Our Mission Statement

Ninestiles School will be nationally and internationally acknowledged as a high achieving, innovative and exciting school which recognises the diversity of its community. It will be structured and resourced to meet the needs of 21st century students. Within a caring environment, we will develop and reinforce the values, skills and attributes which promote good citizenship and lifelong learning. Parents, governors and the wider community will work in partnership with our committed, appropriately skilled workforce and our students, to ensure that high quality learning takes place. Outcomes will be outstanding.

KEY DATES

30.03.16—01.04.16 and 04.04.16—08-04-16  
Easter Revision School

11.04.16  School closed for Inset day

12.04.16  School re-opens to students

20.04.16  Year 10 parents Evening

25.04.16  Year 9 Options Evening

02.05.16  May Bank Holiday: school closed

03.05.16—29.06.16  External exam season

30.05.16—03.06.16  Half Term

08.06.16  Year 7 parents evening

29.06.16  Year 6 parents evening

30.06.16  Year 6 induction day

04.07.16  Year 10 work experience

08.07.16  School closed for inset day

08.07.16  Year 11 leavers assembly and Prom

11.07.16  Start of new timetable

22.07.16  School closes for students at 12.00pm

The Lion King—whole school production

In February, Ninestiles school put on the Disney production of The Lion King.

Auditions took place back in October and rehearsals were underway until our show week in February. A great number of hours were put in to make it an outstanding show.

Over 45 students, across Year 7-11 were involved along with over 20 staff. The quality of the performance was outstanding from the actors, ensemble and musicians to the production crew back stage. We had excellent feedback from parents and visitors about the high quality performance.

A huge well done to everyone involved!
Rajinder Swali, one of our Year 11 students at Ninestiles Academy, is currently the British 32.5 Kilos and European 48 Kilos, champion in Thai Boxing.

Rajinder started training when he was 8 years old and had his first fight when he was 10. He took inspiration from his two older cousins, who also compete in Thai Boxing, one of which is now his coach. He currently spends approximately 12 hours per week training, but this increases in the period before a fight. However, as Rajinder prepares for his exams, he has reduced his training in order to spend more time revising.

When he was selected to compete for the British title in 2013, taking place in Newcastle, he had 2 weeks’ notice, and again for the European title, which took place in Crewe, he had 12 days’ notice. On both of these occasions, one of the competitors had to withdraw and Rajinder was contacted by the organiser to see if he was interested in competing. Although he had little time to prepare, he succeeded in gaining both titles.

To prepare for a fight, he intensifies his training 6-8 weeks beforehand, and approximately 3 weeks prior to the fight, will increase his protein intake. He is due to defend his title later this year, although it is expected he will have moved up to the next weight category. When Rajinder reaches the age of 16, he will fight in the adult categories.

He hopes to study Sport and Exercise Science at College to prepare him for a university place studying Physiotherapy. He also hopes to travel to Thailand this summer where he will spend 3 weeks acclimatising and 2-3 weeks competing.

Well done Rajinder!

Congratulations to Amina Ara, another of our Year 11 students, who was the winner of the best poem in the Shakespeare Poetry Book for Young Writers. The poem submitted was ‘Dearest Ophelia’ which was selected by the editorial team.

Dearest Ophelia

What doest one see? A single quaint rose floating amid the still, sombre water.

With the eldritch voices the lady sleeps,
As the creation surrounding her sighs and weeps.
Shalt the brook and its tides nev'r awake her,
For this world is greatly complex to an innocent stranger.

A young lady once deranged by ardent love,
Now a mere soul that glides peacefully through the wind like a prepossessing dove.
For one's love never fades, even in death those pale white hands still clutch a single sprig of rosemary.

With the spectres trailing her lifeless body deeper,
Another mortal selleth their soul to the reaper.
A fair maiden so unpretentious and naive,
Sinking gradually, leaving mankind to mourn, to grieve.

As the ill-starred maiden is laid to rest,
Leaves of rue are placed on her motionless chest.

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Twitter: @Ninestiles
This term has been a busy term for Year 11. They have successfully completed their second set of Pre Public Examinations, all have applied for post 16 courses and there have been numerous reward trips. Our high achievers visited University of Warwick and the University of Cambridge and were inspired to aim high! Furthermore, our reward trip to London gave those Year 11s who are at school everyday, on time, behaving and achieving well in lessons an experience they will never forget.

One main highlight of this term has been the visit from Jim Roberson, a motivational speaker. He inspired the students to achieve, showed them to appreciate the resources they have, and to make the most of the opportunities Ninestiles offer. All Year 11 students attended the sessions with this enthusiastic speaker.

It has been great to see so many Year 11 students sign up for the fantastic opportunity with the National Citizen Service this summer. They will have an immense few weeks of adventure, skills and social action.

We wish them the best of luck in their final exams and hope all their hard work and commitment ensures they achieve what they need for the next steps after Ninestiles.

