

Spirit of Giving

Earlier this month we had incredible success with our Open Hands House Challenge! Students from all tutor groups came together to collect a massive amount of items for **Open Hands**, a local charity dedicated to supporting food banks and providing essential assistance to people in need across Leicester and Leicestershire.

The competition, which encouraged friendly competition to see which tutor group could gather the most items, truly brought out the festive spirit of generosity and teamwork. The result? One of our largest collections yet!

Representatives from Open Hands visited Winstanley to collect the donations, and our dedicated Prefects stepped up to help load everything into their van. The incredible effort and coordination from our school community were praised by the charity, who expressed their heartfelt gratitude.

A huge thank you goes to everyone who contributed to this amazing initiative. Whether it was a single can of food or a whole bag of items, every donation will help brighten Christmas for families in need. This challenge has shown us the power of working together for a common cause. By pooling our efforts, we've proven that even small acts of kindness can add up to make a big difference. Well done to all the students, staff, and families who supported this campaign – you've truly embodied the spirit of giving this Christmas.



Welcome

Wow - I have just had a look through the newsletter and it has reminded me of all the amazing things we have done this term. It has seemed like an incredibly long term, but it is brilliant to see how the young people have been 'shining brighter than they thought they could and all the opportunities that have been available. I am very proud to lead The Winstanley School and to work in partnership with you all and it is brilliant to see the young people thriving in so many ways. Our assemblies this week are focused on how we can be a light in our community. I just want to highlight the amazing work we did as a school collecting donations for Open Hands - so many vulnerable and needy people in the City will benefit from what we collected - thank you everyone you have truly been a light in our community. Thank you for all your support - I do hope you have a blessed Christmas full of light and hope.

Mr Bennett, Headteacher.



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Christmas 2024



SHINE bright

The SHINE Centre students have been working together to make a Christmas Hamper and **support others**. Charlie the Dog has been lending a helping paw too! They are making their donation to the



Braunstone Foodshare - Christmas Dinner Campaign 2024 which is local and organised by b-inspired.



Well done to everyone in SHINE for your generous donations.

Christmas at Church

On the 13th December our Year 7 students took part in a heart-warming Christmas service at Friar Lane and Braunstone Baptist Church. The service was a beautiful opportunity to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas, and it was wonderful to see our students actively participating by reading aloud and singing.

A special thank you goes to Rev. John Grant and the church members for their warm welcome and for creating such a meaningful experience for everyone involved. Year 8 students will also have their turn to attend the service, continuing the festive celebrations and further deepening their understanding of this special season. We are so proud of our students for their involvement and the spirit they brought to this event. It was a joyful start to the final week of school.



Bake Off

A huge thank you to everyone who participated in our Staff Bake Off and to those who supported by purchasing the delicious treats



during break time! Together, we raised an impressive £82.50 for Children in Need. Congratulations to Miss Henry, our Bake Off Champion, whose show-stopping creation wowed everyone! While her bake took the crown, every contribution played a part in making this event a fantastic success for a great cause.



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Supporting Children in Need

Christmas

2024

On Friday 15th November students and staff showed their support for Children in Need by wearing something spotty to school! This fun and colourful event helped raise awareness and funds for a vital charity that transforms the lives of vulnerable children and young people across the UK. The fundraising didn't stop there - throughout the week, we also held cake sales, which were a fantastic success! It was wonderful to see such enthusiasm and generosity from everyone involved.

A huge thank you to everyone who baked, donated, or simply enjoyed a sweet treat. Your contributions have helped us support this incredible cause and bring hope to those who need it most. We raised a total of £379.18, so well done to everyone who took part.



Urban Geography

On the 9th December over 60 of our students embarked on an exciting trip to Birmingham to deepen their understanding of urban geography. The focus of the day was conducting urban fieldwork to explore the regeneration of the city centre, a vital topic in their studies.

Students engaged in a variety of activities, including conducting questionnaires with members of the public, measuring footfall at different locations, and performing self-surveys across three key sites. These hands-on tasks allowed them to collect valuable data while gaining first hand insights into how regeneration projects transform urban spaces. The highlights of the trip included visiting the impressive redevelopment of New Street Station, marvelling at Europe's largest library, and soaking up the festive atmosphere at Birmingham's famous Christmas Market. Students also enjoyed the opportunity to explore the vibrant city centre and witness the impacts of urban renewal.

