

NEWS NINE

- April 2022 EDITION -

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Ninestiles An Academy
SUMMIT LEARNING TRUST

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PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME:

It is great to share this newsletter with you as we come to the end of an extremely busy term that has begun to allow us to return to normality in some sense, whilst still being mindful of the daily challenges posed by Coronavirus. It has been fantastic to see the hard work of our students during this term and in



particular the efforts of our Year 11 cohort as they prepare for the first series of formal examinations in nearly three years. Their dedication at breakfast club, during the school day and then in our extra period 5 has been remarkable, as has the staff commitment and flexibility to provide this fantastic support.

This term has also seen us offer a wider range of cultural capital events and allow our students to undertake trips and visits to broaden their academic horizons and to support our local community.

Particular highlights include our visit to the Queens Commonwealth Service at Westminster Abbey, hosting the English Speaking Union regional finals, our amazing whole school production of Aladdin and the Community Iftar which welcomed a wide range of guests to break fast with us. It is heartening to see our community beginning to emerge from this tough time together.

I really hope you'll enjoy this newsletter and an insight into the great variety of learning and experiences that students are undertaking at Ninestiles, an Academy and for those of you that are former students, I hope you enjoy the trip down memory lane in the 'From the archives' section.

Wishing everybody a relaxing Easter break and Ramadan Mubarak to those observing this special time.

A stylized, handwritten signature in white ink.

Alex Hughes
Principal



MENTAL HEALTH

The PIPA Trial is exploring the effectiveness of an online resource for parents/carers to help reduce depression and anxiety in young people. The trial is being coordinated by the University of Warwick and involves families of young people aged 11-15 years.

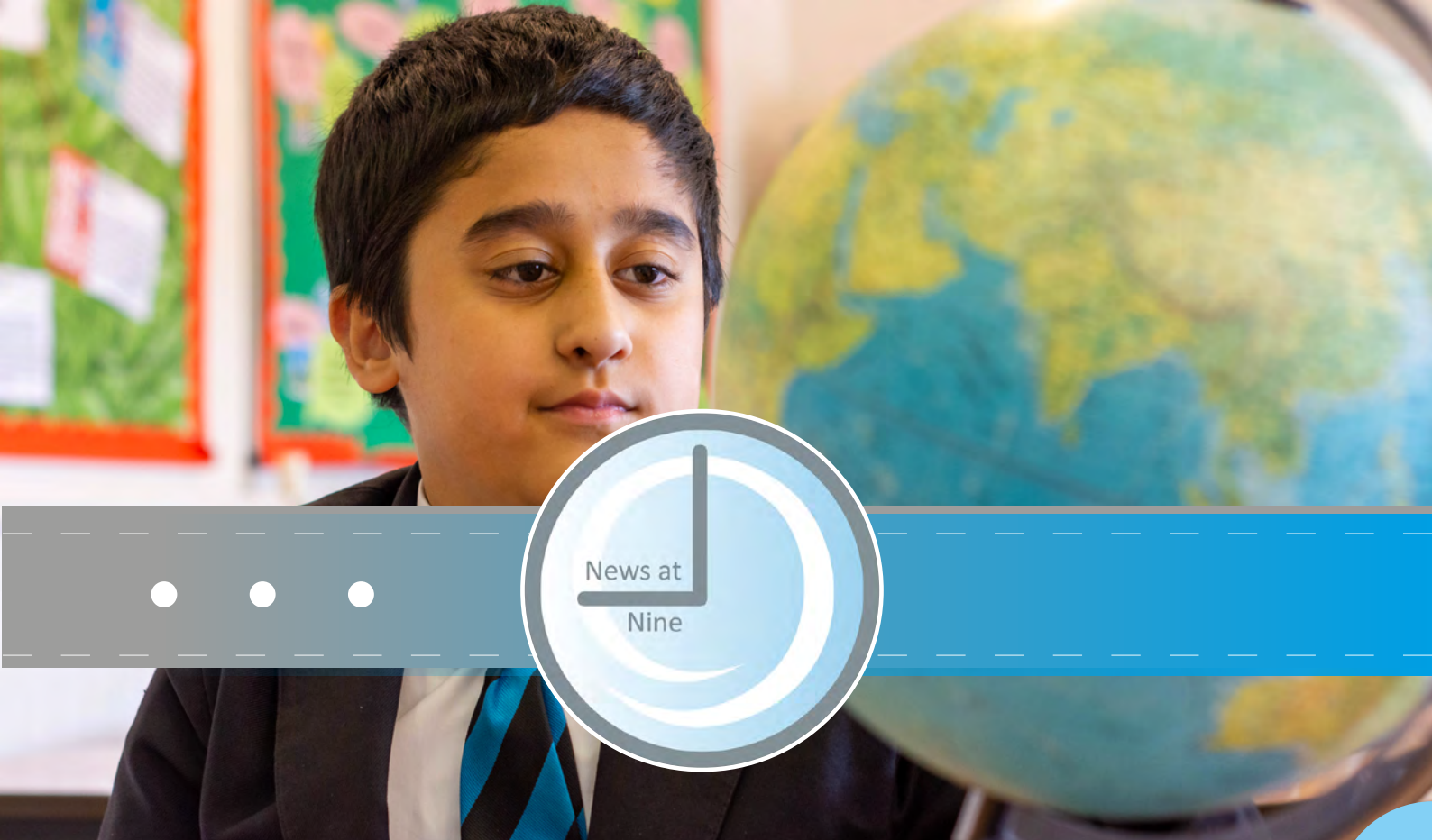
The trial is free and conducted completely online; eligible parents/carers and young people will be asked to complete some questionnaires and will receive access to some online parenting resources.

