‘The best preparation for tomorrow, is doing your best today!’

Dear students

I would like to warmly welcome you to Year 7 at Ninestiles – I am very excited that you will be joining the Ninestiles family from September and hope you are too!

Your time in Year 7 represents a time of great promise and opportunity and is your first step on a new learning journey. Your first year will form the foundation for all that you will achieve in school. At Ninestiles, our aim is to help you to be the best that you can be; to encourage you to always try your best and to never ever give up. We want you to enjoy your time with us. We want you to feel inspired and passionate about your learning. We also want you to feel happy and successful.

I recognise that for many of you this will be both an exciting but also anxious time and want to reassure you that we are all here to help you make the transition from primary school to secondary school as stress free as possible. Your Director of Year, tutors and teachers are just some of the key people at school who will be with you every step of the way; helping you to understand how the school’s core values of respect, commitment and achievement really are the key to success. They will specifically help you to build your character in the following ways:

• To develop positive and respectful relationships with your peers, teachers and the wider community
• To understand the importance of key British values (democracy, individual liberty, rule of law, respect and tolerance) in your everyday life
• To develop a range of learning habits that enable you become reflective, resilient and independent in your learning.
• To demonstrate a high level of commitment, dedication and pride in all that you do
• To develop a love of reading and extend your wider vocabulary so that you can express your ideas clearly
• To take part in enrichment activities beyond the classroom to broaden your horizons
• To have the confidence to believe in yourself and to see that there are no barriers to what you can achieve

You are at an incredibly exciting stage of your learning journey. Before you know it, you will have completed your first year with us and will have started to build your very own toolkit of qualities and skills that you can use for your future study and for the rest of your life.

I wish you every happiness and success and very much look forward to meeting you and joining you along the first part of your journey with us!

Ms. Lappage
Assistant Principal for KS3
**Miss Simpson**  
Hello, my name is Miss Simpson and I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the Director of Year 7. I am delighted to welcome you into our school community, and to be there for you every step of the way. In my role, I will support you academically by monitoring your progress throughout the year, and also look out for your wellbeing, by making sure that you build positive and respectful relationships with staff and your peers. I am committed to identifying and removing barriers to your learning, encouraging you to make the most of extra-curricular activities and inspiring you to believe in yourselves in order to achieve your potential.

I look forward to meeting you all soon!

**Miss Spencer**  
Hello, my name is Ms Spencer and I am going to be your tutor for the next year. I am looking forward to meeting you and sharing your stories with me about what you hope to achieve at Ninestiles school. I am not only going to be your form tutor but I also teach Business Studies and Computer Science so I may teach you in Computer Science.

I would like to share one interesting fact with you and that is I have sung the lead in a gospel choir that had over 400 members in it. I was petrified, but I was glad I did it. I look forward to hearing some interesting facts about you too. You may be feeling a little anxious about coming to Ninestiles but I’m sure you will enjoy learning at this school.

Take care of yourself and I hope to meet you soon.

**Mr Young**  
I’m Mr Young and I am one of the History Teachers and Year 7 Tutors, here at Ninestiles. I joined the amazing team in 2019. I have lived in the local area for my whole life. Although, I did not personally attend Ninestiles; my mum and her siblings all did (before it was called Ninestiles!).

A little about me… I am a supporter of the best football team in the Midlands, Birmingham City. I am also a cricket fan, player and coach. I have played since I was 8 and I have been a qualified coach for the last 4 years. I also have a passion for History. My favourite topic is post-WW2 peace and reconciliation. I also enjoy researching Elizabethan history too! I am strong believer that Commitment leads to Achievement.

“If you can dream it, you can do it.” (Walt Disney).
Dr Bowie
Hello, my name is Doctor Bowie and I am going to be your form tutor for the next year. At Ninestiles I teach French and Spanish. I love languages, drawing and I am a recent fan of jigsaw puzzles... and what do you like to do?

I have really enjoyed being a Year 7 tutor this year and I am looking forward to meeting you soon at Ninestiles.