The students returned inspired, with practical knowledge to apply in their geography studies and a greater appreciation of urban regeneration.





Boys Shine Bright

On the 19th November we celebrated International Men's Day with an incredible Boys Shine Brighter event! It was an inspiring morning filled with learning, motivation, and insight as our boys had the privilege of hearing from delegates from a variety of roles. A huge thank you to our guest speaker, Ayoola Erinle for sharing interesting and insightful stories and valuable advice. Events like this remind us of the importance of celebrating positive male role models and encouraging boys to dream big, work hard, and build a brighter future.

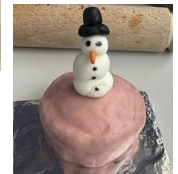
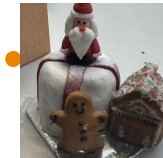
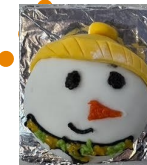
Thank you to the following delegates who gave up their valuable time to join us at Winstanley today - David (Social Care Recruitment & Retention Officer), Parin (Senior Supplier Management Engineer Thermo Fisher Scientific), Paul (CWL Production Manager, Caterpillar), Steven (CWL Production Manager, Caterpillar), William (Graduate Trainee, Caterpillar), Paul (Design Engineer), Marc (Assistant Operations Manager, CasePak) and Ayoola (Marine Engineer, Ministry of Defence). Let's continue to uplift, support, and empower each other every day!



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Christmas Baking



Winstanley Life

Remember Together

Christmas 2024

On the 11th November we hosted our Remembrance Day event along with Kingsway Primary School and The Shine Centre.

The event began with an opening speech from Mr. Bennett, setting a reflective tone for the proceedings. Students from both schools delivered poignant poems followed by the moving sound of the Reveille played by Mr. Greenwood. The ceremony then paused for a two-minute silence, a solemn tribute to honour those who have served and sacrificed for our freedom.

A highlight of the ceremony was the creative and heartfelt wreaths made by our students during tutor time, which they proudly laid to pay their respects. The atmosphere was further enriched by Miss Gyimah's beautiful rendition of *Lean on Me*, a song that echoed the unity of the day.

This event wouldn't have been possible without the efforts of our staff, students, and our school community.



Odd Socks

On the 12th November staff and students showed their support for Odd Socks Day as part of Anti-Bullying Week! By wearing their most unique, colourful and mismatched socks, they reminded us all of an important message: each of us is different and unique, and that's something to celebrate. Odd Socks Day is a simple but powerful way to show that we embrace our differences and stand together against bullying. Thank you to everyone who joined in and wore their odd socks with pride! Let's keep spreading kindness, acceptance and respect every day.



We are on **Instagram**, join our other 1298 followers!

Star Poets

We are incredibly proud of Cadi-Leigh and Maisie-Ray, who participated in an event at Blaby District Council earlier this month to read their thought-provoking poem. Their poem was entered into a competition organized by the Youth Council to raise awareness about the issue of Hate Crime under the powerful strapline: "Hate Has No Home Here." Although they didn't take home a prize, Cadi-Leigh and Maisie-Ray displayed courage by reading their poem in front of the judging committee. Their words truly made an impact and we couldn't be more proud of them.



Going Global!

During December Year 8 completed their Real Life Assessment task by participating in The International Trade Game - combining maths with geography and economics.

They represented different countries with varying degrees of economic development and competed to earn the most amount of money by constructing and selling shapes and by trading materials and equipment with other countries. The students were all actively engaged and enjoyed participating in this authentic learning experience!



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A Journey of Growth

My time at Winstanley School was instrumental in shaping both my personal and professional development. The values of supporting others, hard work, independence, perseverance and excellence, which are embedded within the Winstanley community, have left a lasting impact on me and have directly influenced my career path within the automotive, aerospace and pharmaceutical industries. From the outset, Winstanley fostered an environment where collaboration and helping one another thrived. Whether it was through peer support or the dedicated efforts of teachers, I learned the true value of teamwork

and how lifting others up can propel us forward. This sense of mutual support has been crucial as I moved into my career, where working well with others is essential.