Please look out for the email about how to sign up which contains more information. If you have any questions, please speak to Mrs. R Marynowski or contact the PIPA trial team at PIPA@warwick.ac.uk or 02476 574316/02476 575078.



An online **P**arenting **I**ntervention to **P**revent
affective disorders in high-risk **A**dolescents:
The PIPA Trial





NEWS from: GLOBALITY

PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS

It is a time for reflection and renewal at this time of the year. Many religious festivals take place to remind us of this. This half term in Philosophy and Ethics, we've focused on these themes of sacrifice and dedication. Wishing everybody a very happy Easter and a joyous Vaisakhi.

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

In MFL, Year 7 have been discussing their teachers, favourite subjects, school rules and their ideal school. Meanwhile, Year 8 are exploring French/Spanish musicians. Our Year 9 students have prepared CVs and interview questions, all in French or Spanish!

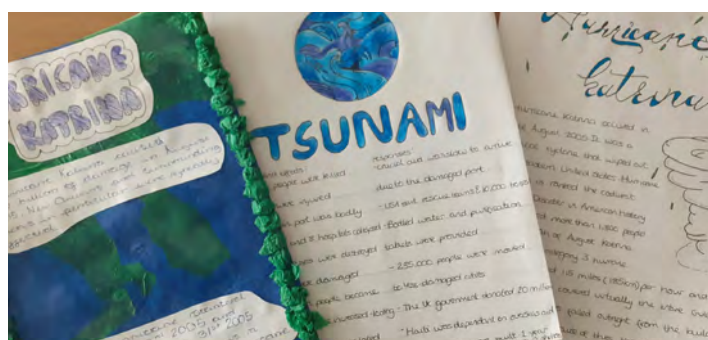
In KS4, Year 10 have learned how to order food in a restaurant, ask for the bill and even to make a complaint. Our Year 11 linguists are working hard preparing for their final GCSEs, and a number of students are enjoying their additional period 6 lessons! GCSE Japanese students are also preparing for their final exams. 頑張って Bonne chance! ¡Buena suerte!

HISTORY

It's been a busy but incredibly significant term in History. On 27th January we marked the Holocaust Memorial Day by teaching students about the tragedy of the Holocaust and how persecution is still faced by many groups around the world. We celebrated LGBTQ+ History Month in February with a lesson on Alan Turing, and we looked at the underrepresentation of the LGBTQ+ community in history. Following the terribly sad news of Russia's invasion of Ukraine over half term, we gave students the opportunity to explore the history between the two nations and the impact of war on civilians. We have been incredibly impressed with the level of maturity and sensitivity shown by all students in these important lessons. We wish our Year 11 historians the very best of luck as they prepare for the upcoming GCSEs.