Miss Benson
Hi, my name is Miss Benson and I am looking forward to being your form tutor next year at Ninestiles! I have really enjoyed being a Year 7 form tutor this year, welcoming the new students to our school and helping them find their feet in a new environment. I am excited to meet you all and I’m looking forward to helping make your transition to secondary school really enjoyable.

I teach Spanish and French, so I was very fortunate to live in Spain for my year abroad which I really enjoyed because I learnt a lot about Spanish culture. I also teach Business Studies which I love and find really interesting.

I am excited to meet you all and get to know you as my form tutees!

Miss Harris
Hi! My name is Miss Harris and I am the Head of History. I have two children called Sonny and Savannah. I also love to travel and try new things, for example, I jumped out of a plane in New Zealand, went scuba diving in Thailand and slept under the stars in the Australian outback!

Ms Fisher
Welcome, new year 7s! My name is Ms Fisher and I teach RE (as well as a bit of History and Geography). So we can get to know each other, I’d like to share an interesting fact about myself. My interesting fact is that I have flown two types of planes. I can’t wait to hear all about your interesting facts! Speak soon!

Mrs Finn
Hello, my name is Mrs Finn and I teach history! History is my favourite subject because I love to learn about people and how they lived. When I was 23 I trekked through New Zealand’s South Island for 6 days to raise money for charity and it was the most amazing experience! New Zealand is the most beautiful place I’ve ever seen!
Mrs Uppal
Hello year 7!
My name is Mrs Uppal and I’m head of RE at Ninestiles. I have been teaching here for quite a few years now.

Looking forward to meeting you all.

Miss Reeves
Hello all…
At University I studied Archaeology – I loved History and Geography and it was difficult to choose between the two so that’s where Archaeology came from. I decided my passion was in teaching; and I have enjoyed my journey in life so far and I hope to see you soon at Ninestiles.

Mr Hussain
Welcome Year 7, My name is Mr Hussain and I am a teacher of Geography.

A little about me… I am a HUGE fan of Harry Potter, having visited the studios three times. A motto which I live by and hope some of you may instil in yourself is from the Ravensclaw House which is “Wit beyond measure is a man’s greatest treasure”. I also love travelling both within the UK and beyond, having visited places such as Portugal, Morocco, Turkey, Dubai and my motherland Bangladesh.

I look forward to meeting you all next year and exploring the wonders of our world within Geography.

Miss Hunt
Bonjour! ¡Hola! My name is Miss Hunt and I am a Year 7 tutor and a French and Spanish teacher at Ninestiles.

A little about me… I used to live in Spain where I taught English to secondary school students. In my free time, I love visiting my family in Spain and practising my language skills by watching Netflix series in French and Spanish. I look forward to meeting you!

Miss Awojobi
Hello, my name is Miss Awojobi. I will be one of your form tutors next year when you come to Ninestiles. I teach History and I love teaching my students about how the past shapes our futures today. My favourite historical figure is Queen Elizabeth I, and I love learning more and more about Tudor England. Who is your favourite historical figure? I look forward to meeting you in September and teaching you History.
Mrs Chowdhury
Hello all! My name is Mrs Chowdhury and I am the Head of Geography at Ninestiles school.
We all have one thing in common, we all live together in a home called the Earth and that is why my team and I will make it our mission to teach you about all the people, natural hazards, traditions and ways of life around the world when you join us.
In my spare time I enjoy spending time baking and also adorning my friends and family with Henna which I started when I was 8 years old!

Mr Kemp
My name is Mr Kemp and I teach RE and Business Studies.

I enjoy watching football and I am a Birmingham City fan. I also like listening to podcasts and watching YouTube videos. I ran a marathon in October 2018.

I look forward to meeting you soon!

Mrs Green
Hi I am Mrs Green. I am a Teaching Assistant and I work in the Inclusion Faculty. You will see a lot of me around school during break times and lunch times and I may be in your lessons. My job is to make sure you feel safe and happy in school, help you access the curriculum and after school activities and be the very best Ninestiles citizen you can be. I look forward to meeting you all very soon.

