

# Spirit of Giving

During December our school community collected an amazing array of donations for the Open Hands Hamper House Challenge! Students from every tutor group joined forces to gather essential items for Open Hands - a local charity that supports food banks and provides vital help to people across Leicester and Leicestershire.

This year's challenge sparked friendly rivalry as tutor groups competed to see who could donate the most items. The atmosphere was full of kindness and teamwork, and it paid off - we ended up with one of our biggest collections to

date! When representatives from Open Hands arrived at Winstanley to pick up the donations, our brilliant Prefects were ready to assist with loading everything into the van. The charity praised the incredible organisation and generosity shown by our students, staff and families, sharing their appreciation. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who took part. Whether you donated a single item or a full bag, your contribution will help bring comfort and joy to families who need it most this Christmas. This challenge has once again shown what we can achieve when we work together. Every small act of kindness added up to something truly meaningful. Well done to all who supported the initiative - you've helped spread the true spirit of giving this festive season.



# Welcome

Looking back through this term's newsletter has really brought home just how much we have achieved together. It's been a busy and full term, but it's wonderful to see our young people growing in confidence, rising to challenges, and making the most of the many opportunities on offer. I am incredibly proud to be Headteacher at The Winstanley School and to work in partnership with you all, and it is a joy to see our students flourishing in so many different ways. This week, our assemblies have centred on hope and the message of Christmas, giving us time to reflect on what truly matters. I would also like to celebrate the fantastic effort from everyone who contributed to our Open Hands collection - your generosity will make a real difference to vulnerable people across our city. Thank you, as always, for your continued support. I wish you and your families a peaceful and joyful Christmas, filled with light, hope and happiness.

Mr Bennett, Headteacher.



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## Winstanley Life

# Christmas 2025

## Remember Together



On the 11<sup>th</sup> November we came together with Kingsway Primary School and The Shine Centre for our annual Remembrance Day Ceremony, uniting our students, staff and local community in a moving act of reflection and remembrance. Mr Bennett opened the ceremony, followed by thoughtful readings from students of both schools - including a special reading in Polish, marking Poland's Independence Day. The service continued with the solemn sound of the Reveille, beautifully played by Mr Greenwood, before we held a two-minute silence to honour all those who have served and sacrificed for our freedom. We were honoured to welcome representatives from The Braunstone Life, The Braunstone History Society, The Litter Wombles and Braunstone Town Council. Our students once again showed great creativity and respect in the wreaths they designed and laid as part of the ceremony.



## On the Farm



In November our Year 9 and 10 Hospitality and Catering students had a fantastic day at Stonehouse Farm in Mountsorrel! Students explored the farm shop, café and the Michelin-starred on-site restaurant, gaining valuable insight into the wide range of careers available within the hospitality and catering industry. It was an amazing opportunity to understand the full 'field to fork' journey and see how ingredients make their way from the farm to our plates. A highlight of the day was the tractor ride out to the wheat fields, where students learned how weather conditions can impact crop production. Of course, the most exciting part for many was meeting the animals! Students loved holding the guinea pigs and visiting the adorable piglets. Our students represented the school brilliantly - they were well-behaved, engaged and asked lots of thoughtful questions. Even the rain couldn't dampen their enthusiasm!



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# Winstanley Life

## Supporting Children in Need

# Christmas 2025

A huge thank you to all our students, staff and families for getting involved in our Children in Need activities in November! The school was full of spotty outfits and lots of enthusiasm. During the week we held a cake sale which was a huge success – thank you to everyone who baked, bought and supported! Children in Need do incredible work supporting disadvantaged children and young people across the UK, funding projects that provided safety, mental health support, opportunities and brighter futures. We were so proud to have played a small part in helping this wonderful cause. Despite lots of other things happening in school over the last time we raised a fantastic £125.34!



## Urban Geography

On the 8th, 9th and 10th of December Year 10 and 11 Geographers 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.



# Anti-Racism Workshop

Earlier this term our students took part in an incredibly powerful and thought-provoking anti-racism workshop led by Shareefa Energy - poet, writer, producer and anti-racism campaigner. During the workshop, Shareefa guided students through the history of justice campaigns and shared detailed stories of individuals whose lives were deeply impacted - and in some cases tragically cut short by racism. Students learned about the heartbreaking cases of Shukri Abdi, Kelso Cochrane and Altab Ali and the devastating effects these losses had on their families and communities, as well as the wider issues of media bias and injustice within the court and sentencing of offenders. She also spoke about Bhim Kohli, whose death sent shockwaves through our own community. Students reflected on Bhim's story alongside other victims of racist violence, emphasising the urgent need for change. As part of the session, students wrote poetry inspired by what they had heard, considering how they can be upstanders - challenging racism, welcoming refugees and helping everyone in our community feel safe, valued and included. The workshop was a valuable experience, offering students an important space to express themselves, process difficult topics and have their voices heard.