GEOGRAPHY

Geography educators have piqued our students' interest over the last two half terms. We have been examining regions from all around the world in Year 7, from the local area of Birmingham to biomes that cover enormous swaths of our planet and seas. Year 8 students have been learning about how the BRIC countries are gaining power around the world. Teachers have been able to incorporate the Ukraine-Russia war into their lessons thanks to this important work. I want to express my gratitude to all parents who have discussed Geography as a possible GCSE option for their child. We've been preparing our students for their GCSE exams, and 106 students have been offered a position on a trip to Western-super-Mare to put coastal theory into reality before starting their GCSE classes.





NEWS from: ENGLISH

HIGHLIGHTS:

On Thursday 17th March 2022, Ninestiles was privileged to host the Regional Final of the English Speaking Union Public Speaking Competition. This prestigious competition is the largest public speaking competition in England and Wales.

The competition involved some of the best student speakers in the country, from secondary schools all over the region, going head-to-head. Ninestiles has done incredibly well in previous competitions and this year we invited Year 10 students to see the excellent calibre of students from other schools so they can get an idea of what to expect if they take part next year.

We received some wonderful feedback from the visiting schools and as usual, our student helpers were a real credit to the school.

ALADDIN

On 5th and 6th April, our students are performing 'Aladdin' for our staff, families and wider community. The students have been rehearsing since November and have devoted three nights a week to practice for the show. All students have demonstrated enthusiasm, diligence, and dedication in all rehearsals, and we are incredibly proud of them all, front and backstage.

Aladdin was performed to some of our Year 8 students on Monday 4th April. The audience cheered and laughed along with the show, they were beaming from ear to ear once the show had finished. We want to pass on our congratulations to our students and hoped they enjoyed the "musical buzz"





NEWS from: SCIENCE

SCIENCE WITH FEEDER SCHOOL

Acocks Green Primary School is one of our feeder schools. They celebrated British Science Week from Monday 14th March. Martin Jarett, their Science Coordinator, asked whether Ninestiles' Science department could help them kick off the week by delivering a series of exciting assemblies to their pupils. The theme for this year was Growth. Mrs Middleton planned the assemblies using photos from around Acocks Green Primary School's beautiful grounds, incorporating them into the assemblies. In addition to looking at the changes that can be identified all around them as we move into spring, the pupils investigated their sense of touch using 'feely boxes' and then using their sense of sight. They also looked at how the sense of taste is enhanced when combined with the sense of smell. They particularly enjoyed the practical aspects of the assemblies. Two of our SCITT trainees, Aishah Ahmed and Joti Vaseer, were also involved in the delivery of the assemblies.



NEWS from: MATHS

We've had another maths-filled term at Ninestiles. Pupils have now answered over 650,000 questions on Hegarty Maths, averaging over 400 each! The top scorers in each year group are:

Year 7: Mussa Ahmed (7183 answers)

Year 10: Umar Zaman (2564)

Year 8: Rida Sheikh (3162)

Year 11: Ayesha Ali (2680)

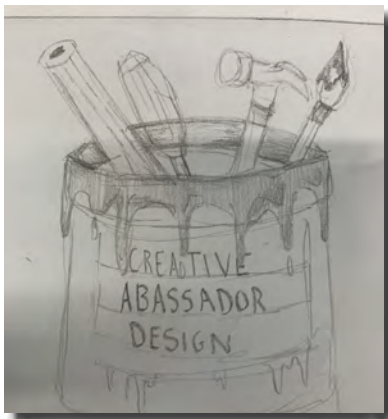
Year 9: Daniyal Zafar (2542)

Our top mathematicians in Years 9 to 11 have also achieved success in the UK Maths Trust Intermediate Challenge. Harry Cremins (Year 11) achieved a gold award and qualified for the Mathematical Olympiad, with five pupil achieving silver and twenty gaining bronze certificates. Dawoud Alam (Year 10) and Abdullah Hussain (Year 9) achieved the Best in Year awards for their year groups. Congratulations to everyone who was selected to take part!

We're on track to answer well over 1 million questions on Hegarty Maths by the end of next term, and our top Year 7 and 8 pupils will have their chance to compete in the UK Maths Trust Junior Challenge.

NEWS from: Art and DT

The last few weeks have been a very busy and positive time for our department. First, we would love to share the news of our competition winner. All Year 7, 8 and 9 Design Technology students took part in a competition to design us a new faculty logo and ambassador badge. Students had several lessons to perfect and refine their designs and incorporate all the faculty departments. Competition was fierce, with the students keenly chasing up to see who had won.