Ps. Just so you know I love horses, chocolate, sunny days, Christmas, holidays in Cornwall and most of all my family.

Mrs Thompson
Hi, my name is Mrs Thompson I am a Teaching Assistant at Ninestiles Academy. I’ve worked at Ninestiles for 20 years and I’m really looking forward to meet you all. I will be there to help guide and support you through your transition from junior school. I will encourage you to make the most of your time at Ninestiles, academically and socially. I will be there to encourage you to take part in the after school clubs, of which there are many. I will also help and support you in the classroom to reach your potential. You will see me around school at tutor time and at break times.

I have two children who are 18 and 22. I love animals. I’ve owned my own horse for 25 years! I love being by the coast, I enjoy coastal walks especially in Devon.
Your time in year 7 represents one of great promise and opportunity and forms the foundation for all that you will achieve in school. Through our curriculum and enrichment offer in year 7 we will help you to build your character and confidence, as well as your knowledge and skills, so that by the time you finish your first year with us you will have an impressive toolkit that you can use in your future years at Ninestiles.

Year 7 will focus on you making the TRANSITION from primary to secondary school with confidence. You will meet new teachers and make lots of new friends.

You will have a RICH AND VARIED CURRICULUM at Ninestiles and you will study a wide range of subjects. Your teachers will help you to acquire new knowledge and skills and to make rapid progress.

Through tutor time, assemblies and Aspire you will learn about our core values of RESPECT, COMMITMENT and ACHIEVEMENT and how you can demonstrate these in all that you do.

Your first year is about making the most of new opportunities and experiences. By getting involved in our ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME you will learn new skills and meet new people!

You will also start to build your LEARNING TOOLKIT so that you can reflect on your learning and set yourself goals to achieve.
How we will help you to settle in at Ninestiles

We are currently in touch with your primary schools and speaking to your year 6 teachers. They are telling us lots of information about you and this is helping us to ensure that when you come to us we can meet your needs and help you to make progress.

By mid June you will be able to access a special year 6 induction page on our website. This will be house a virtual welcome to the school so that you can meet some of the key staff who will be with you when you arrive with us in September. You will also have a chance to experience taster lessons in all the subjects that we offer in year 7, so you will have the opportunity to experience what life at secondary school will be like.

In July you will receive a welcome call from your new tutor at Ninestiles. They will be able to answer any questions you might have and will explain to you a bit more about what will be happening when you join us in September.

When you join us after the summer holiday you will have a day at Ninestiles with other year 7 students. This will give you time to meet your tutor properly and also the other students in your tutor group. You will have the chance to explore the school and be told how everything at Ninestiles works. Don’t worry we won’t expect you to remember everything straight away and you will be told who you can ask for help along the way!

Your first point of call each day will be your tutor in tutor time. In your first term a special programme of activities and assemblies will be in place to help you settle in to life at your new school. This will include not only information on the school rules and how you can make the best progress in lessons, but also on how you can make new friends and get involved in our exciting enrichment programme.

In September your parents and carers will be invited to come into school for a parent tutor afternoon. This will give them the opportunity to talk with your tutor about how you are settling in and ask any further questions they may have.

Later in the term we will be hosting a special year 7 Celebration Evening so that you can show your parents and carers how well you have been getting on and we can celebrate your achievements together!
Advice for your first term at Ninestiles

EVERYTHING FEELS NEW AND UNFAMILIAR!
It is ok to feel nervous about your new surroundings, friendships and subjects. You are bound to be a little anxious but we will do everything we can to ensure that you settle in with us as quickly and easily as possible! Remember this is an incredibly exciting time for you and will bring lots of new opportunities and experiences. Very soon you will feel like you have been with us for a long time.

FINDING YOUR WAY AROUND
It may take you some time to get to know and find your way around school as the building is a lot bigger than your primary school. You will be moving round the school to different classes each day, you will get used to where key areas in the building are and also where your classrooms are located. Remember, help is always at hand to support you to find your way. If you get lost, ask a member of staff or an older student to show you the way. Everyone is here to support you.