The emphasis on hard work and independence at Winstanley has prepared me for the challenges ahead. It taught me how to take responsibility for my learning, manage my time effectively, and stay motivated even when faced with obstacles. The academic standards pushed me to achieve excellence, setting a foundation of discipline that continues to guide me in my professional life, where precision and innovation are key to success.

Perhaps most importantly, Winstanley taught me the power of resilience. I learned not to shy away from difficulties, but to persist and adapt. The value of never giving up has been a driving force in my career, helping me to overcome setbacks and continue striving for success in some of the world's most demanding industries. Looking back, my time at Winstanley School has been pivotal in shaping who I am today, and the values I gained here continue to influence and inspire my career every day.

Parin Chouhan, former student from the class of 2001



November

- Throughout November, we raised awareness about Movember - a charity that focuses on men's health, including mental health, suicide prevention, and men's health issues. One of Movember's key messages is to support men in speaking out about their struggles and knowing where to find help when they need it. Our students and staff came together for a special challenge: completing a 60K run on the school field. The 60K represents the 60 men lost to suicide every hour globally - a sobering reminder of the importance of this cause. Students completed just one lap of the field, and with around 50 students taking part, we smashed the 60K goal! Together, we're showing our young men that it's okay to talk about the challenges they face and that support is always available.





Presenting our Prefects

Earlier this term our newly elected Prefects received their new uniforms, looking smart and ready to lead in their distinctive grey blazers and house ties! As they step into their roles, they'll be helping to make Winstanley an even better place, representing our values with pride and supporting students and staff alike. Let's congratulate our new prefects and wish them all the best as they take on this exciting responsibility!

Try Rugby!

Well done to our Year 7 and 8 students who took part in an U13 Rugby Festival at Ashby Rugby Club, hosted by Leicester Tigers! The team played brilliantly, showing great skill, teamwork and resilience throughout the day.



They narrowly missed out on two games but finished strong with an exciting win in their final match. We're proud of each player for their hard work and determination. Thanks to Ashby Rugby Club and Leicester Tigers for an amazing festival experience!



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Positive Actions

Dallaglio Rugby Works who come into school to deliver sessions with our young people every week did an inspiring session with StreetDoctors for some of our Year 10 students. StreetDoctors, a national charity that empowers young people to step up in emergencies and be part of the solution to violence by providing essential first-aid training. The session inspired students to have the confidence to take positive actions within their communities.

Sports for All

At the end of October PE held an inclusive Sports Event for Year 7. It was fantastic to see students of all abilities giving their best, cheering each other on, and working together to earn points for their school houses. Everyone had a chance to shine and try new things and it was inspiring to watch friends supporting each other and showing that true success comes from lifting each other up. Thank you to our amazing helpers for keeping scores and ensuring everything ran smoothly. Well done Aspen House (Green Tie) who were the winners. Together, we showed that sports are for everyone!



Exciting Day Away

Our students had the incredible opportunity to attend the first-ever Upstanders Conference at the King Power Stadium, and what a day it was! From stepping onto the pitch to hearing from our fantastic keynote speaker, Joe McSharry, Community Coordinator for Leicester City, they were truly inspired. Joe shared insights on what makes a great leader including empathy, compassion and kindness. After an inspiring start, students got down to business, setting goals for each Upstander Group within the school. We're so proud of their dedication and can't wait to see the positive impact they'll bring to our school community! A big thank you to John Olaleye, Diversity and Inclusion Lead who provided this fantastic opportunity for our students, the venue gave our first Upstanders Conference a professional setting that inspired our students to 'Shine Brighter than they thought they could'.



Police Visit

In November local police officers came into school to talk to students about the serious issue of knife crime. The officers informally chatted to students and hosted a quiz, giving students a chance to test their knowledge and learn



more about keeping safe. Students took on board the important messages shared. A huge thank you to our local police for their time and commitment to educating our young people.



