

# Girls SHINE Bright



On Thursday 7th March, in celebration of International Women's Day, we were delighted to host an inspiring and empowering event for our Year 8 and 9 girls. The aim of the event was to encourage our students to be more aspirational about their future careers and to help them understand the wide range of opportunities available to them.

The day featured a fantastic career networking carousel, where students had the chance to meet and speak with a range of inspirational women from a variety of industries.

These included roles in law, healthcare, business, engineering, education, and many more. The visiting professionals shared their personal career journeys, spoke about the challenges they had faced, and offered valuable advice and guidance to our students.

The girls were fully engaged throughout the event, asking thoughtful questions and showing a genuine interest in learning about different career paths. It was wonderful to see their confidence grow as they listened to the stories of women who had overcome barriers and achieved success in their chosen fields. We were incredibly proud of the positive attitude, enthusiasm and curiosity shown by all of our students. Events like this play an important role in helping young people see what is possible and inspiring them to dream big.

We would like to extend our thanks to all of the amazing women who gave up their time to share their experiences. A special thank you also goes to our fantastic Prefects, who did a brilliant job supporting the event and ensuring everything ran smoothly. Together, we helped inspire the next generation of strong, ambitious, and confident young women!



## Winstanley Life

# Easter 2025

## Girl Power

## Welcome

It is brilliant looking through this newsletter to see how our students and staff are doing all that they can to 'shine bright' and bring hope. It's amazing to see all the opportunities that we have provided our students this term, from taking part in charity events to excelling in events to support their learning. A quick reminder to all our Year 11 students to take time this holiday to focus on preparing for their GCSE exams - we have got revision classes running through the

Easter holidays in school for some subjects (see our website). I hope you all have a relaxing and peaceful Easter break and enjoy some easter eggs but not too many, and we look forward to seeing students rested and refreshed on the 28th April!

**Mr Bennett, Headteacher**



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On 7th March, our Year 7 girls had a fantastic day celebrating International Women's Day at The Grove in Braunstone. The event provided a wonderful opportunity for students to take part in a range of exciting activities, while also exploring the newly refurbished facilities at The Grove. Throughout the day, the girls got involved in a variety of fun and engaging sessions, including football, computer games, dance and graffiti art. These activities encouraged teamwork, creativity, and gave everyone a chance to try something new. In addition to the practical sessions, the girls also took part in important workshops focusing on mental health and well-being. These sessions aimed to help build their confidence, resilience and awareness of key issues that will support them both now and in the future. The event was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended, and it was fantastic to see the girls participating so enthusiastically and making the most of every opportunity.

We would like to say a huge thank you to The Grove for hosting such an inspiring and empowering day. It was a brilliant way to mark International Women's Day for our Year 7 girls.





## Teen Tech

In March a group of our students took part in an exciting Teen Tech event at De Montfort University, exploring careers and higher education opportunities in technology! They had the chance to hear from PepsiCo about the role of technology in research and development and the NHS estates team shared insights on sustainability and energy use in hospitals. Students also got hands-on with forensic science and DNA profiling workshops led by university experts and even conducted aerodynamics experiments in a wind tunnel! A fantastic day of discovery, innovation, and inspiration - who knows where these experiences will take them next?



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We're on **Instagram**, join our other **1314** followers!

**Winstanley Life**



Parents, please download the **iPay Impact App**, to pay for school meals and trips. Emails have been sent out with log in details and instructions can be found on our website.

## Youth Conference

Our Student Upstander Representatives enjoyed an exciting and inspiring day at the Blaby District Council Youth Conference back in February. The event provided a opportunity for students to take part in important discussions and interactive workshops. The morning began with three engaging sessions. The first focused on staying safe online and was led by Warning Zone. Students explored the dangers young people can face in the digital world and how to protect themselves from manipulative behaviour. This was followed by a powerful Knife Crime Awareness session. Talented young actors performed a real-life scenario involving knife crime and students were invited to step in, ask questions and challenge the situation. A special well done to Promise and Virgil for their intelligent and compassionate contributions. The final session was a hands-on Emergency First Aid workshop, where students learned vital life-saving skills, including how to perform CPR. The afternoon gave students the chance to share their views on how to improve the local area. Engaging in discussion with local councillors, they confidently shared their ideas and concerns. A huge well done to Grace and Barnabas for their outstanding work as Youth Council members. We are incredibly proud of all our students for representing Winstanley with such positivity, enthusiasm and maturity. Thank you to Blaby District Council for hosting such an informative and inspiring event.



