Dear Parent/Carer,

I am delighted to write to you as the newly appointed permanent Principal of Ninestiles, An Academy.

As you will see from this newsletter, the last term has been one of high achievement and success for both the students and staff of Ninestiles. It’s been a busy and productive term full of great learning, enrichment, excitement, and celebration.

It has been so good to see many of you here over the last term at various events supporting the brilliant young people we are lucky to have at Ninestiles. We endeavour to continue a fantastic year of achievement and success, with the confidence looking forward that our students have the best opportunities to lead happy and successful lives.

Senior Mathematics Challenge Year 11 to 13

The Senior Mathematics Challenge took place on 30th November at King Edwards Boys’ School. Four Year 11 students competed from Ninestiles amongst students from mainly Grammar Schools. Ninestiles Academy were the only team that comprised of only Year 11 students; other teams consisted of students from Year 12 and 13. After three rounds of challenging maths and working as a team to solve complex problems, Ninestiles Mathematicians came in 14th place out of 21 teams. This is a huge achievement and fabulous team effort. Ninestiles is very proud of Andrew Lee, Avais Khan, Mohammed Abdelkadir and Mohammed Aman Baksh.

Ninestiles Representation at the UNICEF UK Staff Away Day

Well done to our fantastic Year 11 Performing Arts group who represented Ninestiles at the UNICEF UK Staff Away Day. They performed a very moving piece to represent some of the Children’s Rights that we have been looking at during PHSE Aspire sessions. Mike Penrose, the Executive Director for UNICEF UK was thrilled with the performance and took the time to meet our students and praise them for their commitment to Children’s Rights, their talent and of course their confidence when performing in front of 400 UNICEF staff.
Supporting our local community

Through our work as a Right’s Respecting School, we work very closely with Acocks Green Lions in supporting those within our community. From food hampers to Santa’s Sleigh, we ensure that students are positive and supportive citizens within our local and wider community. The following students represented Ninestiles for the annual Acocks Green Lions Santa Sleigh Collection and the creation of food hampers for the elderly and homeless:


Ninestiles Rights Rangers

During this term, the Rights Rangers have been actively involved in charity work. They have collected food items from all Houses to support Acocks Green Lions elderly community, homeless and a local children’s charity and packed it ready for delivery.

They are involved in an on-going project collecting and packing old text books and reading books for Africa.

The group have baked and sold cakes to support our Christmas Jumper Day (raising money for our House Charities)

Rights Rangers have worked with Year 7 students on a Diwali Project and presented to the Principal and form groups around the school.

They have regular meetings with Miss Oliver to discuss potential community projects and have been involved in the support of Aspire UNICEF sessions.

The group have had an input in supporting Ms Oliver in the creation of Aspire UNICEF sessions this term.
The prestigious roles of Year 11 Head Boy, Head Girl and their deputies

Head Boy—Jason Bangar
Head Girl—Hamna Rafiq
Deputy Head Boy—Ishmam Wains
Deputy Head Girl - Zara Hamid

Our student leaders have demonstrated great leadership qualities during their first term. They welcomed parents and children to our Open Evening in September and gave an excellent public speech.

The students have been actively involved with visitors to the school throughout the term and have recently been involved in the process of appointing the Principal of Ninestiles, Mr Power!

Jason, Hamna, Ishmam and Zara planned and led an inspiring assembly on Student Achievement and Success with the emphasis on our school value to Aspire to Excellence. Ninestiles students responded really well to their advice and guidance.

Wellbeing Ambassadors: Aleena Naeem (Year 10) and Shahzaib Butt (Year 11)

This term Aleena and Shahzaib delivered a whole school assembly around mental health and emotional wellbeing. They also delivered a presentation to the Senior Leadership Group at Lyndon School promoting the idea that Lyndon recruit their own Student Wellbeing Ambassadors this term.

Aleena and Shahzaib advertised for Wellbeing Ambassadors in other Year groups and alongside the Principal, Mr Power, interviewed suitable candidates. Five more Wellbeing Ambassadors have now been recruited and joined the team with Miss Lilley, School Counsellor. Congratulations to Skye Bennett and Ayman Khan Year 7, Umme-Ruqaiyah Tanveer Year 8, Matilda Bloomer Year 9 and Safa Keyani Year 11.

Some of the things the Wellbeing Team will be looking at next term are:

- A campaign to get boys talking more (recognising that suicide is the leading cause of death in young men).
- Targeting support to Year 11s to help with the transition to College.
- Recognising and reducing anxiety and stress caused by exams and assessment.
- Working with Lyndon and Cockshut Wellbeing Ambassadors to develop a consistent Trust approach.