On Thursday 17th March, 30 students from Year 11 visited Newnham College Cambridge. This was arranged so that our students could find out more about life at a top Russell Group University. They had talks about how to apply to University and guidance about A level choices and degree courses. They had a tour of the College by students from the University. In the afternoon they received a talk at one of the college museums about Greek and Roman Culture followed by a walk into the city centre to Kings College and Queens College by the river. The visit was enjoyed by all.

Getting up at 5.30am on a cold Saturday morning was not the most appealing thought before Ninestiles school’s annual Year 11 trip to London, however, as always the day proved to be memorable and more than worth an early start for the 120 souls who were lucky enough to be going.

After getting into London for 9.45am, we proceeded to the Science Museum with relish; our students even managed to learn a thing or two (always useful on an educational trip!). Mr Hughes, in particular, was the fountain of knowledge regarding the last man on the moon, Eugene Cerdan, which may come in handy on quiz nights for these students in the coming years.

From the Science Museum we took a leisurely stroll to Buckingham Palace via Harrods, Hyde Park and the most popular stopping point, the McLaren car garage. We saw soldiers in full regalia striding down the mall on their decorated horses, we also saw tourists by the thousand, but unfortunately we never got to see Elizabeth II who had failed to put us in her diary, despite Mr Hartwell assuring us she would have the kettle on!
Visiting Imam Asim Hafiz O.B.E.

Imam Asim Hafiz O.B.E. Islamic Advisor and Imam to the British Military, visited Ninestiles on Tuesday 15 March 2016.

He met with students in Years 9, 10 and 11 to discuss his experiences in Afghanistan, how he works to support Muslim soldiers within the British military and about his engagement with the Afghan people. He also explained that he had recently been in Sierra Leone where a hospital ship had been sent to help with the Ebola outbreak. Imam Asim was involved in a film produced called ‘Faith on the Frontline’, endorsed by The Home Office, which is about how there is a vast range of religions and cultures working together in the military. Showing clips from this film he talked about how different faiths can work together.

It was an extremely successful visit with students asking a number of insightful questions.
Curriculum News!

Creativity and Performance

This year, Ninestiles linked with Football For Peace (FFP), an organisation dedicated to creating dialogue and understanding within marginalised communities through football (www.footballforpeaceglobal.org). As a result of this link, three of our students were selected to become FFP ambassadors, primarily because of their love for football. Along the way they earned their FA Junior Football Leaders Award, attended a diversity, equality and inclusion workshop and led two football festivals to local schools, including a group of football mad Year 8 students from Ninestiles. In December, our three leaders were officially given the title of FFP ambassadors in a ceremony presented by the Duke of Cambridge, Prince William. These students were a credit to the school and showcased their maturity throughout the process. As FFP ambassadors, they will now be given further opportunities to work with the organisation to bring communities together through the medium of football. The school was also awarded a trophy to recognise our support of the organisation.

Ninestiles has supported Sport Relief 2016. We have completed the 1 mile challenge in all PE lessons and the SIG students have led an inter college dodgeball competition, sold wrist bands and held a tuck shop to raise money. Tutors led Sport Relief themed activities for Aspire discussing the issues of Street Children with KS3 students and Mental Health with KS4 students. Well done to all involved!
Discovery

Over 100 Year 8s went on the science Big Bang school trip to the NEC; it was full to capacity with other schools from all over the country exploring the world of science. The Big Bang Fair had many different shows ranging from: dissection of hearts and brains, creating electricity with magnets, making and racing cars, exploring virtual reality, making a colour changing slime, catching criminals with their detective skills, flying planes and some much needed careers advice for the young enthusiastic scientists. The pupils from Ninestiles behaved exemplary and were a real credit to the school with their interesting questions, enthusiasm and intelligent answers.

Around 20 to 30 Year 7 to 8 students have been attending the Science Club every Monday and have been thoroughly enjoying exploring the exciting world of Science. Recently they created balloon powered cars where Alex Brogan got his car to travel the whole science lab! They have also created elastic bands which could hold more weight than store bought ones, turned pennies golden, exploded gloves, seen how exercise affects their heart rate, fired bungs at targets and, with the help of established scientists explored real life police infra-red cameras. After Easter, most students are looking forward to making and exploding their own volcanoes and more established scientists coming in and helping them build wind turbines.
English

In February, the English department took 100 Year 10 students to see a production of Macbeth at the MAC in Cannon Hill Park. It was a two man production, which was an intriguing prospect for a play with about thirty characters in it. However, we knew that the company - Out of Chaos - have an excellent reputation and so we were excited to see what they were going to do. All 100 students we took were engrossed in what happened. The production encouraged the audience to participate at times, taking the parts of the witches and - for Ms Wilkie - appearing on stage as a sleepwalking Lady Macbeth.

The response from the students was extremely positive and included comments such as:

"Watching two men perform a whole play was amazing. My favourite part was when they got the audience involved and made everyone laugh."