# Easter 2025



## Red Nose Day



On Thursday 21st March, our students showed their support for Red Nose Day by proudly wearing something red! The school was filled with colour as students and staff joined together to raise money for this fantastic cause. Throughout the week, we held a range of fundraising activities, including some very popular cake sales. Thanks to the generosity and enthusiasm of our school community, we were able to raise an impressive total of £267.04! This year marked an incredible 40 years of Red Nose Day. Over the decades, Red Nose Day has supported countless charities and organisations, helping people in need both across the UK and around the world. It was brilliant to see our students getting involved, learning more about the cause, and doing their part to support others. A huge thank you goes to everyone who donated, baked cakes, wore red, and helped to make the week such a success. Your kindness and generosity really have made a difference.





# Kenilworth Trip

Our Year 11 History students had a fantastic trip to Kenilworth Castle last week as part of their GCSE studies, exploring how this historic site has changed through time. They enjoyed a guided tour, learning about the castle's fascinating past - from its medieval fortress to Robert Dudley's grand Elizabethan makeover in an attempt to impress Queen Elizabeth II!

A special thank you to the member of the public who took the time to congratulate our teachers on the students' excellent manners and behaviour - a true credit to the school!



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## Winstanley Life



In touch...



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

WORLD  
BOOK  
DAY

## Love Reading!

On Thursday 7th March, students and staff at Winstanley School embraced the magic of reading as they celebrated World Book Day in style. The school was

transformed for the day, with everyone dressing up as their favourite literary characters, creating a fantastic atmosphere full of creativity and fun.

From classic stories to modern favourites, the costumes were impressive and showcased the



incredible enthusiasm for reading across the school. The English Department brought Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* to life with their brilliant costumes, while the Maths team cleverly transformed themselves into *The Secret Seven* – a perfect link to their love of numbers and problem-solving! Whilst Art & Design had lots of fun creating costumes from a classic fairy tale. Students also joined in the fun by bringing along their favourite books to share with others, taking the opportunity to talk about the stories and characters that have inspired them. Well done to everyone involved for making the day such a magical and memorable event!



# Easter 2025

## Boys SHINE bright

On Thursday 21st March, following the success of the girls' event on International Women's Day, our Year 7 boys had their turn to experience an action-packed day at The Grove in Braunstone. The event provided a brilliant opportunity for students to explore the newly refurbished community hub and take part in a wide range of exciting activities.

Throughout the day, the boys got involved in a football tournament, football darts, goal shooting challenges, table tennis, Nerf Wars, and even Graffiti Art. There was something for everyone, with students eager to try new things and enjoy some friendly competition. As well as the fun activities, the boys also took part in important wellbeing workshops delivered by the team from Heads Up. These sessions encouraged students to think about their mental health. The day was made even more special with a visit from the local PCSOs, giving students the chance to meet them and learn more about their role in the community.

It was fantastic to see all the boys fully engaged, having fun and making the most of the wonderful facilities. The event provided a perfect balance of fun, learning, and team building, giving students a break from their usual routine.

A huge thank you to everyone at The Grove for organising such a brilliant and memorable day.



## Eco Reads

Our Eco Upstander Group is taking action! As part of this year's mission, they've organised a special environmental book display in the library. From eye-opening factual reads to inspiring fictional stories, there's something for all ages - helping us understand the challenges our planet faces and how we can all play a part in protecting it. Students can call into the library, explore the collection and get inspired to make a difference! Or get involved and join Eco Club.



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The Aspire Programme

**NEW!**

Starting after half term we will be running Girls Boxing Club as part of the Aspire programme.

All the current clubs can be found on our website, lots of opportunities for students to take part and have a hot meal afterwards.



# Winstanley Life



## Valentine's Wedding! Easter 2025

At the end of last term Year 10 students participated in a Mock Wedding as part of their RS GCSE studying Christian Values - Marriage and the Family. It was a fantastic opportunity for students to learn through the experience of an authentic event. We work closely with Friar Lane & Braunstone Baptist Church who make it a realistic and special event for our students. Students who went to the church early for the rehearsal were treated to pizzas and pop and church members had set up a wedding reception room, including some lovely, thoughtful touches. Well done to Ryan and Ryonne who played the roles of Bride and Bridegroom, Henry as the Bestman, Casey, Grace, Skye and Lilly who were bridesmaids and also stepped in to deliver some beautiful readings and Jack, Richard and Ollie for their role as Ushers and welcoming the rest of the year group into the church.