Parental Engagement Evenings for Year 7, 8 and 9

We launched our first Parental Engagement evenings for Year 8 and 9. The evening consisted of taking parents through the subjects and areas their son/daughter will be studying, how they will be assessed and ways to support achievement.

The evenings received incredibly positive feedback from parents:

“so helpful, I understand what my son will be studying and where to find help to support him”

“we really appreciated the chance to ask questions and to be talked through what their school report will mean in terms of progress”

Year 7 Parental Engagement evening will take place on Wednesday 24th January.
Continuing our whole school commitment to the mastery of academic language across the curriculum

We are now almost approaching a year into our whole school academic language programme and getting ready for phase 2. We are building on the success of our current programme which involves explicit teaching and learning of Tier 2 academic language across all subjects. Ninestiles has an amazing team of professionals who have stepped up to the challenge as teachers of literacy. It is an incredible experience to visit lessons and witness students being taught nominalisation and etymology across all subjects. This is especially pleasing as students are improving their knowledge of exam terminology and this is crucial if we want our students to succeed. Since its implementation in January 2017, there has been a discernible improvement in students’ confidence and understanding of academic words in different contexts. We realise that this is just the beginning and we have a long way to go, but our commitment to ensuring all our students are proficient in language is resolute.

Visit from London—Action Research

It with great pleasure that we welcomed Professor Sir George Berwick and Stefani Shedden to Ninestiles on Wednesday 13th as December 2017. Ninestiles has been working collaboratively with Challenge Partners, Unbound, Lampton School, Bell Foundation, EEF, Hounslow Language Services and the University of York since October 2016. The training is part of the EAL in the Mainstream Classroom Project. Ninestiles is a delivery centre for the West Midlands and we will commence training early next year. The project offers a wealth of evidence based, outstanding pedagogical practice for effective language learning in the classroom, across the curriculum and whole school. We look forward to working with schools in the West Midlands.

Staff News!

Congratulations to Mr Giles, Ms Oliver and Mr Guerin who graduated from their Teaching leaders Fellowship Programme with Commendation.

We say farewell to:
Aurora Backhouse (P.E.) who is leaving to take up post at Holy Trinity School
Stephanie Block (mathematics) who is leaving to take up post at Cockshut Hill
Vicky Creedon (Vice Principal and MFL) who has taken up post at Cockshut Hill
Tia Hill (drama) who is leaving to take up post at Arden School
Lee Mackenzie (English) - leaving to do a Ph.D
Niyla Mustafa (mathematics) who is leaving to take up post at Moseley School
Samantha Pacaud (Science Technician) who left us to take up post at Solihull Sixth Form
Jagdeep Sahota (mathematics) who is leaving to take up post at BCU
Jayne Talbot (Work Related Learning) who is retiring
Adam Whitaker (science) who is leaving to take up post at Cockshut Hill

We wish them every success for the future.

Congratulations to the following staff for the following appointments from 1st January:
Mr Payne - Year 9 Achievement Leader
Miss Britt - Year 8 Achievement Leader
Mrs Mace - Head of Science
We wish them success in this new chapter of their career.
**Parental Engagement Event**
In November, parents were invited to ‘meet the Principal’. It was a very successful evening where parents were able to hear the Principal’s vision for taking Ninestiles Academy forward and gave their views on their ideal school. You will see a number of these ideas taking shape over the coming months.

The next session is on Monday 5th March 2018.

**News from English**
Year 10 have been getting into the Christmas spirit by reading A Christmas Carol, and we are looking forward to a production coming to school next term to perform this for Year 10. We have also got a company coming in to perform An Inspector Calls, so hopefully Year 10 will be able to take full advantage of these opportunities.

Mr Talib, Miss Atherton and Mr Kemp have been working with a group of Year 9 and 10 students, preparing them for a debating competition with other local schools. The competition is in January, so best of luck with it!

**Ninestiles Christmas Concert**
On Monday evening, a number of students performed at the Ninestiles’ Christmas Concert. With such a range of performances, including dancers, dhol drummers and the winners of the House music competition, it was an excellent showcase for the talent we have at Ninestiles.
We would like to thank all the students who participated; they displayed a great deal of commitment and passion, and were a credit to the school.
A special thanks to Mr White for organising the event, and to the Performing Arts department, for their support on the night.

