

Amazing Recognition

The Leicestershire Live Education Awards took place on Thursday, 9th December at the King Power Stadium. It's an event which is held annually to recognise school staff and students who have excelled in a number of fields. This year we were very proud to be shortlisted for School of the Year, in recognition of the amazing job our staff have done in very difficult circumstances, although we didn't win to be in the top three was an amazing achievement and we would like to thank all the staff, students and parents who voted for us.

A number of staff along with some of our Prefects attended the event and it was truly a proud moment when Mrs Boyce was selected to win the prestigious **OUTSTANDING EDUCATION CITIZEN AWARD**, it's fantastic recognition for her work enabling our students to have a voice and stand up for social justice, through her



As I sit at my desk at the end of what has felt like one of our busiest terms ever it is great to look through the newsletter and see all the amazing things that staff and students have managed to fit into this half term. At the beginning of this term we again focused on being a beacon of hope for everyone in our community. Looking through the newsletter you can see all sorts of ways that students and staff have managed to bring hope amidst all the difficulties of our world at this time. Thank you so much for all your support over this term and making sure that our partnership goes from strength to strength. I am sure that you will want to thank the amazing staff team who are always prepared to go above and beyond to ensure that the young people have a fantastic experience. I also want to thank the amazing students who continue to impress me by the way that they 'shine brighter than they thought they could' in so many ways. Make sure that you have a great Christmas and at this difficult time may you stay healthy and be blessed with peace and joy. **Dave Bennett, Headteacher**



Winstanley Life Christmas 2021



continued work with Leicester Citizens, the Stephen Lawrence Research Centre, Blaby District Council and our local Churches.



Remembrance

We were very proud of our students on the 11th November, when we held our whole school Remembrance Event. The two-minute silence was held respectfully, and everyone was really impressed by the students who had an active role in speaking, welcoming guests and laying wreaths. We were pleased to welcome Cllr Satindra Sangha, Deputy Town Mayor of Braunstone Town, Cllr Phil Moitt from Braunstone Town Council, Tracy Gaskin from Blaby District Council, the Clerk to Braunstone Town Council and two of our school Governors. As their House Challenge for the week prior to Remembrance Day students had made some stunning poppy wreaths, if you would like to see more there is a video on our website. Following the ceremony everyone took part in creating 100 on the playground in recognition of this significant anniversary of the British Legion. Thank you to Mrs Chambers for arranging the sale of poppies again this year, we raised £176.80 for the poppy appeal.



Caring for Others

We've had another bumper collection of food and toiletries this year for Open Hands. Students have only had one week to put their tutor group hampers together for this week's House Challenge, and their generosity has been outstanding! Open Hands are a charity based in the city that helps some of the most vulnerable people and families in need, in the city and through their food bank in Braunstone. Last year they also supported families at our school with a special Christmas hamper to help them through the festive season. We would like to thank everyone who has helped us to help others!

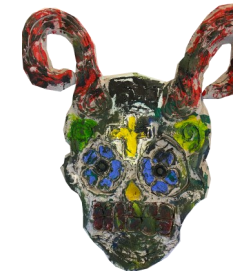




Stand Up!

On the 10th November we were joined by Dr Manny Barot and Kelly Scott from the National Holocaust Centre. They came to speak to students about the 'Stand Up' project which encourages young people to make a stand against discrimination of all kinds. Dr Manny Barot is a truly inspirational speaker and spoke at length about his experience of the prejudice and bullying he experienced growing up in Leicester. He gave students the motivation to make change happen and to stamp out hatred by being 'upstanders' and not bystanders. He talked at length about the Holocaust and how we must take a stand against persecution and discrimination.

Students were transfixed by his presentation, and how he has overcome negative experiences to become such a force for good and positivity, through his work with young people and the National Holocaust Centre.



The Winstanley School

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Behind the Mask

Year 9 students created these fantastic El Día de los Muertos masks during their Spanish lessons, it was a great way to learn about this festival which is celebrated in many Spanish speaking countries on the 1st November.



Winstanley Life



Christmas 2021

See what #winstanleyelf has been up to on Instagram! @thewinstanleyschool

No Pens Day

On the 24th November staff and students took part in [#NoPensWednesday](#) which is an initiative to improve communication skills for students of all ages. Here are some of the activities:-

Both Year 11 and 8 took part in Poetry Recitation. Students really enjoyed sitting back and using their listening skills to appreciate the words and meaning of the poems.

Yr 10 students used images to create narratives for creative writing.

Year 9 and 10 Media Studies students undertook magazine cover analysis in groups - being able to discuss the feature of the magazine using media language is a really good skill to acquire for their GCSE course.

In Maths, students created 3D shapes to explore area and measurements.

Hospitality & Catering students took part in cookery practicals. Year 10 baked mini Christmas cakes and fairy cakes.

Communication and good listening skills are vital in a busy kitchen.

Year 11 took part in virtual mock interviews with local employers arranged by Leicestershire Cares and our Careers Coordinators. A fantastic opportunity to practice real-life communication skills ready for college or employment.

Year 7 took part in a role-play Q&A with the characters from their reading book, The Terrific Thing that Happened to Barnaby Rooket.

In Geography Year 7s watched and discussed how low income countries cope in temperatures over 50°C. In groups and using just two sheets of A3, one glue stick and one pair of scissors they had to create something to help keep people in poverty cool.

It was fantastic to see so many creative and innovative ways to support learning. The day also helps teachers to identify pupils who need additional support or need to learn using different methods. Well done to Mrs Hendra for coordinating the event.