INDEPENDENT LEARNING AND HOMEWORK
Our aim at secondary school is to encourage you to become an effective independent learner. Your teachers will be setting you work to complete at home as well as in lessons so it is important that you write down your homework in your planner and that you complete it on time. Regular homework may be something new to you, so it is important that you adapt, as it will be a vital part of your success at Ninestiles.

CELEBRATING YOUR SUCCESSES AND ACHIEVEMENTS
Your hard work will be rewarded every step of the way at school. Together, we will recognise, celebrate and share your achievements with the wider school community and your parents and carers. We want you to feel really proud of your achievements and successes during your time with us.

RESPECT | COMMITMENT | ACHIEVEMENT
The Ninestiles Family – A guide to who’s who!

LOTS OF NEW FACES
You will meet lots of new people at Ninestiles and everyone will be here to help you settle in and feel at home. However, the year 7 team will be really important to you throughout your first year. They will be on hand to help and guide you so it’s important you know who they are.

YOUR TUTOR
Your tutor will see you every morning during tutor time and will get to know you very well during your time at school. They will be one of your first points of contact at Ninestiles and will be very important to you. If you have any concerns, speak to them first and they will be able to help.

YOUR SUBJECT TEACHERS
Unlike primary school, you will have many more teachers to get to know. At Ninestiles you will have a different teacher for each subject that you take. Your teachers are here to guide you every step of the way with your learning. Speak to them if you have any questions about your learning and progress.

YOUR DIRECTOR OF YEAR
Each year group is led by a Director of Year. Their responsibilities include being a point of contact for every student in their year group, monitoring your commitment to learning and assessing your progress throughout the year. They also look out for your wellbeing with the direct input of the Pastoral Manager. You will see your Director of Year regularly.

YOUR PASTORAL MANAGER
Each year group has a Pastoral Manager. They work alongside your Director of Year to monitor your behaviour and wellbeing.

THE STUDENT WELFARE TEAM
If you need medical assistance or pointing in the right direction, student welfare is available to support you throughout the day. You will be shown where the student welfare office is during your first day at the school.

NINESTILES STUDENT UNION
This is a team of students from all year groups who represent you. They fundraise on a wide range of campaigns and promote the school’s involvement in many community initiatives. They will ask for your opinions and thoughts on lots of different things happening in school and will welcome your feedback and ideas.
In order to make progress at Ninestiles it is vitally important that you are able to demonstrate the following through your learning.

| ![Clock] | I demonstrate a positive attitude to my learning by always arriving to lessons on time, with all of my equipment and ready to learn |
| ![Ears] | I actively engage in every lesson by listening to my teacher and by making positive contributions in class |
| ![Target] | I respect our learning community by helping to create an environment where everyone has the opportunity to succeed and make progress |
| ![Graduation Cap] | I take responsibility for my learning by completing my work to the highest standard |
| ![Checklist] | I show a firm commitment to improving my work by acting on my teacher’s guidance and feedback |
| ![Book] | I always complete my homework to the best of my ability and hand it in on time |
Our aim at secondary school is to encourage you to become an effective, resilient and more independent learner. When you arrive with us at Ninestiles you will receive your own individual planner. Your planner is a very important tool that has been designed to support your learning throughout your time in year 7. It is an essential part of your equipment and you will need to bring it into school with you every day. Your planner will help your parents see how you are getting on in school and they will be asked, alongside your form tutor, to sign your planner each week.

**In tutor time you will use your planner to record and reflect on**

- Weekly tutor time discussions and assembly topics
- Your attendance at school
- Your commitment and progress in lessons
- Your achievements
- Your involvement in the Enrichment Programme

**In lessons you will use your planner to**

- Support your learning in lessons
- Record the homework that you are set in class and the deadline it is due
- Record any assessments that may be coming up

**At home you will use your planner to**

- Help you plan your time
- Develop your revision skills
- Support your academic literacy and numeracy
- Talk to your parents and carers about what you have been learning in school
At Ninestiles we are an aspirational and inclusive Academy that champions the values of respect, commitment and achievement. We facilitate transformational learning and exceptional progress through an inspirational, knowledge rich curriculum. It is our fundamental belief that all students, regardless of background or circumstance, have a right to a high quality education; this is their entitlement. We have high expectations and want our students to be aspirational, highly-skilled global citizens who act with compassion and integrity.