**Christmas Jumper day**
This year, both staff and students threw on their favourite festive jumpers to celebrate Christmas at Ninestiles. Staff sang karaoke, featuring Mr Power’s rendition of Chris Rea's 'Driving Home for Christmas' raising £60. Students baked cakes for a break time cake sale which proved highly successful with a whopping £100 raised for House charities. Staff across all faculty areas came together to enjoy our Ninestiles Christmas lunch, provided by the fantastic Greenwood team.
## Forthcoming Events

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 8th January</td>
<td>Inset Day—staff only</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 9th January</td>
<td>All students return to school for 8.30am</td>
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<td>Wednesday 17th January</td>
<td>Year 11 Parents Evening</td>
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<td>Friday 19th to Friday 26th January</td>
<td>Ski trip</td>
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<td>Wednesday 24th January</td>
<td>Year 7 Parental Engagement Evening</td>
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<td>Monday 19th to Friday 23rd February</td>
<td>Half Term</td>
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<td>Monday 5th March</td>
<td>Parental Engagement Event</td>
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<td>Wednesday 7th March</td>
<td>Year 7 Parents Evening</td>
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<td>Wednesday 14th March</td>
<td>Year 8 Parents Evening</td>
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<td>Wednesday 28th March</td>
<td>Year 9 Parents/Options Evening</td>
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<td>Thursday 29th March</td>
<td>End of Term—students dismissed at 3.00pm</td>
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Just a few reminders for the forthcoming term:

### Uniform

- Just a reminder of the expectations
- Black trousers or a black Ninestiles skirt
- A Ninestiles blazer worn with a white shirt and Ninestiles tie. Students may also wear a plain black v neck jumper along with the blazer, shirt and tie
- Black shoes – as would be worn for work and not sports branded footwear
- A plain black hijab or shalwar kameez

### Attendance

We cannot emphasise how important it is that students attend school unless they really are too ill to do so. Every day of learning lost has an impact on the final grades that student will achieve. Please could we ask you to renew your efforts to get your child into school every day on time. We would like to work closely with you to ensure that our students are here in school as close to 100% of the time as possible.

Please can I draw your attention to the chart on the next page which shows the amount of school days lost through absence. The impact of these lost days of learning disrupts the education of the individual student and the whole class. Research shows that students who do not attend school regularly do not achieve as well in examinations, find it difficult to maintain friendships, miss out on social events and are more likely to become involved in crime to name but a few.

Any student whose attendance falls below 90% will be classed as a Persistent Absentee or PA. Students with poor attendance could face legal action being pursued, on behalf of the school, by the Local Authority. On our website in the ‘Parents’ section under ‘Parents Documents and Letters’ is our ‘Spotlight on Attendance’ letter which outlines this process. Ninestiles School will continue to be robust in challenging absence from school and raising overall attendance to above the national expectation of 97%. As part of this we will continue to work with parents/carers and families to support excellent attendance from all our students.
Should you need to report an absence or an attendance issue please contact our Attendance Officer, Mrs Biddle on 0121 624 9070.

Punctuality

Please remember, students are expected on site at 8.30am. Tutor period begins at 8.40am but students should arrive before this to ensure a prompt and organised start to the day. Students who arrive late in school are also affecting their learning and that of others in their groups who are distracted by their arrival. Late arrivals are very rarely due to bus delays. It is much more frequently students who live close enough to walk or who are dropped off, or indeed those whose bus arrives on time but then they delay actually coming into school. A prompt, efficient start to the day and arrival on time to lessons ensures that the day starts well and learning gets underway as promptly as possible. Any support you can give us to reinforce the importance of this routine with your child would be much appreciated.

Parking near school

Can I ask that all our parents and carers picking up or dropping off a child adhere to the following:
Vehicles do not park on yellow lines or zigzags.
Do not double park or pull up alongside other parked cars to allow your children to ‘jump out or get in’.
Do not park on the pavement restricting the access for pedestrians.
Please do not park on the pavement restricting the access for pedestrians.
Drive at a low speed on the roads outside school.
Do not park too close to a street junction as this blocks visibility for drivers pulling out at junctions.

We hope that by working together in a calm and considerate way, we can solve the issues related to parking for both parents/carers and local residents, but clearly the priority is not to compromise the safety of our students.
I am sure you are familiar with our website, but we also have Twitter, please follow us @ninestiles. Please do follow us to make sure you are up to date with all the student activity, achievements and information which goes out on a regular basis. Also, please let us know if your child achieves success outside school in any of the activities they participate in. We will always celebrate this with them and we would love to publicise their success on our website and social media if permitted. We have fantastic students and we want everyone to know about their amazing achievements.

Final words

As we approach a New Year, it is a good time to reflect and for students to start the new term with a renewed determination to maximise their efforts with an attitude to achieve success.

Please enjoy time together with friends and family over the Christmas break. I look forward to welcoming the students and staff back in 2018 to continue a fantastic year and hope to see many of you at forthcoming events.

Yours sincerely,

James Power
Principal
Ninestiles, An Academy