Narrative Workshop

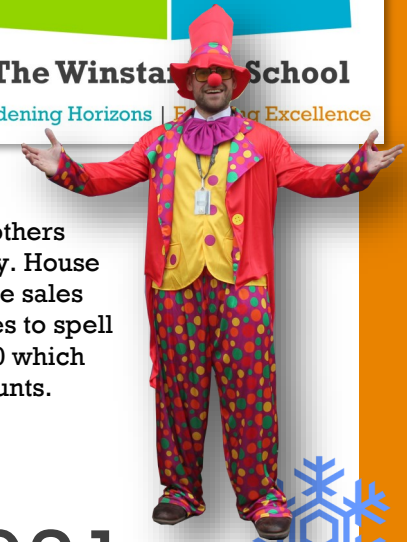
On the 25th November all Year 11 students had a narrative workshop session with storyteller, Mike Payton. Once again, Mike delivered upbeat and engaging sessions focused on how to create meaningful and developed narratives from simple stories.

The students were actively encouraged to share their stories and have hopefully gained more detailed knowledge of the skills required to achieve the highest marks in their GCSE English Language exams.



Kindness

The week beginning the 15th November was really busy at Winstanley, with students taking part in Odd Sock Day on the Monday for the start of Anti Bullying Week and ending on Friday with Children In Need. During the week students were asked to think about kindness and compassion which neatly linked the theme of One Kind Word to thinking about others less fortunate for Children in Need on the Friday. House Captains did a fantastic job of organising bake sales every day and Tutor Groups collected pennies to spell kind words. Over the week we collected £470 which really does demonstrate that every penny counts. Well done to all involved!



Winstanley Life



Don't forget to keep a look out for #HotChocFri each week on our socials.



Christmas 2021

Winstanley Wedding

Earlier this term 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 Mr Turner as Father of the Bride. Rihanna and Ibrahim 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. The benefit of recreating a realistic event is that students really do remember the key facts and have excelled when answering exam questions on this topic in their assessments and exams. Special

thanks should also go to students who played an active role in the ceremony – Ellis who had the important job of best man, Julienne and Chelsea who provided some beautiful singing, Beth, Tia-Dora, Keisha and Megan who were the bridesmaids, Archie and Gvinder who did the scripture reading, Damien, Reon, Mason and Dawud who were ushers. We want to especially thank everyone at Friar Lane and Braunstone Church who enabled us to provide this fantastic opportunity for our students. They really do make our students feel welcome and had recreated a wedding reception for the students who were rehearsing their roles prior to the event so that they could eat their pizza in style!



Magical Music

Some of our keen Musicians were invited to attend a lunchtime concert in the beautiful Victorian Gallery at New Walk Museum. It was a fantastic opportunity for them to hear two wonderful musicians playing live. The musicians Mark Taylor (flute) and Nathan Tinker (piano) were praised for their varied and interesting programme which was a fantastic opportunity for our students to experience this type of concert, with amazing introductions to the pieces played.





The Winstanley School

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Independence

In November students from across the school performed an amazing Winter Recital at Braunstone Civic Centre. It was the ideal opportunity for them to perform in front of a real audience. They also provided teas and refreshments and sold some beautiful reindeer that they had made in DT. Well done to all involved and to Mrs Olner and Mrs Derry for supporting the event which encouraged students to be independent and assist with planning the event.



Hard Work

Students from EcoClub have been out on another litterpick with Geoff from the Braunstone litter Wombles. It was a great opportunity for them to help keep our local area clean and also gain a great understanding of the impact of rubbish on our environment. Geoff has a great knowledge of what materials can be recycled and how long certain items can take to biodegrade, so although litter picking is hard work students really gain a greater understanding to help make our planet greener.



Never Giving Up

During this term, students have been working closely with Leicester & Leicestershire Citizens, who are helping our students to solve local problems and actively campaign for solutions. They have worked with various groups to find out what problems and challenges exist in our community to actively questioning the local council and politicians for solutions.



Let

SHINE

Excellence

Supporting Others

Students in The SHINE Centre have put together some fantastic care hampers for two organisations. They have carefully thought about what items would be useful for people who are homeless and living on the streets during the Christmas period.

They have also collected items for the Leicester based charity, Baby Basics and these were collected by Laura Hutchinson, who had a chat with students about the work that they do with local families. Baby Basics help about 55 families a month not just with baby products but with products for new mums, products for older siblings, toys, books and clothing for toddlers, as well as providing a safe space for babies to sleep and pushchairs.



Well done to Lacey, Julia, Olivia, Kinga, Vilte, Manmit, Gabriel, Damian, Aaliyah and Scarlet whose artwork was chosen to be featured on this year's Winstanley Christmas card. The theme was 'Airfix Christmas' and students were asked to create a one colour design. Year 7 and 8 students were also asked to write a Christmas Poem to be featured in the card,

which will be sent out to neighbours near school. Well done to Andre in Year 7 for being chosen as our Christmas Poet.

Other News...

It's been a long and busy term at Winstanley, in the last few weeks our English Department has hosted an Encouraging Reading Evening for parents and students. Students who attended were given a book as an early Christmas present and parents were given lots of useful information to support reading at home.

We have also been receiving regular input from Project Rugby, who coach our students and have close links with Leicester Forest Rugby Club and Leicester Tigers.

Severn Trent have visited to talk about students about water, where it comes from and where it goes. This was organised by Mr Megginson to support learning in Geography.

And finally, Braunstone Town Mayor, Cllr Darshan Singh came to visit Winstanley and enjoyed Hot Chocolate Friday with some of our Year 10 students.



Thank you to VUE Cinema, Meridian for inviting our Year 7 students to watch 'Ron's Gone Wrong' for free in return for them assisting with a fire drill.