**Key Stage 3**
The curriculum is devised to allow students to follow the essential core subjects of English, Mathematics and Science as well as having a broad and balanced experience of humanities and creativity subjects. Every student has either English or Mathematics every day to build on the importance of literacy and numeracy skills so that they can have a good foundation for access to the KS4 curriculum. In addition we have targeted programmes and opportunities available to support students with underdeveloped reading skills delivered by specialist staff.

**Key Stage 3 Fortnightly minutes**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Minutes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English and Literacy</td>
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<td>Maths</td>
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<td>Science</td>
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<td>RE</td>
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<td>HAL</td>
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<td>MFL</td>
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<td>History</td>
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<td>Geography</td>
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<td>Technology</td>
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<td>Art</td>
<td>150</td>
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<td>Performing Arts</td>
<td>225</td>
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<tr>
<td>Computer Science</td>
<td>140</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aspire (Tutor time)</td>
<td>300</td>
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Homework at Ninestiles

At Ninestiles we know that homework provides our students with a valuable opportunity for consolidating, practising and extending their learning. Extensive and deliberate practice is important for learning a number of reasons:

- It greatly increases the likelihood that students will permanently remember new information.
- It improves their ability to transfer practiced skills to new and more complex problems or situations.
- Research tells us that with practice students acquire expertise in subject matter and, therefore, it helps to distinguish novices from experts in given subjects.

Deadlines for homework will be recorded by students in their planner. Form tutors will systematically check for completion of homework during daily equipment checks.

For students who wish to use our facilities to support them with their homework we have an intervention programme available from 8.00am to 8.35am Monday to Friday, (period 0) and 3.00 to 4.45pm Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday (period 5). Please see our separate published programme at the start of each term.

At KS3

Each day students should be set a range of independent learning activities that may include:

**Daily Reading**: We want all of our students to become life-long readers, who enjoy reading for pleasure. We know that that there is a positive relationship between reading frequently, reading enjoyment and attainment. All students are expected to have an age appropriate reading book as part of their daily equipment list, they are expected to read this or other suitable material (newspapers, science journals etc.) for up to 20 minutes daily outside of school.

**Self-quizzing**: Homework activities will be set weekly by each subject in line with the homework timetable. Students should spend a minimum of 30 minutes per subject self-quizzing in their dedicated self-quizzing book, using their knowledge organiser or completing specific tasks set by the class teacher. Form tutors will systematically check for completion during daily equipment checks.

**Prep work**: Reading around a topic in preparation for your next lesson. This will be set by subject teachers.
The Ninestiles
KS3 Enrichment Programme:
Passport to Success

REACH FOR THE STARS

HEALTHY ACTIVE LIFESTYLES
NINESTILES AN ACADEMY
SUMMIT LEARNING TRUST

RESPECT | COMMITMENT | ACHIEVEMENT
What is the Enrichment Programme?

Enrichment is an essential part of the learning experience for our students here at Ninestiles.

We aim to:

* Consolidate the knowledge you have learned in lessons
* teach character education
* promote your personal development
* develop you into well-rounded members of the wider community

The vast range of activities available to all students across all year groups, aims to develop your interests and abilities and provide invaluable learning experiences outside of the school curriculum. In addition, it also promotes independence and interpersonal skills.

The comprehensive programme allows you to trial a wide range of clubs, exploring your interests and sparking high aspirations as you graduate from our school community into further education and beyond.

So what is on offer? Here is a snippet of what staff are offering for you:

* Coding Club (PiWars)
* Debate Club
* ‘Exploring our City’ for Years 7 and 8
* ‘Remarkable young men/women’
* Individual and team sports offering many physical, mental and social benefits
* Whole school performances and showcases led by the Performing Arts Faculty in the New Year
* STEM Club
* Beginners’ Japanese Club
* Henna Art
* Reading Club in the OLA.
Why is enrichment so important for me?

