# Remember Stephen

On the 22nd April we celebrated Stephen Lawrence Day. It was amazing to see so many staff and students remembering Stephen by wearing something orange for school. Leading up to this we had participated in several activities for students to think about what happened to Stephen and how we can use his legacy to stand up to racism, be kind and think about the hopeful future we would like to see for ourselves and others. Our Stephen Lawrence Ambassadors led an assembly that was live-streamed to the rest of the

school. We were joined by Sherilyn Pereira, from the Stephen Lawrence

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Research Centre at DMU, who has worked closely with the school since the creation of the centre, she said she is so proud of the work our students have done to spread our anti-racist message. Our Stephen Lawrence Ambassador Group has led the way, sharing Stephen's story and what we can learn from his family's struggle for justice, both at our school and across our MAT. This year we have encouraged students to think about Stephen's aspirations for his future and what they hope for their

On the 17th April a group of our students visited DeMontfort University to participate in activities for Stephen

Lawrence Day. The events were arranged to celebrate Stephen's interests and

career aspirations. Stephen was a young man whose life was

cut short by his racially motivated murder, he was aspirational and had hopes and dreams for his future which he never had the opportunity to fulfil. Stephen hoped to go to University and study architecture,

our students met architecture students and practitioners to discover more about the subject, taking part in a workshop to look at ways the DMU campus could be improved. The news team from BBC East Midlands spoke to staff and students about Stephen Lawrence Day and were featured on the local news.

### Welcome

What an amazing half term! I can't believe how quickly it has gone and how much staff and students have managed to cram into such a short time. I continue to be very proud to be Headteacher at Winstanley - the staff impress me and humble me by their amazing positivity and



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hard work which makes sure that the young people get a great experience. The students make me proud because of the way they demonstrate the SHINE values in so many ways. It has been great to see our Year 11s approach their GCSEs in such a positive manner and I have no doubt that this will pay off when they come in to collect their results in August. As always the newsletter is full of students who are doing amazing things and really showing off all five of our shine values and definitely 'shining brighter

than they thought they could.' Thank you again for all your support. It is brilliant to work in partnership with you. Have a restful and enjoyable half term and wherever you are I do hope the sun shines on you.

Mr Bennett, Headteacher

# **Creative Futures**

Loughborough University kindly invited some of our Year 10 Art students to participate in 'Creative Futures', a series of workshops

giving students the chance to find out about university life and the range of courses and careers available within the arts. They got to experiment with screen printing, paper sculpture, thread & sound (smart textiles), ceramics, lego mechanisms and attended a lecture by Dan Heath Textile/Interior

Designer. It was a great experience for our students, who demonstrated our SHINE values and impressed the university staff with their enthusiasm and hard work.



### Rain and Shine!

Year 7 students have been learning all about the weather. Earlier in the term they made rain gauges using plastic pop bottles. This involved cutting off the top of the bottle and turning it upside down to catch the

rain. They then added a measurement scale to the bottle to see how much rain we will have

over a certain time frame. Students have also been really creative with their homework on cloud formations.

Well done Year 7, keep up the great work.

# First Story

Before the Easter holiday, First Story students took part in two creative writing workshops at the University of Leicester, they also had a tour of the university campus and met with University students. At the end of the event they took part in a showcase where they read the incredible pieces of writing they produced during the workshops. It was an amazing opportunity for students to experience University life

and further improve their writing skills.

**1110** 2024



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happens....



# **Parliamentary**

**Speakers** 

A group of our Stephen Lawrence Ambassadors were invited to join CitizensUK to talk at an APPG meeting in Parliament about the need for greater racial equity in education. They joined with other students from across the UK to talk about their experiences and the work they have done through their involvement with Citizens and being Stephen Lawrence Ambassadors. The all party group are listening to the opinions of young people and educators and calling for anti-racism to be built into the national curriculum. Our students Amy,

Shelemiah and Mona enjoyed their trip to the capital, and were very proud to be able to have their voices

heard by decision makers.

Baroness Lawrence, who was speaking at the meeting, was so impressed with the presentations that she has committed to sharing the stories of the young people with Sir Keir Starmer with the hopes of getting support from the Labour leadership in the next general election.

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During Mental Health Week in May we encouraged students to participate in activities to get them moving. One of the most important things we can do to help protect our mental health is regular movement. Exercise

releases "feel good" hormones, that reduce feelings of stress and anxiety. It also helps us feel better about our bodies. It can improve our sleep too. If it involves other people, like being part of a team, a class or a group can also boost our mental health. Our Wellbeing Ambassadors presented assemblies to make students aware of help and support that they can access, and top tips for mental wellbeing. On Friday, 17th May staff and students wore something green for school to raise money for Heads Up, a local organisation who work closely with the school and our local community.





