

This half term has been the most rewarding of my career to date. The students have returned with a real vigour and work ethic. This matches perfectly with my aspirations for the school and bodes well for everyone's future achievements.

Over the summer break, eight of our illustrious students completed their World Challenge in Morocco. This was not only a rewarding experience, but in my opinion, an extremely brave experience. All students have come back to school displaying real maturity and the knowledge that they have made a difference to the educational experiences of children who have less opportunities than themselves.

Chris Parkinson, Executive Principal of the LiFE MAT (Multi Academy Trust) now spends two days a week at Winstanley. His experience and enthusiasm have been fantastic, and between us, we will ensure that Winstanley and Bosworth students have the best opportunities that school, and life after school, can offer. By working together, it will allow us to truly serve our shared community, where collaborative work between the schools leads to a sustainable future. This work has already begun at pace, with teachers from both schools visiting each other to establish close working relationships.

As with all schools, the start of the year has seen us focus on a 'back to basics' approach, aimed at allowing every student here at Winstanley to be successful. We do insist on perfect uniform, with shirts tucked in. If there is ever any reason that a student cannot be in uniform on a certain day, please ensure that they bring a note to explain the reason, and they will then receive a pass for that day. The uniform amongst students across the whole school is looking superb at the moment. Thank you for your support in this matter. This year, we have also had a focus on students arriving at school, ready to learn. It is therefore essential that each student has an adequate bag to carry the various things they need to be successful, such as a pencil case, their planner, PE kit etc. Once again, thank you for your support in this matter.

A new development has been the introduction of a Year 11 Academic Mentoring programme, with every student in Year 11, having an academic mentor. The launch was on Thursday 29th September, where every parent of a Year 11 student was invited into school to meet their son/daughter's mentor. This was a great success, because many parents attended, and it highlighted how important parents/carers feel it is for them to be able to work closely with the school, to have an impact on GCSE outcomes next summer.

Our new intake of year 7 students have taken the transition from Primary School to Secondary School in their stride. Indeed, it feels like they have always been here, with several members of the year group having already been nominated to represent the school on the student council. We have also recruited our prefects from year 11 and we are looking to convert our meeting room in the main foyer, into a year 11 study area during lunch and break times.

The long process of forming the LiFE MAT with Bosworth Academy has been incredibly rewarding and we are already seeing positive outcomes from this, as we genuinely feel that by our schools collaborating closely, we can only serve our shared community in a better way.

Thank you for your continued support, as without that, I know the plans and developments taking place here at Winstanley would not be possible. I will endeavour to keep you up to date with progress on a regular basis. I hope you enjoy this edition.

Mr Williams, Principal
Winstanley Community College

shine

College Success

Last year we had five students who took part in college taster courses organised by Vesa in Sport, Mechanics, Hair & Beauty and Media. Paige (not pictured), Dion, Brendon, Alex and David. They were awarded certificates and have now all progressed on to Level 1 qualifications.

[#shinevalues - Independence!](#)



Hair today... gone tomorrow!

One of our Year 10 students has had 9 inches of hair cut off for charity. Emily donated her hair to the Little Princess Trust, who make real-hair wigs for children who have lost their hair through cancer treatment. She also raised over £155 from sponsorship.

[#shinevalues - Supporting Others!](#)



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Settling in!

Our Year 7 students have made a great start so far this year. We welcomed them into school on the 1st September, and as we have done on previous years had a later start time for years 8 - 11 to create a quieter, less intimidating first morning for our new starters.



The first day was spent exploring the school, getting familiar with their new environment and meeting their new class mates and tutors. They had an extended tutor time where their tutors Mr Evans, Miss O'Hara, Mrs McGladrigan and Mrs Rollason had lots of fun activities for them to complete. The new students are finding plenty of things they like about Winstanley, these include changing lessons and having a variety of teachers. They like the mature atmosphere and being able to walk to school and chat to friends on the way. Favourite lessons so far include Music and PE.

On the 6th October the whole year group went to Beaumanor Hall to take part in a Team-building day based around 'Resilience'. Activities to promote supporting each other, managing conflict and working together to achieve a shared goal involved students taking part in night-lining and an assault course in the adventure playground. A special mention for Laith Ali who overcame his fear of heights encouraged by his team.

Mrs Turner, who is head of year 7, said: "Students have settled into Winstanley life really well. They have made new friends and are working really hard with lots of new subjects and activities to participate in, they are so enthusiastic and it's wonderful to see them learning and developing. Well Done Year 7!"

Year 7 students will also be taking part in a new challenge on 27th October when they will be going on a walk around the perimeter of Bradgate park on a trip which is about achieving aspirations and also as an introduction to DofE, as they will be accompanied by Mrs Underwood (DofE leader and Respect co-ordinator).



