

# Outstanding Volunteers

On 30th January, at the Blaby District Council Volunteer Awards, students Rachel, Dion, Amara, and Namakau received well-deserved recognition for their outstanding contributions. In addition to receiving awards, they were also granted a cash prize and the opportunity to choose a charity to receive a £500 donation. Their nomination highlighted the incredible work they had done as Stephen Lawrence Ambassadors to promote equality, raise awareness about racism and hate crime, and create meaningful change.



From helping to organise activities for Stephen Lawrence Day, speaking at large-scale events, and collaborating with organisations like the Stephen Lawrence Research Centre and Blaby District Youth Council, to co-creating impactful initiatives such as the Hate Crime Awareness Video – their dedication was truly inspiring.

Their efforts sparked open discussions about racism, influenced anti-racism policies, and empowered others to speak out against injustice. We couldn't have been

prouder of these amazing young people, who represented many other students who contributed to the school's drive to encourage leadership, independence, and the courage to challenge injustice. Their work left a lasting impact, not only within our school but across the wider community and the LiFE MAT.



## Welcome

It has seemed like a long cold half term, but one in which the students have had all sorts of amazing opportunities. I have been so impressed with everyone in the Winstanley community. As I walk around the school on a daily basis it is brilliant to see students working hard and teachers enabling the students to learn in interesting and engaging ways.

Winstanley has been on BBC East Midlands and our Stephen Lawrence Ambassadors were winners in the Blaby District

Council Community Awards. We all had the chance to reflect on the importance of Holocaust Memorial Day and students were able to think about how they can support each other in Children's Mental Health Week. Thank you again for all your support. It is brilliant to work in partnership with you and I am incredibly proud to lead the Winstanley community. Have a restful and enjoyable half term.

**Mr Bennett, Headteacher**



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# Winstanley Life

# Winter 2025

## Light The Darkness



On the 27<sup>th</sup> January our school came together to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day. This important day marked the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau and served as a reminder of the millions of lives lost during the Holocaust and other genocides around the world. As part of our House

Challenge, tutor groups created thoughtful and meaningful artwork to reflect on the significance of HMD. To honour this day, we also held a virtual whole-school event, where we lit a candle to remember those who suffered and to reaffirm our commitment to standing against hatred and discrimination.



**HOLOCAUST  
MEMORIAL  
DAY 27/1**

## Church Visit

Our Year 11 students had an enriching experience this term visiting St Crispin's Church in Braunstone Town as part of their Religious Studies GCSE. They had the opportunity to meet Rev. David Hover and members of the church community, who provided valuable insights into key modules such as Baptism, the Eucharist and The Church in the Community.

This hands-on visit allowed students to deepen their understanding of these important topics beyond the classroom, offering an authentic learning experience that brought their studies to life. A huge thank you to Rev. Hover and the church members for their time and knowledge!



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### In touch...

Why not follow us on social media, we post regularly on **X**, **Facebook** and **Instagram** with our news as it happens...



## Star Visitor

We were thrilled to welcome Kraig Thornber back to Winstanley at the end of January, where he joined two of our Drama classes for an inspiring and insightful Q&A session! Kraig, is currently starring in *The Lion*, *the Witch and the Wardrobe* at the Curve, has enjoyed a long and varied career in the arts as an actor and choreographer, shining bright on stage, film, and TV. Kraig's passion for acting began right here at Winstanley when it was a high school! As an ex-student he shared how much being part of this community shaped his journey in the arts. During his visit, Kraig commented that the school hasn't changed much and delighted us with fascinating stories, invaluable advice, and a sprinkling of humour to inspire our budding performers.

A huge well done to Rithik, Julia, and Andreia, who had the opportunity to ask Kraig their own questions and were even interviewed afterwards for BBC Midlands Today and Radio Leicester! Thank you, Kraig, for taking the time to visit and for inspiring the next generation of performers at Winstanley. Who knows – the next West End star might just be sitting in our Drama studio!