The Winstanley Wedding is one of the highlights of the school year and thank you to Rev Jon Grant and Friar Lane & Braunstone Baptist Church members for making us so welcome as always.



## Wellbeing Fair

On the 12<sup>th</sup> March we hosted a fantastic Well-being Fair for our Year 7 and 8 students, focusing on the importance of self-care. We were delighted to welcome twelve amazing organisations into school, each offering valuable advice and support to our students.

Our Well-being Upstanders were also on hand, engaging with students to learn more about how they can help students in school.

The event was a great success! Students enjoyed interacting with our guests, discovering useful resources and picking up some great freebies along the way. A huge thank you to everyone who made this event possible, as well as the following amazing organisations who attended:- Teen Health, Blaby District Council Mental Health Lead, Bodie Hodges Foundation, Victim First/Catch 22, Community Safety Partnership, Heads Up, The Grove,





# Cartoon Expert

In February our Stephen Lawrence Upstanders had the incredible opportunity to work with artist and cartoonist Zu Dominiak as they developed their entries for the Stephen Lawrence Day Competition, run in partnership with the Stephen Lawrence Research Centre at DMU. The competition challenges students to create a graphic novel using drawing and storytelling around the theme 'Black Culture Is' - a powerful opportunity to celebrate heritage, identity and creativity. Zu, whose work includes science and public information comics tackling important issues, shared expertise and inspired our students with storytelling techniques and artistic insight.



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## Winstanley Life



## Amazing Show!

On the 13<sup>th</sup> March students from Years 8 to 11 were treated to an incredible performance of The LeftBehinds by the National Theatre's travelling company - right in our own drama studio! Performed in the round, this high-energy show pulled everyone into a thrilling post-apocalyptic world of courage, friendship, and survival.

The Story: After the apocalypse, nothing remains but dust, danger, and loss. The LeftBehinds, a group of orphaned survivors led by Kit, embark on a desperate mission to rebuild an ancient android - the key to saving their future. But they're not alone... a vengeful ghost from Kit's past is hunting them down.



Students were fully immersed in this funny, emotional and visually stunning performance. The lighting and stage effects created a vibrant atmosphere, and the in-the-round setup made for an engaging and intimate experience. After the show, students participated in a Q&A with the actors and crew, discussing performance - an invaluable insight for those preparing for their GCSEs this summer!



# Easter 2025



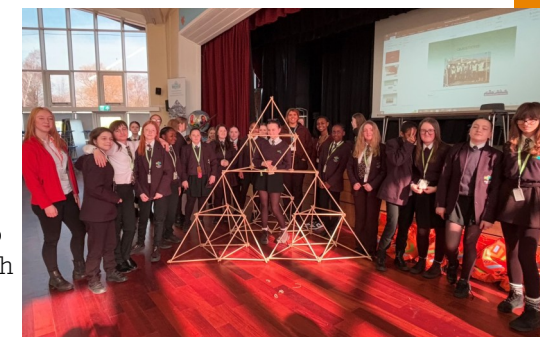
## Arbor

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

## Construction Careers

During this term Year 8 girls took part in an inspiring Girls in Construction event, a fantastic workshop run in collaboration with Blaby District Council. The session aimed to raise awareness of the diverse career opportunities in construction and spotlight female role models in the industry - breaking the outdated stereotype that construction is just for men! The workshop was supported by Jo Ling, an Employment, Training and Skills Coordinator with a background in construction, alongside two amazing construction ambassadors who shared their career journeys:

Tia - Property Maintenance Skills Coach at Leicester College and Emily - Trainee Site Manager at Redrow. Our students were fully engaged, especially during the team challenge, where they put their problem-solving skills to the test by working together to build a giant tetrahedron! A huge thank you to all the organisers for creating such an exciting and empowering experience for our students.



## Supporting Others

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> April a group of our Year 9 students had the fantastic opportunity to support Year 6 pupils at Kingsway Primary School with their Maths SATs preparation!

These students were selected for their outstanding attitude to learning in Maths this year, with some also participating as part of the volunteering section of their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award.