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## Boys SHINE Bright

On the 21<sup>st</sup> November we were proud to host our Boys SHINE Bright event, organised to coincide with International Men's Day on 19th November. The event gave our Year 9 boys a fantastic opportunity to meet and talk with successful male role models from a wide range of careers. Using a fun and fast-paced 'speed-dating' format, every student was able to speak with each delegate, ask questions and learn more about different career paths and the world of work. We were especially thrilled to welcome back a former Winstanley student, Ruebyn as our Key Note Speaker. The amazing speech he gave was truly inspiring, detailing his own struggle in education and how he overcame difficult circumstances to become a Premier League referee through hard work and 'never giving up' to achieve excellence.

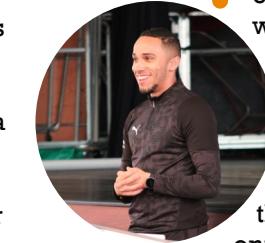
A huge thank you to all the delegates who generously gave their time today, representing sectors including Health & Social Care, Education, Sports/Refereeing, Construction, Human Resources, Local Government, Computing, Business Management and Engineering. Their support and openness made the event a real success. Our boys were exceptionally well-behaved, fully engaged and asked thoughtful and enthusiastic questions throughout the morning. Finally, thank you to our delegates - David, Alex, Tom, Glenn, Lewis, Jordan, Tripp, Richard, Matthew and Jackson and to Mr Goodacre and Miss Jackett for their hard work in organising such a valuable and inspiring event. What a brilliant morning of motivation, aspiration, and ambition - our boys truly did SHINE Bright!



# Winstanley Life Christmas 2025

## Festive Baking

Our Year 9 and 10 Hospitality & Catering students have been getting into the festive spirit by making mini Christmas cakes! They carefully mixed all the ingredients and baked their cakes in bean tins - a brilliant way to create perfectly sized individual treats. Once the cakes have cooled, students will be decorating them with festive designs before taking them home to enjoy over Christmas. the finished creations!



# Going Global!

Last week 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! The outcomes reflected the amount of resources students had to begin with, but also those who thought strategically and worked hard, with Team France creating the most wealth and Team Kenya coming last with the least amount of wealth.



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We are on  
Instagram, join  
our other 1363  
followers!



## Staying Safe Online

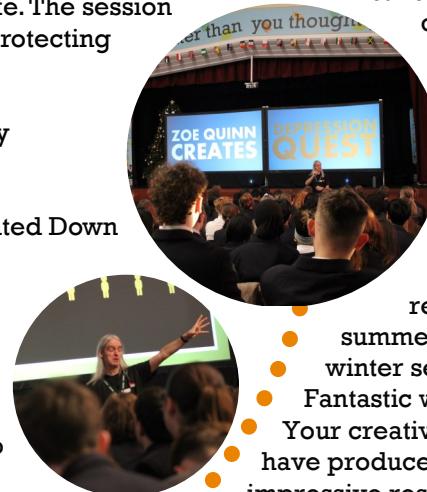
This week at school, we are excited to welcome Warning Zone! They were delivering their powerful online-safety presentation "Crowd Control" to our students. This one-hour show explores real-life risky situations online – from hate mobs to scams – using up-to-date case studies to show how quickly things can escalate and how to stay safe. The session gives students practical guidance on managing online challenges and protecting themselves in the digital world. Crowd Control covers topics such as:

- The mentality of online attackers
- Mass orchestrated hate campaigns – including a Gamergate case study
- Tactics and propaganda used by online hate mobs
- How gender can affect online abuse
- How small pieces of information can reveal identities – case study: Hunted Down
- Online risks young people commonly take
- Spotting fake threat reports
- Why we skip Terms & Conditions (and what can go wrong!)
- Building strong, effective passwords
- Controlling your digital data trail
- Understanding blackmail and how to escape it

We're pleased to offer our students this valuable learning experience to help them navigate the online world confidently and safely. A big thank you to Craig for such an informative and well presented learning experience.

# Winstanley Life Christmas 2025

## Taste of Summer



Our Year 9 Art students have been busy bringing a little sunshine into the current grey December days! They've created larger-than-life, realistic ice cream cones using paper mâché, carefully shaping and decorating each one to look good enough to eat. The vibrant colours and incredible detail have been a lovely reminder of warm summer afternoons - as winter settles in. Fantastic work, Year 9! Your creativity and effort have produced some very impressive results. Well done!





## Show Racism the Red Card

Just before October half term our students showed their support for Show Racism the Red Card by wearing something red alongside their school uniform and donating £1. This event, held as part of Black History Month, encouraged everyone in our school community to stand together against racism, show kindness and be upstanders - not bystanders. A big thank you to all the students, parents and staff who took part and helped promote respect, equity and inclusion across our school.