# Winstanley Life Winter 2025

## Unforgettable Experience

Our Drama students had an incredible day at the Curve Theatre, participating in a workshop and watching the stunning production of *The Lion*, *The Witch and The Wardrobe*! This was made even more special because Winstanley ex-student Kraig Thornber is starring in the show. Throughout the day, students got a behind-the-scenes look at how theatre magic happens:

- Ben (Company Stage & Production Manager) shared how the breathtaking set was designed by just one designer and fills six lorries worth of equipment!
  - Amazingly, the crew has just 24 hours to construct it.
  - Tamika gave a tour of the 967-seat theatre, explaining how its unique design allows for dramatic lifts and that the stage is actually 1.5x bigger than our drama studio! Students were fascinated to see the wardrobe department, where actors can do a quick change in under 20 seconds!
  - Zoe led a fantastic mental health and positive affirmations workshop. Students used physical theatre to express each affirmation, creating a moving final piece.
- A massive thank you to Curve Theatre and everyone involved for such an inspiring day! learning experience for our students.





## Winter Wellbeing

Earlier this term, our Wellbeing Aspire Club embraced the winter air for a refreshing Winter Walk Bingo session! They explored nature, ticked off fun challenges, and even finished the day with an uplifting activity - hugging trees! It was a beautiful way to connect with the outdoors, de-stress, and share some laughs along the way. This week, we're excited to unwind and relax with a Soundbath Session, open to both staff and students. A perfect opportunity to take a break, reset and soak in the calming vibes!

## Kingsway Visit

During Children's Mental Health Week, six of our Well-Being Upstanders had the fantastic opportunity to visit the Kingsway Primary Well-Being Café! They



met with three of Kingsway's Well-Being Ambassadors, exchanging ideas and asking lots of questions about how the café is run, what they enjoy about being involved, and how it supports their school community. It was a really positive and inspiring visit, creating a new link between both schools' Well-Being Ambassador groups - one we're excited to build on! Our Upstanders also left with some great ideas on how we could set up something similar at Winstanley.



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## Winstanley Life

# Winter 2025

## Children's Mental Health Week

This week we've been recognising Children's Mental Health Week, organised by Place2Be, with activities designed to get students talking about their mental health and emotions. This year's theme focuses on emotions, inspired by Inside Out 2, encouraging young people to explore and understand their feelings.

During the week we hosted a pop-up photo booth at break time, where students had fun using props and striking some cheesy poses – all while sparking important conversations about mental health. During the week our Wellbeing Upstanders also ran a safe space drop-in at break time, where students could chat, relax and collect free booklets packed with support strategies to help understand emotions and know where to turn for help.

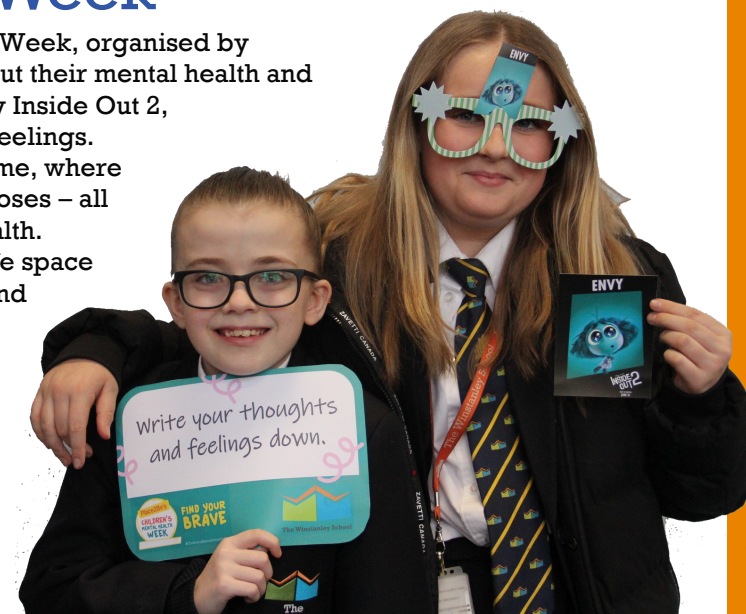
Mental health matters every day and we're proud to support our students in creating a community that's open, caring, and strong.

