

Beating the Odds

After two years of unprecedented disruption to their education Winstanley students have beaten the odds with some amazing GCSE results. Their resilience and determination has really shone through, they have supported each other, worked hard, demonstrated their ability to work independently at a crucial stage of their GCSE courses and have never given up despite the uncertainty surrounding exams to enable them to achieve excellence.

Staff at the school have been thoroughly impressed with how this group

of students has overcome the difficulties experienced in these important years of their education, and this year group particularly have been severely impacted by the pandemic, with schools being closed for roughly a third of their GCSE course. Students and parents feel that they have been well supported by teachers and staff at the school who have ensured that students have received high quality 'live' lessons throughout school closures, and ensured that all students had access to the internet and a laptop to enable them to access school from home. Students were able to follow their usual timetable with their own teachers to provide continuity at this important time.

When it came time to decide on the teacher assessed grades, students were given the opportunity to sit checkpoint assessments for each subject to help show what they were capable of and demonstrate their hard work over the difficult period of the last 2 years. These checkpoint assessment results were used, along with other evidence such as mock exams and 'in class' assessments, to decide the grade teachers would be awarding. Each checkpoint assessment was carefully created and administered to ensure that the marking and grading criteria stringently matched that of exam board guidance.

We are pleased that so many of our students have managed to "SHINE brighter than they thought they could" in such disruptive and unusual circumstances.



Winstanley Life



Autumn 2021



New houses

This term we have seen the hugely successful launch of our brand new house system. The four houses (Aspen, Elm, Maple and Oak) have been well received and the students have never looked smarter in their new house ties. We have been completing a variety of weekly challenges based around art, literacy, food, languages and mental health. House Maple have taken an early but slim lead in the house championship with 71 points, followed by Aspen, Elm and Oak, all within 28 points. We are looking forward to what the house system has in store as we continue to celebrate the excellence of our students, led by the four house leaders Mr Bradley (Oak), Mrs Derry (Maple), Miss Jackett (Elm) and Mr Megginson (Aspen). If you know of something that someone has done outside of school that deserves to be celebrated, please let one of the house leaders know via email.



Welcome

Wow what a half term! It has been great to be getting back to something close to normality. It has been so good to welcome visitors to the school when we had our Open Evening and also our Year 11 Parents evening. It has also been great to see the young people going on educational visits, playing sports fixtures, doing practical experiments and having a close to normal Winstanley school experience. This has been the first term of our House system and it is great to see the students taking on leadership responsibilities and It has been brilliant to see the students and staff shining brightly in so many ways. I am very excited how the houses will grow and become more and more important in the life of our community. Thank you so much for all your support - it is great to know that we are working in partnership and I really value your support. Please enjoy reading about some of the events of this term which show that despite all the challenges our students are 'shining brighter than they thought they could.' Have a fantastic and restful half term.

Mr Bennett, Head of School.



The Winstanley School

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Wheely Good!

At the end of September we organised Wheelchair Basketball for some students in Year 7 to try something new! The students had an opportunity to learn how to move the wheelchair, dance to music, race and play games of dodgeball and basketball. They really enjoyed the opportunity to work with new people. There is no doubt that they were shining brighter than they thought they could! Students said that they enjoyed the challenge of this fast-paced sport, it was really fun and exciting and would love to play it again!

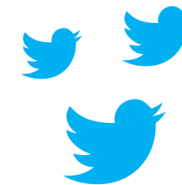
Thanks to Express Coaching Services for bringing along the equipment and organising the games.



The Winstanley School

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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...



Winstanley Life

We are now on **Instagram**, join our other 998 followers!

Autumn 2021

Reading Challenge

A group of Year 10 students have embarked on the 10 for 10 Reading Challenge this term. They will read ten different books over the course of the year, whilst meeting regularly (over breakfast!) to discuss the themes and issues raised within the novels. There's a great range of books on the reading list all discussing contemporary issues that are a huge part of growing up in the 21st century.

On Tuesday 12th October, we visited Crown Hills Community College with several other schools, where one of the selected authors, William Hussey, spoke to us about his book, *The Outrage*. Students had the opportunity to hear about what inspired him to become an author, as well as taking part in a dramatised 'witch trial', a Q and A session, and they all had their books signed. The students are currently reading *The Outrage*, therefore it was great to put a face to the name and get some inside information about how the book came into being. We're looking forward to more author events in the future and reading the rest of the books!



Hello Yellow Day

Staff and students at The Winstanley School have been raising awareness and taking part in activities for [#HelloYellow](#) in the week leading up to Hello Yellow day on Friday 8th October. The school was awash with yellow as we donned our brightest hues and made a suggested donation of £2 to Young Minds, who are a charity supporting Mental Health for young

people. Students have created wordles to decorate the school and to share their own strategies for dealing with mental health. During tutor time students were able to listen to a virtual gig organised by Mrs Olner and performed by our talented staff and students. Well done to Miss Harris for co-ordinating the events and her ongoing role of making staff and students feel appreciated and cared for.



Independence

Our students who applied to become prefects have been welcomed to their new roles and received their smart grey blazers and plain ties. This year the prefects will have ties which reflect their houses and four of them will be selected to become House Leaders. They will now take up their positions of responsibility within the school. It's a fantastic opportunity for the students who were elected and demonstrate their aspiration for excellence and gain leadership skills. We will be electing more prefects later in the school year.



Hard Work

Ben from 10BRU won a National Award last term with Dallaglio Rugby Works. He was awarded DRW CHAMPION OF THE YEAR!!

He was thrilled to receive his trophy and prize during assembly earlier in the term.



The Winstanley School

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Year 10 Hot Chocolate

Let yourself

SHINE



Never Giving Up

Supporting Others

There was a real buzz at Winstanley for our Open Evening on the 17th September. We welcomed over 200 visitors and there was so much positive feedback about how friendly staff were, how great the school looked and how the student ambassadors were so informative and welcoming. Our students were a real credit to us, they all looked incredibly smart and worked



really hard showing visitors around and demonstrating activities in classrooms. Year 7s should be especially proud of supporting their new school and it was great to see their enthusiasm.



The ketchup was flowing at the beginning of October for a lunchtime chippy treat. 30 Year 8 and 9 students who have been working really hard and persevering in English were invited to join the English team for a yummy lunch as a reward for all their hard work. Mrs Hendra has also been impressed with her Year 10 students who have been reading Macbeth. Students got so involved in their parts that they were arguing about being 'killed off!' and threatening to sue...not sure what Shakespeare would



have made of that! Miss Harris is also SUPER impressed with her Year 7 class, they have shown a mature and focused attitude whilst exploring the background/context to their new class text: The Other Side of Truth.

Excellence

It's been great to celebrate Hot Chocolate Friday again this term. Each week nominations are put forward by staff and shortlisted by the Head of Year. Here are the lucky students from this term who enjoyed a Friday treat with Mr Bennett:

Year 7

Samanta, Isobel, Edward, Peyton and Dorothy

Year 8

Charlie, Mia, Kai, Alfie and Fletcher.

Year 9

Lily-Mae, Oliwia, Lola and Libby

Year 10

Chelsea, Rhianna, Archie and Paigan

Year 11

Harry, Jess, Dru, Ashton, Ashleigh and Kaylah



Year 7 Hot Chocolate