

# Outstanding Volunteers

On the 30<sup>th</sup> January staff and students attended the Blaby District Council Volunteer Awards at their offices in Narborough. This is a fantastic event that recognises all those in our community who give up their time to support others. Each year, we nominate some of our students who we feel give something back to both the school and the wider community. This year, we were pleased to recognise the work of some of our Year 8 students who have supported our community fridge initiative. They have worked extremely hard to make it a success and are welcoming and kind to members of the public who use the initiative. They attended the event along with their parents. We were very proud that Grace and Promise in Year 11 won the Young Volunteer category for all they do both in school and through their work with the Blaby



## Winstanley Life



# Winter 2026



District Youth Council. They are members of a number of upstander groups, support events in school, help with the school shop in the mornings and go above and beyond to carry out their prefect duties. They are excellent role models for other students. The school was also given a special award for encouraging students to take an active role in the community and for providing so many opportunities to volunteer and get involved in local initiatives.



## Welcome

I think it has been the wettest half term I can remember and at times I know it has made us feel a little downbeat. But as you look through the newsletter you can see all the amazing things that have been going on at Winstanley. 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. A real highlight for me was going to the Blaby District Council

Community Awards where Grace and Promise (two of our Year 11 students) won Young Volunteers of the Year and then the school was given a special award for our work 'to champion volunteering among pupils' Earlier in the term we also had the chance to reflect on the importance of Holocaust Memorial Day and how we can be Upstanders in our community which in the current climate is more important than

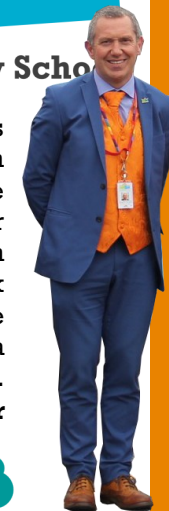
ever. Thank you again for all your support. It is brilliant to work in partnership with you and I am incredibly proud to lead the Winstanley community. Keep shining bright and have a restful and enjoyable half term.

Mr Bennett, Headteacher

Mr Bennett, Headteacher



The Winstanley School



## Light The Darkness

On the 27<sup>th</sup> January our school came together to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day. This important day marks the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau and serves as a reminder of the millions of lives lost through the Holocaust and other genocides around the world. To honour this day, we also held a virtual whole-school event, where we lit a candle to remember those who suffered and heard readings from four of our Prefects. The theme for Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) 2026, 'Bridging Generations', is a call-to-action. A reminder that the responsibility of remembrance doesn't

end with the survivors - it lives on through our young people.



HOLOCAUST  
MEMORIAL  
DAY 27/1



# Athletics Success

A huge well done to our students who represented our school at the Indoor Athletics Competition held at Hinckley Leisure Centre. The event, organised by HBSSPAN, brought together nine schools from across the area, and our students rose to the challenge, taking part in a wide range of events including relays, long jump, high jump and shot put. It was a fantastic opportunity for students to practise their athletic skills in a competitive environment and demonstrate excellent teamwork and sportsmanship.

**Special congratulations to the students who achieved standout performances:**

**Oscar, Arlo, Archie S, Josh and Jack – for an excellent performance in relay**

**Archie S – for a fantastic result in Speed bounce**

**Gabby S – for a brilliant effort in shot put**

**Nazifa – for a great performance in both high jump and long jump**

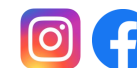
We are incredibly proud of everyone who took part and represented the school so positively. Well done to all involved - you were outstanding ambassadors!



The Winstanley School

## In touch...

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



# Winstanley Life

## This Girl Can



# Winter 2026 Sweet Science!



In January group of our Year 7 girls attended an inspiring event at Hinckley Leisure Centre, organised by the 'This Girl Can' campaign. 'This Girl Can' is a Sport England initiative to encourage women and girls to get active, breaking down barriers such as fear of judgement and celebrating all women enjoying sport in their own way. The girls had the opportunity to try a wide range of activities, spending around 25

–30 minutes on each activity with short breaks in between, including: Martial Arts, Rugby with Market Bosworth RFC, Dance, Spin Bikes and a Studio Exercise Class. They all had a brilliant time, returning to school tired but smiling, with a greater insight into sport, fitness and the importance of staying active. We're so proud of their enthusiasm and willingness to give everything a go!



Our Year 8 students enjoyed an exciting practical lesson recently as they stepped into the lab to extract DNA from strawberries. The session began with students mashing up fresh strawberries to break down the fruit and start releasing the cells inside. Next, they added a special scientific solution containing detergent and salt. This clever mixture helped break open the cell membranes and separate the DNA from the rest of the cell contents. Once the strawberries had been thoroughly mixed, the solution was carefully filtered to remove any remaining solid pieces. Then came the moment everyone was waiting for... When cold ethanol was gently poured into the mixture, the students watched in amazement as white, stringy strands of DNA began to appear. Not only was the experiment fun and memorable, but it also gave students a fantastic opportunity to explore biology in a hands-on way and understand how DNA can be extracted and observed. They were fascinated to learn that strawberries are one of the best fruits for this experiment because they contain a large amount of DNA, making the results clear and easy to see.



## Supporting Others

Our Community Fridge, which runs most Fridays, has been going from strength to strength. The idea is to provide food for our community and to prevent surplus food from supermarkets going to landfill. We are now receiving donations from Aldi and Sainsbury's and last Friday we redistributed six huge bags of bread! We are also receiving regular donations from residents in Newtown Linford to supplement the fridge, which allows us to make up bags for regular users. The fridge is open to the community every Friday between 1.30pm and 3.00pm.



