmas 2020



Remembrance 2020

This year we knew our Remembrance event would be a little different, but we still wanted to create a whole school event. Each Tutor Group created poppies with their remembrance messages on then they stood in the shape of a poppy for a photograph, this formed a video which we all watched together during our two minute silence on the 11th November at 11am. Poppies were available for sale at reception and Mrs Chambers also sold them during break times and raised £119.53 in total for the poppy appeal, charities are really struggling to raise funds during the current pandemic so this was an amazing contribution to support such a good cause.



Lockdown Weddings

This term Year 10 have taken part in two mock weddings to support the GCSE Religious Studies topic on Marriage and the Family in Christianity; The first took place on 26th November and students played the roles of the wedding party and the service was officiated by representatives from Friar Lane & Braunstone Baptist Church. This year the service had to take place in our drama studio due to current restrictions with students remaining in their class bubbles and separated by the aisle. This did not stop it feeling like a real wedding and created an authentic learning experience and a thoroughly enjoyable Religious Studies lesson, the first wedding also coincided with No Pens Day. Special thanks should go to students who played an active role in the ceremony - Lucy, Riley, Anopa and Chey who played the happy couples at the respective ceremonies, and all the students who contributed with other key roles. Special thanks to Rev David Spriggs and Marianne for creating a realistic experience and providing this opportunity for our students.



Independence

In November No Pens Day was a big hit with our students with all year groups participating. The day is designed to encourage verbal communication skills which help students achieve not only at school but in their future lives too, promoting confidence and independence. Here are just a few of the fantastic activities staff used in their lessons:-

- Art appraisal, creating different parts of a river system in play doh,
- Slam poetry, mathematical origami, creating a board game in
- Business Studies, mood board collage in English Literature, verbal problem solving in Maths, presenting ideas to solve environmental problems in Geography, developing working memory skills in Maths using a fun game and Dragons Den in Media Studies.
- Students really enjoyed trying new strategies and developing their speaking skills.



Hard Work

Well done to all of the students who have been selected for Hot Chocolate with the Head this term. Each Friday four students are chosen from a year group to have a chat with Mr Bennett in recognition of the progress they are making. Keep a look out every Friday on Twitter.



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Never Giving Up

Year 9 and 10 have been making Christmas cakes in baked bean tins to make small cakes which meant they were reusing the tin before recycling them.

They then covered the cakes in fondant icing and made their own decorations. Students used modelling skills to make figures out of icing. This proved quite tricky, but they persevered and the results were fantastic. Students have also been making gingerbread and mince pies.



Let yourself

SHINE

Excellence



Supporting Others

On Tuesday 15th December we were yet again treated to an amazing Christmas lunch



prepared by our Catering Team. Throughout these difficult times they have continued to support us all by preparing healthy and nutritious meals which are now prepared for several different lunch breaks, special thanks should also go to our premises team and cleaners who have continued to work hard and keep us all safe by keeping everywhere clean throughout the school day.



Congratulations to Mr Bennett, who has recently won the prestigious Leicestershire Live Head Teacher of the Year award. He was nominated for the amazing work he did bringing the school community together during lockdown and providing both staff and students with many opportunities to feel involved and cared for. He is thrilled to have won and stated that the award is recognition for the whole school working together to create an environment where everyone feels included and have a positive contribution to make.



Colour Awards

Towards the end of this term we have held our Colour Awards. Two students are selected for every subject for their hard work, effort and excellence and are awarded a 'colour' badge which they can wear on their blazer. Due to current restrictions we held the assemblies for two tutor groups at a time. Look out on social media in the new year for the list of students and the subjects they have been recognised in.