We would therefore like to give our warmest congratulations to Fearne Walsh, our winner from Year 9. Her design was absolutely beautiful and incorporated the joy and creativity of our faculty so well, that it was a unanimous decision from everyone. Fearne has now had the opportunity to work with the illustrator, Nazim Ali, and have her work turned into a digital design. The logo is now included on all faculty books, folders and paperwork. The ambassador badges are being produced as we speak and will be given to students who persevere, excel, and represent our faculty at its best.

Our weekly art club, run by Miss Vesey and Miss Roberts, is proving to be very popular, with growing numbers each week. We have some real superstars attending and we are sure to have the next Picasso or Kahlo come from the group. So far, we have done some printing, still life, speed drawing, painting on canvas, colour theory and much more. We would love to share the work here of some students, who, would you believe are only in Year 7! There will definitely be some faculty badges going their way.



A little bit of news from the
Art & Design Technology
Faculty

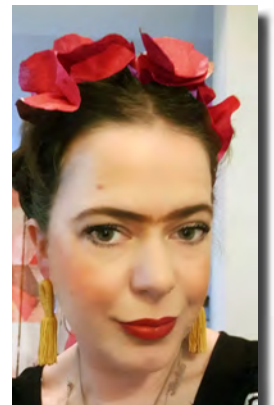
GUSTAV KLIMT JIGSAW



Year 9 art students spent last half term working hard together on a collaborative project. Each group was given a slightly different way to complete a giant Gustav Klimt jigsaw. Students had the opportunity to use many different mediums and techniques, which they all relished. The results have been astounding and it has been wonderful to see how much pride the students took in their work and how pleased they were with their final collaborative piece. We'd like to share just two of the projects, comprising of over 30 individual painted tiles and measuring over 1.5m in size. Whilst a collaborative piece, it is clear to see the students' individual style and visual language shine through.



The art department was also very pleased to take part in World Book Day, as we are very keen to promote literacy and as Miss Roberts loves any excuse to dress up, she went as her hero, Frida Kahlo. In typical art teacher style, Miss Roberts even hand made her flower head dress. Kahlo was an artist, but also features in hundreds of books, from art history, feminist writing and even children's books. It was also an early nod to International Women's Day.





OUR YEAR DIRECTORS:

Y7

MR AHMED

It has been another busy term for Year 7 at Ninestiles, with lots of productive work happening as well as trips. Students went on what would have been their first trip at Ninestiles – a visit to Birmingham city centre to explore all the different landmarks and learn about the history and landscape of the wonderful city we live in – despite the storm that crept in that day!

In addition to this, the newly launched Spelling Bee took place and a great number of our Year 7s did incredibly well. Out of 600 students, 3 students from Year 7 made it into the final 7 and the final round of selection. A massive congratulation to Kaci-Jo Booth-Bowen, Rayyan Mohammed and Warisha Islam. You have made all of Year 7 very proud.

Many of our Year 7 students have played an important part in helping the school community, whether that be in helping with the production of Aladdin or bringing in and donating cakes and treats for bake sales and then manning these stalls, to raise money for great causes. It has been an amazing term for Year 7 and it's been very rewarding to see students really come out of their shells.

I wish you all a happy and relaxing Easter break.

News at
Nine

Year 8 have worked extremely hard this term, and I would like to congratulate all of those pupils showing great commitment and achievement at Ninestiles. Since January, we have had a visit from the Royal Navy. Many pupils showed great interest in the assembly that was delivered by the Royal Navy, which this was lovely to see. The Royal Navy then took small groups and completed some workshops, and moving forward, this is something I would like to continue with Year 8.



As well as this, we had World Book Day on 3rd March, where teachers across the school dressed up as their favourite book characters. This was something that the pupils will definitely remember, and it was great to see pupils engaging in discussions about their favourite books with their teachers.

A highlight for me this term was seeing the high levels of praise issued by teachers to the Year 8 pupils and also raising the standard for attendance - we are close behind Year 7 for the highest attendance rate in school.

Congratulations to:

- Tutor Group 8-3 who have the highest amount of praise points so far.
- Tutor Group 8-8 who have the highest overall attendance.

I look forward to continuing the highest expectations with Year 8 and ensuring we see great things from our pupils here at Ninestiles.