"I thought it was outstanding and would like to watch something like this again."

"I thought Macbeth was intriguing and watching it gave me a better understanding of the play. The actors were very enthusiastic and I enjoyed it a lot."

The company then visited Ninestiles for a workshop which they delivered to all the students who had been to the theatre. This was a fabulous opportunity for the students to work in smaller groups with two actors and explore the play in a bit more detail. What a fantastic opportunity for our students and a great introduction to one of the most famous plays in English literature.
Mathematics

A team of four students from Years 7, 8 and 9 represented Ninestiles at the United Kingdom maths trust junior team challenge. They finished a very impressive 6th place from the 27 schools competing. Well done to Andrew Lee, Ayushi Mistry, Sajjadali Hirji and Sohaib Ahmadzai.

On the 11th March, two teams of four Year 11 students took part in the Birmingham University Maths Big Quiz. They acquitted themselves tremendously and were within a few points of the eventual winners. In the battle of the bands (X v Y) the Y band group just edged home. Congratulations to everyone that took part: Zahrah Fatimah, Rohan Gahir, Mustafa Moussa, Yu Hin Chow, Aaliyah Sundi, Mohamed Hamzah Madni, Esha Shahzad and Aneesa Imran.

On Friday the 5th February, Ninestiles went number crazy. To raise awareness of the NSPCC number day, we took part in the Times Tables Rock Stars challenge. During the day our students completed a scarcely believable 167208 calculations placing us in 2nd place in the country, a fantastic result.

School Leaderboard

The top school at midnight on 5th February was Ashfield Junior School and has had a donation made to NSPCC on their behalf.

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<th>Correct</th>
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Globality

Geography out of the classroom learning

This term the Geography department has been actively encouraging pupils in Years 7, 9 and 10 to experience the Geography around them outside of the classroom.

Year 7 have been focusing on weather and erosion and have been using the Ninestiles building and surrounding grounds to find evidence of different types of weathering. Pupils have actively engaged in discussions about where weathering can be seen demonstrating the use of knowledge outside the classroom.

Year 9 have been using equipment loaned to the department from the Royal Meteorological Society, to measure the weather around school before presenting it within their workbooks as a weather forecast - pupils focused on elements of the weather such as wind speed and direction, cloud cover and temperature. This builds upon the department RMet weather mark which was awarded to the department in October 2015.

Finally, Year 10 have been to Birmingham City Centre focusing on the regeneration of Eastside and Grand Central in order to help them develop awareness and experience regeneration within their city.

Once again a group of Year 9 ABLE students were invited to Coca Cola in Milton Keynes to gain a better understanding of the soft drinks industry. The students had a great time developing their Business ideas and how enterprise has generated an industry that sells 4.5 billion bottles of drinks each year in Europe alone. This is our third visit to Coca Cola enterprises and staff at the site have commented on how creative and focused our students are. All the students had a tour of the production facilities where they were completing an order of 130,000 cans of monster energy drink for Asda.

This year we have six groups of Year 9 students taking part in a project organised by the charity Sustainability for the Planet (S4TP). Following an introductory big ideas day in January, 6 groups are developing their ideas with the help of business mentors from Tarmac PLC, Brammer PLC and Head of Business Studies, Mrs Spencer. The students must draw up a detailed business plan and be prepared to present their ideas. If the plans are approved, the teams will be through to the next round and individual groups will present to a panel of senior business representatives at Aston University. One of our teams “Green Solutions” got through to the finals at the Houses of Parliament last year. The range of ideas is broad and once again shows how inventive our students can be. Good luck to all of our teams.
Student Innovation Group (SIG)

SIG’s 5 minute takeover of Greenwood Restaurant

We decided to spend time in the Greenwood kitchen to observe how our food was made and we were impressed by how much the school cares about the different students’ religious dietary needs:

They keep halal foods in a different fridge, cook non-halal food on the other side of the kitchen and wash the foods (meat) in different sinks.

- We have passed all student suggestions about food etc. to Mr West, Restaurant Manager, and he has already made some changes…
- The menus are now available on Cloudnine and the screens in the Greenwood at 1.30pm will display the menu for the next day.
- To summarise, we think that the schools’ kitchen staff do a lot to accommodate the different needs of both students and staff.
- The kitchen staff do a lot for our school so please thank them for what they do on a day to day basis!

I am excited to share with you the opening of the schools new Open Learning Area (OLA). At a cost of £250,000 all students and staff have a fantastic area with reading books, new technologies as well as spaces for independent learning. The OLA will be open from 8.00am to 5.00pm every day and I look forward to seeing everyone making the most of this exceptional new area.

I hope you have enjoyed reading through the wonderful highlights of this term and news from each curriculum area. Finally, can I take the opportunity to wish you a restful and relaxing holiday. Happy Easter to families celebrating Holy week and I look forward to seeing you all next term.