We do like to be beside the Seaside!

On the 20th September Year 11 GCSE Geography students went on a day trip to North Norfolk. The trip was organised as part of their GCSE controlled assessment and they spent their time investigating coastal erosion and what strategies are employed in managing this.



Norfolk is a great location for students to really explore the impact of coastal erosion and there is evidence all along the cliffs for the students to see first hand the devastating effect that the sea and winter storms can have on people's lives. The beaches they visited at Cromer and Overstrand also have coastal defences in place to protect the residents and the coastline. The students were able to explore how these defences work and how effective they can be.

All students who took part in the trip enjoyed their day out from the normal school routine, and made the most of their time visiting the coast. The weather was good and although the trip was part of their forthcoming Geography GCSE it was an enjoyable day for all involved.



See more photos!

Click the link on our webpage to view photos of all the latest events at Winstanley.



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GCSE Success

Our Year 11 students have now embarked on their most important school year to date. We also recognise that as students realise this, they sometimes require more support from school and home to ensure that they are able to fulfil their potential.

On the 29th September we launched our new scheme to involve parents in supporting their children through their GCSE and also introducing Progress Mentors for every student in Year 11. Over the coming months the mentors will be available to help students through, what for some, will be a difficult year and help them on the route to success and achievement.

These meetings will not only allow us to be aware of students progress, but will also allow us to intervene should we need to. It will also give parents a more accurate idea of the progress their son or daughter is making.

If you are a parent who was unable to attend the meeting on the 29th we are happy to arrange an appointment with you at a convenient time and date.

This scheme has proved to be highly effective in other schools, and by working closely together, we are confident that our students will receive their best possible GCSE results next August.



Trip of a life-time!

After the summer break it was exciting to hear all about our group of students who went on a World Challenge trip to Morocco at the end of last term. They all had to work extremely hard to raise the money for their trip. The students set off from Leicestershire on 10th July to embark on this life-changing trip which was not only about exploration and teamwork but also to take part in charitable work.



Their first evening was spent at the Hotel Ali where they had magnificent views over the city of and they had their first opportunity to explore. The following day they travelled to Ouzazarte, a city located between the Atlas mountains and the desert, here they met their host Baali and

his family who they stayed with as guests for the majority of their stay. The charitable part of their trip involved working with a local primary school to improve the lives of the children there, they worked tirelessly alongside World Challenge volunteers to create a football pitch and outdoor activities and games. Whilst carrying out their work they also had a number of excursions which included visiting the Atlas Film Studios, a bath-house and a nearby Kasbah. They were also invited to join a local family at their home were made to feel part of the community by the local people that they met.



After completing the community work they had two days of trekking in the Atlas mountains where they had plenty of opportunity to enjoy the beautiful scenery and amazing colours of rugged mountains, dense forests and fertile valleys. On their return to Marrakesh there were further opportunities to explore Moroccan culture in the markets, cafes and streets, the students really enjoyed tasting the wide variety of street food on offer and also had the chance to expand their cooking skills at a Moroccan cookery class.



Students felt that the experience had been really worthwhile, they came away with some fantastic memories, learnt to overcome adversity, resolve arguments, experience a very different culture and budget their money. Mrs Cooke who organised the trip said:-"I am so proud of all of the students who participated. We left for Morocco, nervous, with 8 children and arrived home with 8 young adults ready to take on the world. The students undertook tasks and experiences that would daunt many adults and did so with a real understanding and empathy of the local culture. What an amazing experience for all involved!"



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Scientists of the future!

Science teacher Mrs Patel has been really impressed by the hard work and commitment that some of her students are showing since returning to school in September. They have been studying a variety of topics where students have been demonstrating their knowledge and learning in very creative ways.



Casey Gurney, worked really hard during her science lesson creating a 3D model showing the process of photosynthesis. She was very proud of her creation. Casey also showed maturity and skill when the class did their first dissection of a heart



and lungs.

Wiktoria and Leah demonstrated some Shine values as well as scientific knowledge when they were making working models of 'lungs' out of plastic bottles. When they were unable to get their models to work they carefully went back to the beginning until they got

their models to work, showing that 'never giving up' is a very valuable life skill.

Year 9 students Trinity, Olivia, Caitlin and Imogen have also been praised for their recent home learning task where they were asked to research the history of scientific discovery in relation to DNA. They all demonstrated great research skills and fantastic



knowledge. Trinity, in particular had put in a huge amount of hard work and effort to produce an imaginative and interactive model showing not only fantastic learning but a flair for design too. Mrs Patel said "The girls have shown a real enthusiasm for the subject, and the work we are doing at the moment is part of the GCSE syllabus for next year. By encouraging students to be creative and use new ways of leaning they will retain the facts that they need to achieve good results and better understanding when they need to revise in the future".