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Festive Baking,  
Year 9 and 10 Christmas Cakes

## Winstanley Life Leadership Conference

At the beginning of December we hosted our annual Student Leadership Conference at the Shakespeare Park Pavilion. The event brought together our student leaders and upstanders, giving them the opportunity to collaborate, share ideas and explore exciting new opportunities for development in the year ahead.

The conference was opened by Mr Bennett, Headteacher, and we were honoured to welcome back three of our former student leaders - Miss Alam, Miss Bland (both now working at Winstanley), and Thomas, who is currently Head Boy at his Sixth Form college. They each shared inspiring stories about their personal leadership journeys and explained how their experiences



as young leaders helped shape their confidence, ambitions and career pathways.

Our students took part in a range of workshops and worked incredibly hard to develop action plans that will guide their missions for the coming year.

Being an upstander or a young leader has a powerful impact - helping students build confidence, strive for excellence, influence their futures and contribute positively to our school community.



## Christmas 2025

### New 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!

# Building Career Paths

During this term some of our students have been taking part in some exciting workshops as part of the We Discover Project, run by the Leicester and Leicestershire Careers Hub. We are proud to be part of the pilot programme, which aims to expand students' understanding of the world of work and help them develop valuable employability skills. As part of the project, our school has been partnered with Scope, a Loughborough-based construction company. The first of three sessions was led by their team, giving students a hands-on introduction to the many different careers available within the construction industry. Students explored real blueprints from Scope's current builds, learned how construction plans are developed, and even had the opportunity to try out tools such as laser levels. It was an engaging and informative session that opened students' eyes to the wide variety of pathways within the sector.

The second session looked at teamwork, and students took on different roles to create a bridge

across desks that would take the weight of a toy truck. We look forward to the next session and hope that students gain knowledge of the industry and valuable careers knowledge to help them make informed decisions for their future.



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## Winstanley Life

### Colour Awards

This term we were very proud to present Colour Awards during a celebration assembly, 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.



# Christmas 2025

## Christmas at Church

During the last week of term Year 7 and 8 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 for his warm welcome and for creating such a meaningful experience for everyone involved. A big well done to Ky-Mani, Romola, Aniyah, Noah, Barnabas, Jamie, Azmeel, Ruth, Josh, Oscar, Rufus, James, Isabel, Lola and Maisie who read so beautifully in church and to Archie who played 'Carol of the Bells' on the piano as everyone arrived. We are so proud of our students for their involvement and the spirit they brought to this event. It was a joyful visit for the final week of school.



## Happy Christmas

We return to school on Tuesday, 6th January 2026



# Supporting Others

Our Wellbeing Safe Space, run by Ms Palmer and supported by our Wellbeing Upstanders, provides students with a calm and welcoming environment throughout the week. On Mindful Monday, students can enjoy relaxing music alongside mindful colouring and creative crafts. Wellbeing Wednesday offers students the chance to "feed" their worries to the worry monster and receive helpful wellbeing tips from our Wellbeing Upstanders. On Fun Friday, students can take part in a variety of card and board games while listening to an upbeat music playlist created by the Upstanders. All year groups are welcome to attend.

## Hard Work



## Let yourself



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 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 £70 for Save the Children.



# Independence

In November Mr Bennett, Mrs Boyce (ex Winstanley Senior Leader) and Reuben (ex Winstanley student) were invited to the House of Lords to take part in an event to promote the work done by the Stephen Lawrence Research Centre. The aim of the event was to persuade people with influence and funding to support the Centre and enable them to expand the excellent work that they are already doing. In the audience there were MPs, Lords and Ladies and representatives of key organisations. It was brilliant to have the opportunity to explain our journey in becoming an anti-racist school and to talk about the huge role played by the Stephen Lawrence Ambassadors. It is very exciting to think that something that started at the Winstanley School could one day become a national initiative.



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# SHINE

## Never Giving Up

A group of Winstanley staff took part in the Run Leicester event in October to raise money for Open Hands, a local charity supporting those in need. They have raised £630 to help Open Hands provide vital services for some of the most vulnerable people in Leicester and Leicestershire. A big thank you to everyone who donated - and of course, to our amazing runners!

## Excellence

We are pleased to announce the winner of our Year 7 Christmas Card Competition, which this year was themed around Christmas wreaths. The winning design was created by Georgia in 7EAR and was of an outstanding standard, particularly for a Year 7 student. Her creativity and attention to detail really stood out, and we look forward to seeing her artistic skills continue to develop as she progresses through the school. Georgia's design has been professionally printed and sent to local residents, helping to spread festive cheer throughout the community.