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Christmas Kindness

This week, the Wellbeing Ambassadors have been busy delivering Kindness Postcards written by students and staff, spreading joy and festive cheer throughout the school. These thoughtful messages, created over the past week, aimed to brighten someone's day with words of appreciation and gratitude. The Wellbeing Ambassadors embraced the Christmas spirit, donning festive hats as they visited tutor group. Their cheerful presence and uplifting messages brought smiles to faces across the school, reminding everyone of the power of kindness and community during Christmas time. The Kindness Postcards initiative highlights the importance of wellbeing and positivity, particularly at this time of year. Each card carried a heartfelt message, whether it was to acknowledge friendship, celebrate achievements or simply offer a kind word. As the term draws to a close, the Wellbeing Ambassadors' efforts have left a lasting impact, reminding everyone of the importance of spreading kindness, not just at Christmas but all year round.



Happy Christmas

We return to school on Tuesday, 7th January 2025



COPING AT CHRISTMAS

Christmas can be tough. That's why it's important to know there's always someone you can talk to.



0300 123 3393
Helpline
mind.org.uk



Text SHOUT to 85258
24/7 text service
giveushout.org



116 123
24/7 helpline
samaritans.org



Text YM to 85258
24/7 text service
youngminds.org.uk



0800 58 58 58
Helpline for men
thecalmzone.net



0800 068 4141
Under 35s Helpline
papyrus-uk.org



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There are links to support groups and further information on our website - [Click Here](#)

Christmas 2024



Panto Fun

On the last week of term students in Years 7 and 8 enjoyed a trip to De Montfort Hall to watch the magical pantomime *Snow White*. With its wickedly entertaining storyline, stunning dancing and festive humour, the show kept everyone captivated. The Wicked Queen's jealousy over Snow White's beauty set the stage for a thrilling adventure, complete with panto jokes and hit songs. This was just one of several exciting reward trips this term, including visits to the cinema, ensuring students have had plenty of opportunities for enrichment and festive fun beyond the classroom.



Download our parental engagement app for messages, notifications and student information.

Excellence

We were very proud to give out Colour Awards during this term in House Assemblies. Students were chosen by subject leaders and awards given to students who have worked hard and demonstrated commitment in lessons. Students were given a badge which they can wear on their lanyards or blazer. Well done to all students who have received an award this term, whether at the colours assembly, a shining stars 'shout out', Hot Chocolate with the Head or a postcard home.



Hard Work

Well done to our Catering Team, who cooked an amazing Christmas dinner again this year. We were treated to tasty turkey, scrumptious sprouts, crunchy carrots all the trimmings and a choice of two desserts. We always have a massive uptake for Christmas lunch and they work so hard to serve up this festive treat. It was great to see so many students and staff participating in Christmas Jumper Day and raised £61 for Save the Children.



Let yourself



SHINE

Never Giving Up



Recently, Ads who left Winstanley a few years ago came in to speak to a group of Year 11 boys in English about the real-life importance of SHINE values, in particular never giving up however hard you may find things. He spoke about his pathway not being easy and how he has developed thanks to the support and encouragement he received from some of his teachers as Winstanley. He also told the boys about some of his adventures in the Army which involved some overseas trips including a visit to Normandy, adventurous training in Germany, mountain climbing, hill walking and mountain biking.



Independence

Our Year 11 students have been hard at work this term, gaining hands-on experience in the construction industry! As part of their work experience project, these aspiring builders have been visiting a local company once a fortnight with Mr. Higgins. They've been learning the basics of building, including: Site Safety, Digging Footings, Steel Works, Laying Footings and Bricklaying.

Their skills and knowledge have grown tremendously over the term, and they've made fantastic progress! The end project? A practical and impressive BBQ/Bin

Store that showcases their hard work and teamwork. A big thank you to ATT Formwork for supporting our students and giving them this valuable opportunity to kick-start their careers in construction!



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Supporting Others

A huge thank you to our local crew from Leicestershire Fire and Rescue for visiting the school and giving our students an insight into their interesting and varied roles. The team shared insights into the incredible work they do, from fighting fires to search and rescue and inspired many to consider a career in the fire service. Students also got the chance to tour the fire engine and even try out some of the safety equipment! It was an exciting experience sparking curiosity and admiration for these everyday heroes. Thank you so much to the fire service team for taking the time to visit and hopefully inspire some of our young people to consider the career opportunities available.