We are so proud of how well they engaged with the younger pupils, demonstrating their maths skills, patience and leadership to help boost confidence ahead of the SATs. A huge well done to everyone involved!



## Independence

Our Year 9 girls have recently had an unforgettable outdoor adventure in Wales! They spent five days at an outward bounds centre where they took part in challenging and rewarding activities. They showed incredible courage taking part in jetty jumping, wild camping, raft building and mountain climbing. We're so proud of how they've thrown themselves into every challenge during the week away.

On the last night they gathered around the campfire to reflect on the highs and lows of the trip – a perfect end to an amazing adventure, where new friendships have been made and new skills learned.

Well done to all of the girls – they were brilliant! Special thanks to Mr Turner and Mrs Clarke for providing them with this opportunity.



## Hard Work

On the 24<sup>th</sup> March some of our fantastic Year 8 students had the opportunity to visit Kingsway Primary School and deliver a fun and interactive French lesson to younger pupils! From engaging games to lively conversations, they helped bring the language to life. Speaking a language out loud is one of the best ways to boost confidence, improve pronunciation and develop fluency. This experience not only strengthened their own French skills but also encouraged younger learners to embrace language learning with enthusiasm. A huge well done to our Year 8 students for their hard work and positivity.



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Let yourself

# SHINE

## Never Giving Up

A huge congratulations to the talented students who attended the First Story: Young Writers' Showcase at the University of Leicester in March! After taking part in a special preparatory workshop, these young writers took to the stage to perform their own original work alongside incredible local performance poets Andy Craven-Griffiths and John Berkavitch. Their creativity, passion and storytelling skills excelled, making for an unforgettable event!

Well done to all involved - your words have power, and we can't wait to see where your writing journey takes you next and never give up to achieve your goal!



## Excellence

We are incredibly proud of our talented students who have had their poetry shortlisted for a prize and selected for publication in the Poetry Escape anthology through Young Writers! This is an amazing achievement, and we can't wait to see if any of their work goes on to win one of the fantastic prizes in the next stage. No matter the outcome, being published is an incredible accomplishment, and we are so proud of their creativity and hard work! Well done to our young poets!





# Plants Needed!

We are reaching out to ask for a little help from our school community. We are hoping to bring more plants into our classrooms, and we wondered if any of our families have any connections to a local garden centre or plant nursery. We would love to create a greener, calmer environment in our classrooms. Research shows that having plants in learning spaces can have a really positive impact on students' wellbeing and concentration. Plants can help improve air quality, reduce stress and create a more relaxing and welcoming atmosphere - all of which helps to support learning and create a happy classroom environment.

We understand that plants can sometimes be expensive, so we are hoping that with your help, we might be able to source some donations. If you, or anyone you know, works at a garden centre or plant nursery - or if you know someone who might be able to help - we would be so grateful if you could get in touch with us.

Alternatively, if you have any spare houseplants, cuttings, or plant pots at home that you would be willing to donate, we would gladly give them a new home in one of our classrooms.



## 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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## After school activities




# Summer Activities

From April 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
<b>Football Club</b> (MUGA) <b>Cooking club</b> (cooking room) <b>Dodgeball</b> (CEL sports) <b>Darts club</b> (Reconnection room) <b>Singing club</b> (Music) <b>Well-Being</b> (Shine Hub)	<b>Basketball club</b> (sports hall) (Leicester Riders) <b>Hair and beauty club</b> (Drama studio) <b>Swimming club</b> (Swimming pool) <b>Nintendo switch club</b> (Nintendo room) <b>Christian union</b> (H2) <b>Tea and biscuits</b> (Nurture) <b>Girls netball</b> (CEL sports) <b>Girls football</b> (MUGA)	<b>Dance club</b> (drama studio) <b>Further Maths club</b> (maths block) <b>DofE club</b> (Invite only) <b>Girls Volleyball</b> (MUGA) (CEL sports) <b>Girls swimming</b> (Swimming pool) <b>Orchestra</b> (Music) <b>Lego club</b> Week 2 only (A1) <b>Ceramics</b> Week 2 only (A1) <b>Table Tennis</b> (Sports hall) (Wizards) <b>Pride &amp; Allies Safe Space</b> H4 <b>Boxercise</b>	<b>Football club</b> (MUGA) <b>Board Game Club</b> (Reconnect) <b>Boys swimming</b> (Swimming pool) <b>Debating Club</b> (H3)

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