To all parents, guardians and pupils, have a wonderful break.

Follow us on Twitter:
[@NinestilesY8](#)

It has been a busy term for Year 9, especially with choosing options subjects for Year 10. Students have found themselves in the driving seat, shaping their own education. It was lovely to meet with parents and guardians earlier in the term to discuss option choices with students. I would like to thank Ms. Beetison for her support in the aftercare of ensuring that all students have selected the right option choices for Year 10.

Collectively, Year 9 have worked hard this term; I would like to congratulate all students who have displayed positive learning behaviours in the classroom at Ninestiles. Throughout the term, we have enjoyed inspirational assemblies from outside speakers which have given our students the opportunity to focus and reflect on various topics.

I would like to give special recognition to Year 9 for their attendance - we are currently 2nd overall (year to date). Well done to all those students who have 100% attendance. You are giving yourselves the greatest chance of success! We must continue to strive to improve attendance and punctuality in the summer term.

Congratulations to:

- Tutor Group 9-3, who have the highest numbers of praise points so far
- Tutor Group 9-12, with the highest overall attendance

I hope that Year 9 can build on the progress made over the last several weeks and continue to raise standards across the board as we enter into the summer term.

To all parents, guardians, and pupils, I hope that you have a great Easter break!




Y10

MR YOUNG

Year 10 have made a fantastic start to 2022 and have settled into their GCSE studies with the maturity and application necessary for success. Students have been completing their in-class assessments for the last couple of weeks and I look forward to seeing the results for these after Easter.

This term saw the launch of Year 10's Homework and Study Club. There has been an increasing number of students attending, which shows an outstanding commitment to their learning. Year 10 are also represented in the whole school production of Aladdin; I wish these students the best of luck with this and look forward to attending the show!



Students in Year 10 have been working well in exploring their future career opportunities. Despite the numerous challenges facing them, especially surrounding Covid restrictions, 147 students have been able to find an in-person Work Experience placement. I would like to thank Mrs Fazil for all the work that has been going on behind the scenes to ensure as many students as possible are able to attend these, and for organising a series of Virtual Work Experiences that will be taking place next term.

On 25th March, we took 32 students to the National Apprenticeship Event at Millennium Point. The students who attended the event found it very useful and broadened their options for post-16 and 18. There will be more careers related events coming up next term, including mock interviews.

In Year 10, we have been conducting a Praise Point competition, where the tutor group with the most points (minus 2 points for every detention received!) will receive a prize. At the time of writing, 10-7 were in the lead and strong favourites to win! A big well done to Miss Khan and those students in 10-7! Mrs Bessell and I are very competitive and would love to see the most Year 10 students attending Drayton Manor on the 30th June. We ask for your support in this in ensuring students are in school and meeting the criteria!

I would like to take this opportunity to wish those families celebrating Easter a Happy Easter and I hope all students are able to have a relaxing break and come back refreshed for their final term as Year 10!

Y11

MISS KAUR

It has been a very busy few weeks for our Year 11s. Over two hundred and eighty students have now applied to college and received either an interview and or conditional offer. We are so proud of their efforts and for showing maturity during this process. The students yet to apply are currently being supporting by the Careers team.

We are now 9 weeks away from the GCSE examinations. Students have attended several intervention sessions since October 2021. We are nearly at the finish line; we are encouraging all our young people to keep striving for that champion mindset that we have instilled since the beginning of September 2021, so they can reap the rewards in August.

Letters regarding the yearbook and hoodies have been sent to parents and handed to students. If you are experiencing any difficulties, then please speak with Mrs Cowley who is based in the main office.

The prom has been booked with the window now closed for all new payments. The head boy, head girl, and deputies, along with a select few, are helping to organise the evening and we are looking forward to seeing the students in their finery on 24th June.

We would like to take this opportunity to say, "Keep pushing yourselves, Year 11 - you can do this!!"

KEY INFORMATION:

Ninestiles, An Academy continues to work in partnership with Birmingham City Council to ensure students are attending school regularly. To date, this academic year, 24 families have been issued a fine of up to £1000 per parent due to their child having poor attendance.

Return to School:

We look forward to welcoming Year 11 back into school on Monday 25th April, and all other year groups on Tuesday 26th. Students should attend school at the usual time in perfect uniform and fully equipped.