Under the Sea!

It was great to see Mr Berry's art class thoroughly engaged in their work and clearly enjoying making and creating with clay in a recent art class.



There were some lovely examples of work and the students were showing a great deal of skill and thoughtfulness in how their finished pieces will look.

The students from Year 9 had their work admired by visitors during our Open Evening last week when it went on display in the art room. The ADT department has also created it's own Blog which will help and advise students who are taking the subject at GCSE. It also has a section for the latest home-learning tasks and features a gallery of student work.



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Open Evening

Last Thursday saw us host our annual Open Evening for pupils and their parents from local primary schools to come along and find out more about life as a student at Winstanley.

We were pleased to welcome so many new faces to the school and hope that they enjoyed the warm welcome given by staff and also by all the students who came along on the night to show visitors around and help out in classrooms.

A big thank you must go to our steel pan band Jacob Wright, Jake Blockley, Jorja Warwick, Olivia Clarke, Trinity Pattenden and Charlotte Norman who gave a wonderful performance and got the evening off on the right note. Following a presentation by Mr Williams our Principal, visitors had a tour of the school which included a Treasure Hunt for the children.



There were lots of fun activities going on in classrooms, with exciting chemical reactions in Science, puzzling problems in Maths and some language laundry to untangle in English. Students were busy in Catering making and decorating cakes and there was a lot of creativity on show in art and design where visitors could join in and have a go themselves.



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Ready to make a Splash?

After over a year of building work and improvements our swimming pool is now complete and students will be ready to take the plunge after half term.

The major refurbishment following the fire damage which occurred during August 2015 has now been completed, and although work has taken longer than expected we are pleased with the final result. The architects' new design replaces the burnt out flat roof with a built up barrel vault system which will make the pool area a fresh, light and modern space. The whole pool has been re-tiled, and new flooring has been laid around the pool. The wall has been moved out slightly which will allow for a spectator area with some staged seating. Changing facilities have been brought up to date with stylish grey decor, new sinks and showers, modern flooring and lockers. The new look pool has been worth the wait and a great asset to Braunstone Town as well as our school.

Mr Williams, Principal said "We're thrilled we've got our newly refurbished pool back in use. Being without it over the past year has been a big loss to our students and the community. Although the fire was devastating it has given us a unique opportunity to not only carry out the repairs but also improve the facilities of our much-used pool."

Swimming lessons for our students will begin again after the half term break. Full details including a swimming timetable can be seen on our website. Lessons are held in single-sex groups and students will be expected to have swimming kit with them. Having our own pool is a fantastic asset for the school and we hope that students will take full advantage of this facility.

We will be holding an official opening shortly and this will give the community a chance to see the completed swimming pool. There are also a full range of community activities taking place in the pool. See the back page and our website for details.



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Community Swimming Schedule

Children's Swimming Lessons

Monday-Thursday, 3.45pm - 6.30pm . Tel 0116 289 8688

Adult Swimming Lessons

Monday, 7.15pm - 8pm . Tel 0116 291 6987

Adult Leisure Swim

Tuesday, 7.15pm - 8.30pm . Tel 0116 289 8688

Braunstone Swimming Club

Monday-Sunday, various times . Tel 0116 291 8672

Splash Babies

Sunday, 9am - 12.00pm . Tel 07968 015292

Saturday, 1.30pm - 3.30pm . Tel 07734 700447



Upcoming Events/Term Dates

PLEASE NOTE: We break up on Thursday 13th October for Half Term

- 24th October - Back to school
- 26th October - Yr 7 Subject Evening
- 27th October - Yr 7 Bradgate Park Trip
- 2nd November - Yr Study Skills Workshop
- 3rd November - Year 10 Subject Evening
- 14th November - Yrs 9 & 11 Skills Show NEC
- 23rd November - Winter Sports Day
- 24th November - Yr 7 Skills for Success
- 30th November - Yr 11 Interview Techniques

For a full list of term dates please see our website

**DODGE
DUCK
DIP
DIVE
DODGE**



14-18 years old?

Why not try Dodgeball, Wednesdays 7pm-8pm
At Winstanley Community College, Leics. LE3 3BD
£2 per session, 1st session FREE
Starting on October 26th



For more information find us at
www.enderbyjrdodgeball.co.uk

Email
enderbyjrdodgeball@outlook.com

or find us on  



SATURDAY MORNING

YOGA

with Julia

10.00-11.15am

at Winstanley Community College



All abilities and ages* welcome

£5.50 per class

...or £30 for a course of 6 classes paid in advance

For enquiries or to reserve a place / a mat

Call Julia on 07914 711 167

*(Minimum age is 16 – no upper limit)

or email julia.little2@ntlworld.com

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