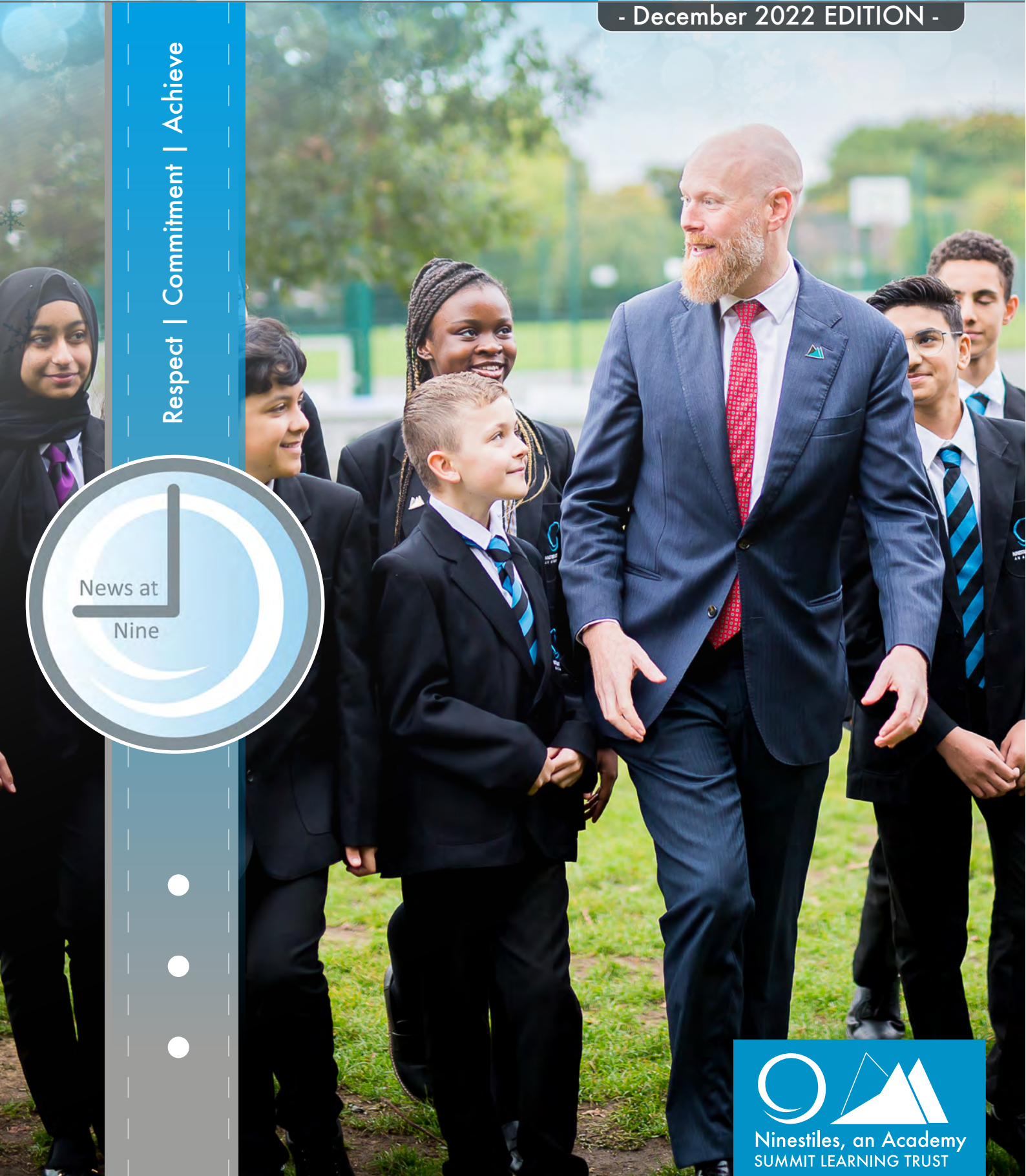


NEWS @ NINE

- December 2022 EDITION -

Respect | Commitment | Achieve



@Ninestiles



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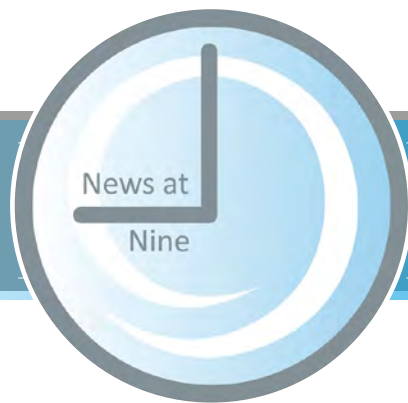


@NinestilesAnAcademy

PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME:

I am delighted to be able to share with you the latest edition of our fantastic News at Nine letter. This term we have really seen the full return of cultural capital trips and visits which has allowed our learners to support the brilliant curriculum work we undertake with real life experiences. You will see in this newsletter how these experiences have helped them become more knowledgeable, compassionate citizens and the many fantastic ways they have represented their families and the academy over the first term. Particular highlights for me have been the cultural events we have held in school such as the Diwali celebration and the Christmas showcase, as well as the fantastic charitable events that our learners have taken part in, raising money, resources and a sense of joy at a time when all are in short supply. I hope this newsletter brings a smile to your face as we head into the festive period.