### Aspire Club

The Aspire Programme

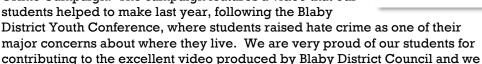
Our new Aspire after-school club is proving really popular. There are activities most days, it provides students with an opportunity to try out new activities, a safe space to spend time with friends and hot food. The full timetable of activities can be found on our website.

There's something for everyone including a wide range of sporting activities, art activities and study club which gives students a quiet space to complete homework. This term we have added Disco-cise, Nerf Club and Darts.



### **Hate Crime**

On the 20th May we were joined by Hate Crime Police Officers Michelle and Alison, Cheryl Cashmore, Chairman of the Blaby District Council and Ian Parry, also from the council who were in school to launch their latest Hate Crime Campaign. The campaign features a video that our students helped to make last year, following the Blaby



hope it has a powerful impact on all who watch it - it's another great example of student ambassadors leading the way to positive change.



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# Winstanley Life



Shortly after the Easter break GCSE History students visited Kenilworth Castle in Warwickshire to support their learning for the GCSE topic 'History Around Us'. The trip was to see how the site had evolved over time. The castle has 900 years of history to explore

fortress to an Elizabethan
pleasure palace. Thank
you to our tour guide for
giving us such a
thorough insight into

the lives of the people
who have lived and
worked in the castle
throughout its history.
Students enjoyed the
trip and gained a lot of
knowledge which will
benefit their GCSE.

# Spring 2024

### The Great Outdoors

On the 19th April over 30 of our Year 9 students took part in a practice expedition for their DofE award. The DofE scheme has been going from strength to strength with more students participating each year. We are able to support students in school with other elements of the award such as learning a new skill through our after-



school Aspire provision and volunteering at Kingsway Primary School, supporting their children with reading. The walk today was through Bradgate Park, following a map, and meeting with staff at checkpoints. After following the route through the park, students continued past the reservoir and over the road to Swithland Woods. When they do their final assessed expedition they will complete two days of walking and camp overnight. DofE is a fantastic experience for students, teaching them independence and improving confidence, it's also valued by colleges and universities helping students to achieve their career goals in the future.

### **Supporting Others**

During May Oscar and his Auntie, Miss Meadows for organised an excellent cake sale at break time in aid of Alzheimer's. They sold cakes every break time

> during the week and raised a total of £201.39. They were thrilled with the support they received from staff and students and especially Mr Megginson for making the arrangements.

### Independence



Winstanley Warriors provides our learners with opportunities to develop their emotional literacy and their resilience through exploration and discovery. Sessions take place 'outside of the classroom' and incorporate a number of different environments including



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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 impactful.' Students visited Brocks Hill Country Park in Oadby recently and had a great time exploring the woods and making dens.

## Let yourself

### Hard Work



Every week students take part in house challenges during Tutor Time. The house challenges cover a range of topics and are designed to be fun and encourage team work, with friendly competition between houses. Recently a paperchain out a single sheet of A4 paper, to see which tutor group could make the longest. This activity really got students thinking, problem solving

students were asked to make

and coming up with creative solutions.

### Excellence

SHIN

Year 9 students have been working really hard in Hospitality and Catering this term, striving for excellence in every practical lesson. Their favourite practical has been recreating the famous Colin the Caterpillar cake. They

made the chocolate swiss roll from scratch, then made a buttercream ganache and decorated it: most made their own faces out of fondant icing. They looked fantastic and certainly demonstrated a high level of skill.

# Never Giving Up

 Our Year 11 students have made a great start so far with their GCSE exams. They are approaching them in a mature manner and taking advantage of the extra revision lessons offered in school. We are nearly half way through now with half term to relax as well as study, ready for a fresh start after the break. We will have some extra sessions at school over the half term break, a suggested study plan can be found on our website. We want all of our students to get the best possible outcomes in their exams so attendance at revision sessions is really important

to enable students to 'SHINE brighter than they thought they could'.



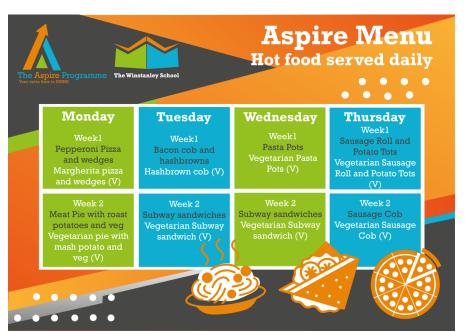












#### More news...

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 an Hot Chocolate with the Head.



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