We have lots of help and support advice and links on our website, which you can find in the students section under the heading 'Mental Health and Wellbeing'.

Place2Be's

CHILDREN'S  
MENTAL HEALTH  
WEEK

3-9  
FEB  
2025



## Independence

We were delighted to welcome so many students and parents to our recent Options Evening, where they had the opportunity to explore subject choices and gain valuable insights from our subject leaders. Choosing the right subjects is an important step, and we hope the evening helped students feel more confident and independent in making their decisions. A huge thank you to our Prefects, who demonstrated fantastic independence and leadership by offering their support throughout the evening. Their help was truly appreciated! Next, students will have the chance to discuss their choices further in one-to-one meetings during the week beginning 24th February. We look forward to continuing to support them on their journey!



## Hard Work

A huge well done to our Year 11 students studying GCSE Art for the amazing sketchbook coursework they completed over the Christmas break! Your dedication, creativity and hard work truly shine through in your pieces. Their commitment to going the extra mile is inspiring, and it's fantastic to see the effort paying off. Keep up the determination and passion - hard work always leads to great results!



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## Never Giving Up



Our Year 9 students have been busy shining brighter than ever, showcasing their incredible culinary skills by

creating delicious afternoon tea treats! From beautifully decorated cupcakes to classic Victoria sandwiches and refreshing milkshakes, their effort and creativity truly stood out.

A huge well done to everyone for their determination and never giving up attitude in the kitchen! Keep pushing your limits and continue to shine!

## Supporting Others

Before the Christmas break, a group of our Year 7 and Year 9 students visited Braunstone Civic Centre to bring some festive joy to their warm space session. In the true spirit of our school value – supporting others, they spent time chatting with members of the community and spreading Christmas cheer through song and kindness.

Our students were fantastic ambassadors for Winstanley, showing compassion, warmth, and a real sense of community. We are so proud of them and look forward to visiting again soon!



Let yourself **SHINE**

## Excellence

We are proud to have trainee teachers from Teach For Life (the LiFE MAT Teaching Programme) working with us in our classrooms. Their commitment to excellence, fresh energy, and passion bring so much value to our school community. While they work towards their teaching qualifications, they are already making a positive impact, demonstrating the dedication and high standards that shape outstanding educators. Their hard work and enthusiasm have been a true asset to our team, and we are excited to see them grow into the inspirational and excellent teachers of tomorrow. Are you ready to make a difference as a primary or secondary school teacher? Join our Initial Teacher Training program today and start your journey toward a fulfilling and impactful teaching career! Contact us: [traintoteach@lifemultiacademytrust.org.uk](mailto:traintoteach@lifemultiacademytrust.org.uk)



# Mock Exam Timetable

Mock exams are coming up in February/March for Year 11! Students will receive a personalised exam timetable to help them prepare and stay organised. Keep an eye out for updates. This is another opportunity to practice and build confidence for the real thing and help teachers assess areas where more knowledge and practice are required.