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NEWS from: THE ARCHIVES

DO YOU REMEMBER

The Guildford four were released, ninety-five people were killed in the Hillsborough disaster and Sky television was introduced. Kylie Minogue, Jason Donovan, Jive Bunny, The Bangles and Black Box all topped the charts. Michael Jackson made another 125 million dollars and you became pupils at Ninestiles. The year - 1989.

I remember very clearly Mr. Hutt telling me of the change to the pastoral system that he wanted to introduce, whereby a Year Head would pick up a year as they entered school and remain with them throughout their five years at Ninestiles, and "Congratulations, you are to be head of the new first year." You lot!

I remember very clearly receiving the list of 215 pupils names from the Education Office and looking very carefully down it to see if there were any names I recognised, and any that I might have to keep my eye on. There were!

There were pupils from this list that ultimately did not join Ninestiles, and some that did, but for various reasons did not stay with us. Some of these were undoubtedly your friends. Do you remember Jasvinder Jheeta, Zoe Borton, Barry Bates, Carl Billington, Lisa Sheridan, Wayne Fearby, Joanne Garrington, Stephen Thompson, Hyoti Sudera, Eric Deathridge, Mubaidar Rahman and so on. I am sure that you all have memories of people that you became friendly with and have since lost contact with.

Do you remember that you were perhaps a member of form 1MB, 1KF or 1AEH, a class that we had to divide amongst six other classes. Do you remember being in 8AR and having lots of different form teachers.

I am sure that you will all have your individual memories of Ninestiles that you will carry with you for years to come. I know that I have my own memories of the years you have spent at Ninestiles, the majority of them good. I have been called many things by many pupils over the years, and have had many nicknames, but I will remember you for my latest - Freddie - I can't understand why. EE OH LAY OH!

I have known thousands of pupils over the years and have been invited to reunions, engagement parties, weddings and christenings, and without doubt at some stage every ex-pupil I talk to says, "Do you remember when . . ."

I hope that, as you read this Yearbook in the years to come, you are able to look back with enjoyment to your time spent at Ninestiles, and that when we meet in the future you are able to say, "Do you remember when . . ."

Best wishes and lots of success to everyone.

Alan Outram

We recently stumbled across an old yearbook from 1994 (students attending Ninestiles from 1989 to 1994) and thoroughly enjoyed looking back at photos of old staff and students (and some very questionable fashions and hair dos!).

Here's a piece from Alan Outram, Head of Year, Isolation Manager and teacher of Art. Do you remember Alan? Do you remember the events he talks about in this piece?

TEACHERS AT NINESTILES



MS ARNOLL, MR. AYRES, MR. BAKER, MR. BIZLEY, MRS. BORWN, MRS. BURKE, MRS. CALVERT, MISS CHAMBERS, MRS. CHANNON, MRS. CHESHIRE, MS CONNOLLY, MRS. COOKE, MRS. COTTERILL, MR. CRADOCK, MR. CROMPTON, MR. CROWSTON, MISS DAY, MR. DIX, MRS. EASTMAN, MR. EMBLEM, MR. FERRANTE, MR. FRETSTOME, MR. FROST, MR. GRIFFITH, MS GHANI, MR. HANDS, MR. HARTWELL, MRS. HAYCOCK, MRS. HEARD, MR. HILL, MRS. HILL, MRS. HOLDING, MR. HOWGATE, MR. HUNT, MR. HUTT, MR. JONES, MRS. JONES, MISS KANE, MR. KILBRIDE, MS LE BREUILLY, MR. LLEWELLYN, MR. LOVENBURY, MR. MACDONALD, MR. MEREDITH, MRS. MIDDLEMAST, MS MOULD, MR. O'GRADY, MR. OUTRAM, MRS. PATCH, MR. PEMBERTON, MISS POUNDER, MS QUINN, MR. RAWSON, MR. REEVE, MRS. RICHARDS, MR. ROBSON, MS RODSETT, MR. SELLIS, MRS. SMITH, MR. SMITH, MR. SPEIRS, MR. SUMMERS, MRS. TALBOT, MISS VICKERS, MS WIXON, MRS. WORSLEY, MRS. TOWNSEND, MRS. DAVIES, MRS. JOHNSON, MRS. RUGHANI, MRS. WASHINGTON.