

# A Bright Future

On the 24th August we welcomed our Year 11 leavers back to school to celebrate some fantastic exam results. Their resilience and determination has really shone through, they have supported each other, worked hard, demonstrated their ability to work independently and have never given up despite the many challenges they have faced to enable them to achieve excellence. Students and parents feel that they have been well supported by teachers and staff at the school who have ensured that students received the help and support they needed to achieve their future goals. Students have been offered extra revision sessions and we have employed academic coaches to ensure that our students have achieved the results they need to progress on to college, A Levels at 6th form, apprenticeships or employment.

We are really pleased that so many of our students have aspired to "SHINE brighter than they thought they could" and taken opportunities to not only study hard but make fantastic contributions to school life and our community.

Headteacher, Mr Bennett said: The last few years in school have been extremely challenging. These results are a real tribute to the hard work that the students have put in to make sure that they can progress on to their next stage of education. We are incredibly proud of all that they have achieved.

Our students are now off to take their next steps, and following a range of further education routes to achieve their career aspirations.



## Welcome

What a term! It seems to have rushed by and I can't quite believe we are at half term already. As you know we had an OFSTED Inspection early September. We are still waiting for the final report which we will share with you as soon as we get it. I can say that we are very pleased with the outcome and that the inspectors were very positive about the school and the developments that we are making. As always it has been brilliant to see the students have a wide variety of opportunities and see the staff supporting them to 'shine brighter than they thought they could.' I am very proud to lead the Winstanley School and work in partnership with you and the community. Have a fantastic and restful half term.

Mr Bennett, Headteacher.



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# Autumn 2023

## Hello Yellow

Tuesday the 10th October was #mentalhealthawarenessday and staff and students donned their brightest hues for #HelloYellow which aims to support the work of Young Minds, who campaign for a greater understanding and more funding for young people who are impacted by mental health. It's important

for young people to understand their feelings, know where to go for help and to look at strategies to deal with times when they may feel sad or upset. Wearing yellow is a way of showing solidarity with young people and helping them know they are not alone. The more people who show they care, the more confident young people will feel about talking to someone if they are struggling. We raised £140 from our cake sale at break time which we are donating to Young Minds to support their amazing work.



# Winstanley Warriors



We have just started a new initiative called Winstanley Warriors to provide our learners with opportunities to develop their emotional literacy and their resilience through exploration and discovery. Sessions take place 'outside the classroom' and incorporate a number of different environments including forests, woodlands, national parks, country parks and visiting seasonal attractions. Through exposure to these fresh and exciting experiences, we aim to encourage students to 'be themselves', be collaborative' and 'be impactful.' Students visited Beacon Hill Country Park for their first session and had a great time exploring the rugged landscape and admiring the views.



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We will now be sending messages out via Arbor, which you can receive via a push notification if you have the app. You will still get emails via your email address. The Arbor App gives you up to date information regarding your child and you can also access their timetable and progress. Please make sure we have your correct email address as this will enable you to sign in. Further instructions can be found on our website - [follow this link](#).

## Winstanley Life

# Green Flag Award

# Autumn 2023

## Celebrating Success



Last Friday we were very proud to award certificates and badges to our Eco Club members. They have gone from strength to strength over the last two years and the school has now been awarded 'Green Flag Eco School' status, thanks to their hard work. The club now has over 20 young people who meet every week and take part in activities from litter picking, assessing how we can be energy efficient around school to speaking in assemblies and at local conferences. They have also worked closely with Kingsway Primary School who are now

planning their own Eco Club. It's great to see young people taking on leadership roles within the school and being proactive on issues which matter to them.



Well done to all our students who received awards at our KS4 Curriculum Awards Evening. We hope parents and carers enjoyed celebrating the achievement and hard work of our successful students. It's a fantastic opportunity to recognise students who continually aspire to our SHINE values and work hard to achieve excellence. Our Students of the Year were:

Jasmin - Always aspiring to try new things and has gained so much confidence through her determination to challenge herself.

Oscar - Has showed great resilience, courage and determination to succeed, gained confidence and new life skills along the way.

Charlie - Continually demonstrates our SHINE values in abundance. He is a resilient character who is a shining example to others.

Grace - A credit to The Winstanley School, she is always one of the first students to volunteer her time to support the school and is always a wonderful ambassador. She is an independent student and willing to support others.







