



NINESTILES
AN ACADEMY

3rd October 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

“Know what sparks the light in you, then use that light to illuminate the world.” - Oprah Winfrey

The new academic year has sparked new beginnings and fresh starts for many of us at Ninestiles. As the new Acting Co-Heads of School, it has been a real pleasure to witness students commence with such a sense of purpose, demonstrating ambition and genuine care for their younger peers. Last week we had the privilege of addressing the new intake for 2019 at our Open Evening - a wonderful chance to share our vision. We firmly believe schools are about widening horizons and creating high aspirations. We want all of the students at Ninestiles to be excited about their future and to know that they have both the foundations and springboard to take them there. Our students will leave school with qualifications that can secure them meaningful employment or a place at a good university. Alongside this, we instil integrity and a moral compass that understands that education isn't about what they can get for themselves, but more about how their learning can bring about positive change and build stronger communities.

We are ambitious for every student; at Ninestiles learners come first and we understand that high quality learning is essential to their success. During this first term we have been driving our independent learning programme through Hegarty Maths and Doodle. Students will record their homework in their planners, and the online systems allow them to access tools if they need additional support. Homework is a mixture of practising skills and reading around topics to deepen their knowledge in preparation for their next lesson. Our OLA (Open Learning Area) is available after school should students wish to use this facility for independent study.

This term our Year 11 students have their pre-public examinations. Support for this is already underway in the form of before and after school revision sessions. Year 11 should have revision guides for all of their subjects to help support them with their learning. If you need help acquiring these, please contact Ms. Oliver via email at kathryn.oliver@ninstiles.org.uk.

There is a very exciting term ahead too, for our newly appointed Student Leaders. Congratulations to them all; we look forward to seeing how they 'illuminate' Ninestiles with their ideas, resilience and ambition.

Please take a look at our October online newsletter to see what we've been up to in these first few weeks of term; it will be available on the school website from Friday 5th. Please also read the reverse of this letter carefully for some important information and reminders.

We thank you for your continued interest and support.

Andrea Stephens & Alex Hughes
Acting Co-Heads of School

Uniform and expectations

It is fantastic to see so many of our students come back to school in exemplary uniform. Heads of House are working closely with form tutors and students to ensure uniform standards remain high throughout the year. We value your support in ensuring students are in full school uniform including black shoes every day.

Parking

Parking outside school at the beginning and end of the day is often problematic and may be the cause of disagreement with other parents and our neighbours in Hartfield Crescent and Greenwood Avenue as well as potentially endangering our students. Please support the school by encouraging your child to find other transport methods to get to school, by not parking on Hartfield Crescent and moving along swiftly if picking children up. Please also be aware that the Police now have the power to issue tickets retrospectively using photographic evidence of dangerous or unsafe parking and are actively patrolling the area at busy times.

Safeguarding (new policy on Trust website and in Reception)

The school safeguarding policy has recently been updated to reflect the changes in the latest Department for Education release of Keeping Children Safe in Education. We remain fully committed to safeguarding our students and appreciate your assistance therein. You can find the latest version of the policy on the school website, hard copies are available in the school reception. If you require this policy in a different language, please ask for a copy to be prepared.

Attendance

Regular attendance is one of the most fundamental ways to ensure students are successful at school. Our target for all students is to have attendance of at least 96% across the school year. We appreciate you planning any family holidays to fall completely within the school breaks and also booking medical or dental appointments outside of the school day. Where appointments are unavoidable please return students as quickly as possible following their conclusion.

The school day begins at 8:30am with students in form tutor groups from 8:40am. Please support the school by ensuring your child arrives in a timely fashion.

Behaviour for Learning updates

The new term has seen some important adjustments to our school Behaviour for Learning Policy. Following extensive consultation with parents, staff and students we have modified the sanctions for behaviours misdemeanours which do not directly impact on the learning of other students. All groups consulted felt that applying 45 minute detentions to incidents such as lack of equipment or poor corridor behaviour was overly punitive and so we have re-classified these standards detentions to be 20 minutes with the relevant Head of House. Our high expectations of behaviour in lessons has ensured that any student repeatedly disrupting the learning of others will still receive a 45-minute detention. Full details can be found on the school website.

Feedback also suggested that the school could place more emphasis on praising students who are going above and beyond our expectations. Please see the praise pages in the planner which teachers are stamping for the students; rewards to students will follow soon!