**Good Luck ... SHINE** brighter than you thought you could!

DATE	AM/PM	Start Time	Finish Time	Duration	Room	Subject
Mon 24/02/2025	AM	8:45 AM	10:45 AM	02:00	SH	English Language
Mon 24/02/2025	AM	11:40 AM	1:25 PM	01:45	SH	Biology (H+F)
Mon 24/02/2025	AM	11:40 AM	12:55 PM	01:15	SH	GCSE Combined Sciences Biology H+F
Tue 25/02/2025	AM	8:45 AM	11:15 AM	02:30	SH	English Literature
Tue 25/02/2025	AM	11:40 AM	1:10 PM	01:30	SH	MATHEMATICS (H+F)
Tue 25/02/2025	PM	2:00 PM	3:15 PM	01:15	SH	Sports Studies
Wed 26/02/2025	AM	8:45 AM	10:45 AM	02:00	SH	RS
Wed 26/02/2025	AM	11:40 AM	1:25 PM	01:45	SH	Chemistry (H+F)
Wed 26/02/2025	AM	11:40 AM	12:55 PM	01:15	SH	GCSE Combined Sciences Chemistry H+F
Thu 27/02/2025	AM	8:45 AM	10:15 AM	01:30	SH	MATHEMATICS (H+F)
Thu 27/02/2025	AM	11:40 AM	1:10 PM	01:30	SH	Geography
Thu 27/02/2025	PM	2:00 PM	3:15 PM	01:15	SH	IT
Fri 28/02/2025	AM	8:45 AM	10:30 AM	01:45	SH	Physics (H+F)
Fri 28/02/2025	AM	8:45 AM	10:00 AM	01:15	SH	GCSE Combined Sciences Physics H+F
Fri 28/02/2025	AM	11:40 AM	1:25 PM	01:45	SH	History
Mon 03/03/2025	AM	8:45 AM	10:15 AM	01:30	SH	MATHEMATICS (H+F)
Mon 03/03/2025	AM	11:40 AM	1:25 PM	01:45	SH	Business Studies
Tue 04/03/2025	AM	8:45 AM	10:25 AM	01:40	SH	Film Studies
Tue 04/03/2025	AM	11:40 AM	1:10 PM	01:30	SH	Computer Science
Tue 04/03/2025	PM	2:00 PM	3:15 PM	01:15	MUSIC	MUSIC Controlled Assessment
Wed 05/03/2025	AM	8:45 AM	10:15 AM	01:30	DRAMA	Media Studies

# Aspire Clubs

Our after-school clubs are now back up and running for the new year. There have been a few changes and some new ones added. The most up-to-date list is always available on our website, food is served to students every day at the end of the sessions. Two new clubs have been added Debating Club will start after half term and Christian Union is on Tuesdays.



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## Spring Activities

From January 2025

**Monday**

- Football Club (MUGA)
- Cooking club (cooking room)
- NERF club (CEL sports)
- Darts club (Reconnection room)
- Singing club (Music)
- Well-Being (Shine Hub)

**Tuesday**

- Basketball club (sports hall) (Leicester Riders)
- Hair and beauty club (Drama studio)
- Swimming club (Swimming pool)
- Nintendo switch club (Nintendo room)
- Christian union (H2)
- Tea and biscuits (Nurture)
- Girls netball (CEL sports)
- Girls football (MUGA)

**Wednesday**

- Dance club (drama studio)
- Further Maths club (maths block)
- DofE club (Invite only)
- Girls football (MUGA) (CEL sports)
- Girls swimming (Swimming pool)
- Orchestra (Music)
- Lego club (Week 2 only (A1))
- Ceramics (Week 2 only (A1))
- Table Tennis (Sports hall) (Wizards)
- Pride & Allies Safe Space H4

**Thursday**

- Football club (MUGA)
- Board Game Club (Reconnect)
- Boys swimming (Swimming pool)
- Debating Club (H3)

**Please speak to Mr Turner to sign up**



As part of our International Women's Day celebrations, we're hosting a fantastic event designed to empower and inspire our students. We are currently looking for delegates and it would be fantastic if any of our students would like to join us. Whether you're excelling in your career, have an interesting or unusual job or are thriving in further or higher education - we'd love to hear from you! If you're interested in participating, please get in touch emailing [office@winstanleyschool.org.uk](mailto:office@winstanleyschool.org.uk).



Just a reminder that the **Careers Newsletter** on our website is regularly updated and a useful resource for Year 10 and 11 students.