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## Speak Up in Drama

We were pleased to welcome Zoe and Tamika from Curve Theatre who are back at Winstanley to work with a new group of students as part of the National Theatre Speak Up campaign. Speak Up is a secondary school programme that gives young people the opportunity to explore issues that matter to them.

Developed for young people whose voices are not always heard, the Speak Up activity is co-created with each school and its students and it's an amazing opportunity for us to be involved in a national incentive that helps students develop and control their own narrative around social issues that they feel strongly about.



## Taste of Europe

Last Friday students who have demonstrated great skills in Languages this term or



participated in European Day of Languages were invited to a Eurobrunch. They could taste savoury and sweet food from various European countries. One student described it as "It was the best lunch ever!", what a great way for students to get a taste of Europe without leaving the classroom.

# Winstanley Life

## Lucky Penny

Last summer one of our sharp-eyed students made an amazing discovery in the school grounds. Vilte in Year 9 spotted what she thought was a 5p in amongst the grass, when she picked it up it was much lighter and the markings were unfamiliar - she took it to her tutor Mr Greenwood who found out the coin was a penny from the time of William the Conqueror, minted around 1068-1070. We believe that the coin was unearthed by the installation of a new telegraph pole, Vilte found the coin in amongst the grass which makes finding it even more remarkable. We have spoken to various agencies for advice, Richard Clark, Team Manager for Heritage at Leicestershire County Council said that the coin would probably have been a considerable loss for whoever had dropped it, probably from a pocket or coin purse. At the time the school site would probably have been agricultural land or forest not far from the ancient settlement of Braunstone. Our location is close to the Fosse Way, a popular route for people travelling from Leicester to other locations. We hope that a local museum might be interested in the coin for one of their collections, with Vilte being credited for its discovery, but we are still currently seeking the best outcome where the coin can be preserved as a significant historical find.

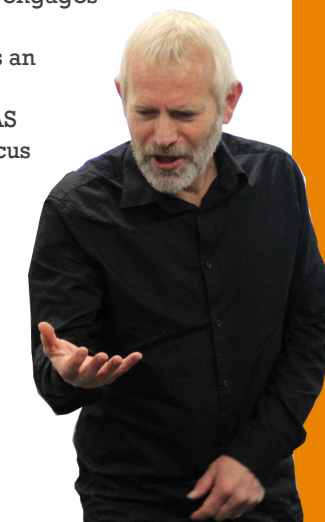


# Autumn 2023

## Storytelling

On the 4th October our Year 11 students took part in a creative writing workshop with storyteller Mike Payton. Mike has visited us several times before and he engages students in relatable anecdotes, which demonstrate how language and description can really bring a piece of writing to life. Narrative writing is an essential skill for GCSE English Language.

Mike works with a number of Midlands schools to help with the EDUQUAS GCSE creative prose writing section, a paper that demands more of a focus on believable and plausible stories. Mrs Hendra, English Lead Practitioner said about Mike's visit: "The students found Mike to be engaging and informative and he is undoubtedly a most outstanding storyteller! His focused sessions enabled our students to explore their creative side whilst considering exam board criteria for their written tasks without fear of 'getting it wrong' - we know that this will support them as we move ever closer to their GCSE English Language Exams. One student told me that she felt Mike's enthusiastic delivery enabled her to really see how simple the process of effective story writing can be and coupled with the structural approaches has meant that she intends to go away and practice her writing."



## Excellence

Well done to our staff who took part in the Leicester Half Marathon at the beginning of October. What a fantastic achievement, they joined others running for Open Hands and contributed to the £7075 raised so far. Open Hands support many families in need across the city and in our local area, through their food banks and compassion centre. Lovely to see the big smiles at the finish line and everyone shining bright for such a great cause.



## Hard Work

There was a real buzz at Winstanley for our Open Evening on the 21st 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 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. Student ambassadors should

be especially proud of supporting their school and it was great to see their enthusiasm.



## Independence

We want all students at Winstanley to develop a love of reading that will stay with them for life. This year we have taken the decision to extend tutor time so that all of our students can have reading lessons. We have selected a range of high quality texts to suit all interests and abilities and this is helping all of our students develop their reading fluency and comprehension so that they are able to continue to SHINE brightly during their time at Winstanley.



