Welcome to our Spring Newsletter. I hope you are enjoying the warmer temperatures and the light evenings. This term has been an very successful one with one of the highlights being awarded the Inclusion Quality Mark, making us only the second secondary school in the whole of Leicestershire to achieve such a prestigious accolade.

Looking through the newsletter you can see how staff and students are ‘shining brightly’ in a wide variety of activities. In addition to these activities our Year 11s and their teachers are well into exam season and it is obvious as we speak to the students that their hard working is paying off.

As always we thank you for all your support through this term - our partnership with you in making sure that your son or daughter gets the best possible opportunities and education is vital.

Mr Williams and Mr Bennett, Co-Heads of School.

Shining Brightly

We are proud to announce that The Winstanley School has recently achieved the prestigious Inclusion Quality Mark. Earlier this term, the school underwent a rigorous two day assessment where our values, ethos and practices were scrutinized by an independent assessor who recommended The Winstanley School for this nationally recognised award.

Over the course of the two days, the assessor met with staff, students, parents and governors and identified many strengths and positive practices within the school. The assessor commented that “The Winstanley School is a vibrant and stimulating learning environment” and our SHINE values were identified as “a set of principles and values that underpin and articulate the core ethos of the school”.

The assessment report states that:

- At Winstanley there is a staff group who have ownership of the new culture and vision, believe in it and understand how it can support students to reach their potential.
- Winstanley has a highly skilled team who make a significant contribution to pupil attainment and achievement.
- There is a strong collective strategic drive from the senior leadership team which provides clear vision and direction in the development of policy and its implementation. This allows Inclusion to be articulated and is evident in the schools’ vision of SHINE.
- There are positive relationships amongst staff and students in a learning environment that is stimulating, creative and safe.
- The students are happy and feel safe, during the assessment they demonstrated how they respect themselves, each other and behaviour.

These are just a small selection of the positive comments, to read the full report please visit our website.

Winstanley Life

Making a Splash!

This year Sport Relief took place on Friday, 23rd March and there was a lot happening throughout the school. We had an amazing staff Bake-off with Student Council having a tough job tasting and judging the cakes, smoothies on sale at break time, staff versus students at lunch time and leg waxing in 9CWI during tutor time. The highlight however took place on the Thursday when students had the opportunity to race against Mr Turner, who is our Head of Year 9 and has taken part in the 2012 Olympics and was also a Silver Medalist in the Commonwealth Games in 2010.

Brave volunteers to take on Mr Turner were Riley, Jake, Lewis, Lauren, Sam, Sid, Tia and Shannon, who really enjoyed the opportunity to compete against an Olympian. Riley got the best time of 37 seconds against Mr Turner’s 27.33 seconds lap time. It was fantastic to see such a great turn out of spectators and students really supporting and cheering on their classmates. Well done to Reuben from Year 7 who helped organise and publicise the event.

Mr Turner has now retired from competitive swimming but is hoping that he can use his experiences to inspire, encourage and mentor in his new role here.

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We were very pleased to welcome Birmingham band Lunafall to Winstanley. They are a three piece band from Birmingham. Combining the best of rock and pop, as well as an eclectic mix of influences. The Arts Award Silver students helped set up the hall, learned a little about our stage lighting system in preparation for Winstanley’s Got Talent. As part of their project-work for the silver award they will each write up a review of Lunafall’s performance. At the end of the concert they conducted an interview with the band focusing on the career path of being a professional musician.

Race for Liberia

This summer our Religious Studies teacher - Mrs Boyce will be travelling to Liberia, a country in Africa to work as a volunteer with street children. She has been selected as the only funded UK applicant to take an active part in this programme to enable some of the poorest and most vulnerable children in the world to access free education. To support her work students will be asked to take part in ‘Race for Liberia’ during lesson 5 on Friday 8th June. It will be £1 to take part and students can also raise extra money through sponsorship. There will be rewards for the fastest through the finishing line as well as the student to raise the most money. Please look our for sponsor forms shortly.

Outdoor Living

During May some of our Year 9 students were out and about on their overnight DofE expedition. They began their walk on the Thursday and camped overnight at Beaumanor Hall where they had their first experience of cooking their dinner on camping stoves. They all had a really positive experience despite having to take a detour on the Friday, due to a footpath being impassable, making their walk much longer. It was great to see them being independent and solving real life problems and navigating around the situation using their maps. There were some great team building skills on show with students really supporting each other and working together. They were all smiling even at the end of a very long walk, and the efficiency in getting cooking equipment out and making lunch and warm drinks really showed the benefit of learning life skills outside of the school environment.

Feeling Happy?

Mental Health Awareness Week took place between 14th-18th May, and we encouraged both staff and students to take part in activities which encourage positivity, happiness and friendship. Each day had a different theme for Tutor Time, which included doing ‘Random Acts of Kindness’ to make other people feel happy, a walk around the field to encourage calmness, turning negative phrases into positive ones, singing in a choir and encouraging positivity. With staff taking part as well we hope that everyone at the Winstanley School enjoyed creating some happiness and positivity.
We had over 60 students take part in the annual Area Sports Athletics competition at Saffron Lane Stadium on Friday 18th May. We had some really determined performances especially on such a warm day. We haven't got official results back yet but Lauren from Year 7 won the javelin competition, Mohammed in Year 7 won 100m and Dylan from Year 9 won shotput and Jada won hurdles for her age group. Keep a look out on social media for further news.

The following students from Year 9 and 10 are all amazing role models and have received ZERO behaviour points.

- Mohammad 10RI
- Caitlin 10PL
- Harman 9KMA
- Yogen 10HMI
- Alice 9HBA
- Olivia 10PL
- Max 10PL
- Ellie 9CWI
- Logan D 10PL
- Jasmine S 10HMI
- Holly P 9KMA
- Zoe 10RI
- Emma 9CWI
- Jakub 9HBA
- Chloe 10HMI
- Saskia 9KMA
- Amrit 10SH
- Kelly 9CWI
- Amelia 9HBA
- Eliza 10RI
- Connor 9PTH
- Mateusz 9CWI
- Peter 10PL
- Sana 9KMA
- Dominik 9CWI
- Jakub 10HMI
- Amanpreet 9KMA
- Amelia 9CWI
- Chloe 10RI
- Yvie 9CWI

Well done to Olivia, Emily, Trinity, Sam, Toby and Laith who put on an amazing Steel Pans performance at The Braunstone Civic Centre for the town Mayor’s Awards Ceremony on Friday evening. Everyone really enjoyed the music, and we hope this will be the first of many requests for the band to play at local events.

Year 11 have made a great start with their GCSE exams already. We wish them the best of luck with the remaining exams and look forward to celebrating with them at the Prom on 25th June 2018.

The boys all attended Folville Junior School together and have enjoyed sharing their enthusiasm for Maths and Statistics over the last few weeks.