The Ninestiles Enrichment Awards are a precursor to the Duke of Edinburgh Award, which you can sign up for in Year 9. We are following a similar structure, allowing you to engage in learning a new ‘skill’ and maintaining a positive ‘well-being’. When you progress into Year 8 and above, there is also an opportunity to ‘volunteer’ both within the school community and beyond.

Categories

**SKILLS:** learn a new skill, for example develop your reading in the OLA after school, practice your numeracy at Hegarty Maths club or learn how to do Henna art.

**WELL-BEING:** be pro-active in looking after your physical, mental or social well-being by attending a sports club with friends to socialise, compete against your peers (e.g. archery, girls’ football, touch rugby and many more!) or show off your skills at Rock The House Jamming sessions on Fridays after school.

**VOLUNTEERING:** give back to your local community. Do a duty in the OLA to help others find their love of reading, support a teacher in running a club for younger students whilst developing your leadership skills or arrange to work in a local charity shop in your own time and free of charge.

Year 7 – BRONZE Award
- Attend a minimum of 6 weeks at a ‘well-being’ club
- Attend a minimum of 6 weeks at a ‘skill’ club
- Attend a further 10 weeks of any clubs

Year 8 – SILVER Award
- Attend a minimum of 6 weeks at a ‘well-being’ club
- Attend a minimum of 6 weeks at a ‘skill’ club
- Attend a further 2 * 6 weeks of ‘well-being’ and ‘skill’ clubs or ‘volunteering’

Year 9 – GOLD Award
- Attend a minimum of 6 weeks at a ‘well-being’ club
- Attend a minimum of 6 weeks at a ‘skill’ club
- Attend a minimum of 6 hours of ‘volunteering’
- Attend a further 2 * 6 weeks of clubs
The Duke of Edinburgh award is an internationally recognised award that aims to encourage the development of young people through adventure. It shows future colleges and employers that you are more than just your GCSE grades. It shows commitment, leadership and teamwork, all traits that are amazing to have! It is also a lot of fun to take part in.

There are three levels of the award: Bronze, Silver and Gold. At Ninestiles we offer the Bronze award that should give you an idea of what to expect and hopefully inspire you to complete Silver and Gold elsewhere! Each award comes in 4 parts:

**Service:**
Finding somewhere to volunteer - at a sports club, scouts or reading to the elderly

**Physical:**
A new sport, or one you already do - rugby, football or kayaking

**Skill**
Learn how to do something new - chess, henna, Mongolian throat singing or Raspberry Pi Club

**Expedition**
An overnight expedition in the country side, carrying all you need to survive: food, water, clothes and tents! This experience is probably the one that most enjoy and is certainly the most memorable!

**How do I get involved?**
Unfortunately there is an age limit on beginning your awards, so you will have to wait until year 9. Once you are in year 9 you should listen out for the D of E announcements from your tutor, which will tell you how to sign up! Once you are signed up there will be training and information sessions throughout the year!

**Want to know more?**
Speak to Mr Talib, Miss Britt or any of the older students that have taken part already!
Commitment to Learning

Essentials:

1. Ruler
2. Eraser
3. Dictionary
4. Scientific calculator 'Casio FX83GTX'
5. Pencil
6. Pencil sharpener
7. Student planner
8. Reading book
9. Pens (green, black, whiteboard, highlighter)
HAL KIT

Short sleeve, light blue panelled polo shirt with badge, male and female.

Trainers

Hoodie with badge

Blue tracksuit bottoms with badge.
Leggings with badge.

RESPECT  |  COMMITMENT  |  ACHIEVEMENT
Uniform

- White School shirt (top button fastened, shirt tucked in)
- Blazer with Badge
- School Tie
- Black Trousers
- Black Skirt with badge
- Plain, black polishable shoes, no sports logos.

RESPECT | COMMITMENT | ACHIEVEMENT