Let yourself

# SHINE

## Supporting Others

On the 20th September Stephen Lawrence Ambassadors joined other organisations from across the city at the King Power Stadium to highlight the areas of concern that matter most to the people of Leicester and Leicestershire. They joined up with Citizens' chapters from across the UK in a simultaneous launch of the nationwide agenda. Students were asked to wear clothes that reflected their culture to celebrate the diversity of our city. It's fantastic for our young people to have a voice about matters they are concerned about



and to be able to make positive steps towards change.



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## Never Giving Up

Great to see an ex-Winstanley student scoring for Leicester City this season. Congratulations to Wanya Marcal for breaking into the first team and getting his first goal.



Results of the inter-house table tennis for different year groups and overall.

Year 8 & 9 Table Tennis – Maple 4, Aspen 3, Elm 2 and Oak 2

Year 7 Table Tennis – Elm 4, Aspen 3, Oak 2, Maple 0

Overall PE House Points League – Aspen 6, Elm 6, Oak 4 and Maple 4

Well done to the Year 8 & 9 football and netball teams for their recent tournament efforts.

Not enough to win this time but still a credit to the school.

Swimming will start after half term, please see our website for details.





## More News

To find out all of our news as it happens follow us on social media. There you will find more pictures from the stories you have read in this newsletter. Every Friday we celebrate student success through our 'Shining Stars' Shout Outs and Hot Chocolate with the Head.



College Open Days 2023			
Loughborough College Sat 7 <sup>th</sup> Oct 10am-1pm Sat 4 <sup>th</sup> Nov 9.30am-1.30pm Sat 25 <sup>th</sup> Nov 9.30am-1.30pm	Loughborough	Bosworth Academy Post-16 Thurs 26 <sup>th</sup> Oct 4.30pm - 7.00pm	NWSLC Mon 23 <sup>rd</sup> Oct 5pm-8pm Mon 27 <sup>th</sup> Nov 5pm-8pm
Leicester College Thurs 26 <sup>th</sup> Oct 4pm - 7.30pm Sat 25 <sup>th</sup> Nov 10am-5pm	Leicester College	Brooksbury Campus Sat 26 <sup>th</sup> Oct 9am-4pm Animal Studies Open Day Sat 11 <sup>th</sup> Nov 10am-1pm Performing Arts - Melton Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> Nov 5pm-7pm	Brooksbury Campus
Gateway College Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> October 5pm-7pm Sat 28 <sup>th</sup> October 10am-1pm	Gateway	Beauchamp City Sixth Form Sat 4 <sup>th</sup> Nov 10am-2pm	Beauchamp City Sixth Form
WQE Sat 4 <sup>th</sup> Nov 10am-4pm	wqe	Stephenson College Sat 4 <sup>th</sup> Nov 10am-1pm	Stephenson College



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**Year 11...time to start thinking about your next steps, visit as many Open Events as you can so that you can make the right choice for your future career.**

# Winstanley Life

## After school...

Our after school Aspire Club is going from strength to strength with more than 100 students attending a variety of activities with more being added all the time. Students who attend get to socialise with friends in a safe environment, have some food and learn new skills, encourage your child to sign up for something after half term.

# Autumn 2023

## Free School Meals

If your child is not currently registered for Free School Meals and you receive any of the following benefits, your child may be able to get free school meals:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

If your child receives Free School Meals, the cost of a meal deal will be added to your child's payment card each day, and this can be used to purchase canteen food. Additionally, all students entitled to free school meals will receive GCSE texts and revision material at either a reduced cost or free of charge. We can also help with payment towards curriculum trips and visits.

Click on the link to apply: <https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims>

Once you have applied using the above link, the system will check whether you have been eligible in the past or will be eligible in the future if your home circumstances change



## Autumn Activities

**Monday**  
Cooking Club  
Study club

**Tuesday**  
Basketball  
Study club  
Hair & Beauty  
Nintendo Switch

**Wednesday**  
Dance  
Swimming (girls)  
Study Club  
STEM  
Further Maths  
Tea & Biscuits with Miss Harris  
Pokemon Club  
DofE  
Board Games

**Thursday**  
Study Club  
Swimming (boys)  
Football Club

Please speak to Mr Turner to sign up