Kingsway North Community

# FRIDGE

## Excellence

Students have been getting their hands dirty in Art by making Monster Pots from clay! For many, this was their first time working with this media – and what a 'fang-tastic' start they've made! We've seen googly eyes, terrifying teeth and wobbly horns, some look friendly... others look like they might eat your homework. Over the next few lessons, these beasts will be glazed and fired, before students can take their masterpieces home.



The Winstanley School

## Never Giving Up

Over the last term Year 10 boys have been taking part in an exciting parkour session during registration in the mornings. Parkour is all about moving creatively and



efficiently through obstacles using running, jumping, climbing and balance. It helps to build strength, agility, coordination, confidence and problem-solving skills, while also encouraging teamwork and resilience. The sessions were brilliantly supported by one of our ex-students and apprentice sports coach, Mr Newton, giving the boys a chance to learn new skills and push themselves in a positive environment. The boys thoroughly enjoyed the challenge, showing great focus, determination and enthusiasm throughout.

## Independence

A huge thank you to the LiFE MAT Race Equity Group who encouraged learners from schools across the MAT to take part in the "Who Inspires You?" Role Model Poster Competition. It's been amazing to see students celebrating their role models and sharing the stories of those who inspire them. The winners from Winstanley were Bethany and Grace who received their certificates last week. Well done to both of them.



Let yourself

# SHINE


## Hard Work

On the 5<sup>th</sup> February we welcomed parents and students to our GCSE Options Evening, an event allowing families the opportunity to speak with staff about the subjects students may wish to study from September. It was fantastic to see so many engaging conversations taking place, with students exploring their interests and thinking carefully about the next steps in their education. After half term, there will be a further opportunity for students and parents to come into school and speak with senior members of staff, to help ensure that students make the most suitable choices and are supported in selecting subjects that will enable them to achieve successful outcomes. A big thank you to our Prefects for their hard work, supporting during the evening and making parents and carers welcome.



# 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.



Date	AM/PM	Start Time	Finish Time	Duration	Room	Subject
Mon 23/02/2026	AM	8:45 AM	10:45 AM	02:00	SH	English Language
Mon 23/02/2026	AM	11:40 AM	1:10 PM	01:30	SH	Mathematics (F) P1
Mon 23/02/2026	AM	11:40 AM	1:10 PM	01:30	SH	Mathematics (H) P4
Tue 24/02/2026	AM	8:45 AM	11:15 AM	02:30	SH	English Literature
Tue 24/02/2026	PM	12:15 PM	1:15 PM	01:00	SH	Spanish Writing (F+H)
Tue 24/02/2026	PM	12:15 PM	1:15 PM	01:00	SH	French Writing (F+H)
Wed 25/02/2026	AM	8:45 AM	10:00 AM	01:15	SH	Combined Chemistry (H+F)
Wed 25/02/2026	AM	8:45 AM	10:30 AM	01:45	SH	Triple Chemistry (H)
Wed 25/02/2026	AM	11:40 AM	12:55 PM	01:15	SH	Sport Studies
Wed 25/02/2026	AM	11:40 AM	1:10 PM	01:30	SH	Computer Science
Thu 26/02/2026	AM	8:45 AM	10:15 AM	01:30	SH	RS
Thu 26/02/2026	AM	11:40 AM	1:10 PM	01:30	SH	Drama
Fri 27/02/2026	AM	8:45 AM	10:30 AM	01:45	SH	Business Studies
Fri 27/02/2026	AM	11:40 AM	1:10 PM	01:30	SH	Mathematics (F) P2
Fri 27/02/2026	AM	11:40 AM	1:10 PM	01:30	SH	Mathematics (H) P5
Mon 02/03/2026	AM	8:45 AM	10:00 AM	01:15	SH	Combined Biology (H+F)
Mon 02/03/2026	AM	8:45 AM	10:30 AM	01:45	SH	Triple Biology (H)
Mon 02/03/2026	AM	11:40 AM	1:10 PM	01:30	SH	Mathematics (F) P3
Mon 02/03/2026	AM	11:40 AM	1:10 PM	01:30	SH	Mathematics (H) P6
Tue 03/03/2026	AM	8:45 AM	10:15 AM	01:30	SH	Geography
Tue 03/03/2026	AM	11:40 AM	1:25 PM	01:45	SH	History
Wed 04/03/2026	AM	8:45 AM	10:00 AM	01:15	SH	Combined Physics (H+F)
Wed 04/03/2026	AM	8:45 AM	10:30 AM	01:45	SH	Triple Physics (H)
Wed 04/03/2026	AM	11:40 AM	12:40 PM	01:00	SH	Spanish Reading (F+H)
Wed 04/03/2026	AM	11:40 AM	12:40 PM	01:00	SH	French Reading (F+H)
Thu 05/03/2026	AM	11:40 AM	1:10 PM	01:30	SH	IT
Fri 06/03/2026	AM	9:00 AM	10:30 AM	01:30	CS/C8	H&C (On-screen)
Fri 06/03/2026	AM	11:40 AM	1:10 PM	01:30	SH	Film Studies
Fri 06/03/2026	AM	11:40 AM	1:10 PM	01:30	DS	Media Studies



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 ex-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 by emailing [office@winstanleyschool.org.uk](mailto:office@winstanleyschool.org.uk).

## Uniform Recycling

Do you have school uniform items that your child has outgrown? Our Uniform Shop is always in need of pre-loved uniform to help students who may arrive at school without the correct clothing. All donated items are washed and dried at school before being made available for students to borrow. Right now, we are especially short of larger blazers, for older students, so if you have any that are no longer needed we would love to make use of them. Please drop any uniform items at reception. Your generosity helps ensure that every student has access to the right uniform and can feel comfortable and confident at school.



Every Friday we celebrate student success through our 'Shining Stars' Shout Outs and Hot Chocolate with the Head. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