Alex Hughes
Principal



Key dates for early 2023

- Return to school after Christmas break – Wednesday 4th January
- February Half Term – w/c 20th February
- Break for Easter holidays – Friday 31st March
- Year 11 Parents' Evening – Tuesday 24th January
- Year 9 Guided Choices Evening – Tuesday 7th February
- Year 9 Parents' Evening – Tuesday 7th March
- Year 11 PPEs begin – w/c 27th February

STUDENT WELFARE NOTICES

Lost Property

We value the support of our parents and carers in encouraging all pupils in the wearing of school uniform. Could we please ask that school blazers, coats and HAL kits have your child's name on them? This helps reduce the amount of lost property we have in school!

We have a large number of lost property, including coats, blazers, and HAL kits in Student Welfare. Any items unclaimed at the end of term will be included in the school second-hand uniform sale, as we cannot store unnamed clothing indefinitely. We will do our best to reunite lost property with its owner but cannot be held responsible for any items that go missing. If it is not named, it is more likely to be lost.

Medication

Should your child need medication of any sort whilst in school, we would ask that you come into the school office to complete a consent form. Most children can administer their medication personally (E.g., inhalers) although a consent form still needs to be completed.

If your child suffers from asthma, please make sure you provide Student Welfare with a spare inhaler (and spacer if needed) for us to keep here just in case, but also ensure your child has their own inhaler in their bags all the time. We have sent out the emergency inhaler consent forms which allow us to use our inhalers in the case of emergency with an asthma care plan. Please complete and return at your earliest convenience.

Parent Pay

If you have not activated your Parent Pay account, please do so, as we no longer accept cash or cheque payments for school meals, trips, clubs, and other school-based activities where a parental contribution is requested. Please call Student Welfare if you are having issues logging into your account.

Y7 MS KAUR & MR FOSTER

It has been an honour to welcome our new Year 7s to Ninestiles. We have been proud of the transition they have made from primary school; they have had so much to celebrate:

- We have been topping the leader board with whole school attendance
- So many of our Year 7s have had the privilege to enjoy a special Learner of the Week breakfast with the Principal as recognition for their hard work, commitment and demonstrating our school values.
- Mr Foster and I have had so many wonderful comments regarding Year 7 behaviour and conduct in and around school.

We will of course continue to offer support and interventions to our Year 7s and recognise their positive work ethic.

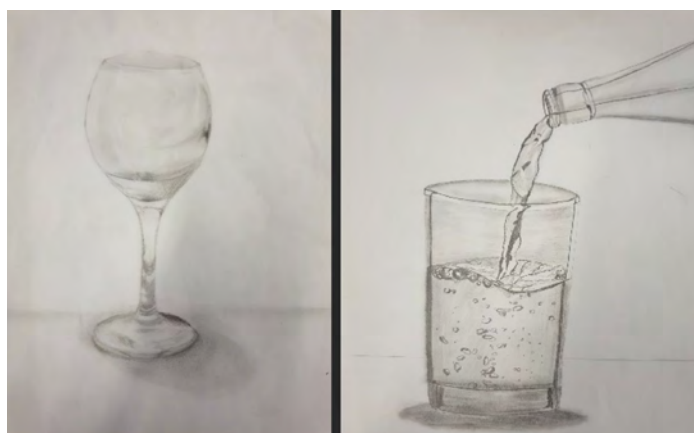
Y8 MR AHMED & MISS EVANS

As we are approaching the Christmas, it has been another successful term for Year 8 students.

We have launched several interventions to help students with their mental wellbeing. This has included Think for the Future mentoring and Community Cohesion sessions. These have enabled our students to become much more resilient in their behaviour and attitudes to learning, and have had a hugely positive impact on them.

It has been a real pleasure to move up with the cohort and get to know them more and see how they are progressing through Ninestiles. We have had students such as Pronoyi Sultana and Iman Ahmed produce wonderful homework for their Art lessons. These are just two examples of the fabulous commitment shown by Year 8 students this term.

I look forward to working with them and seeing what else they achieve in the coming year.



Y9 MISS REEVES & MR HARVEY

I would like to say a huge congratulations to Year 9 on a successful term! It has been wonderful to see our learners attend their Aim Higher trips to universities such as Birmingham, Gloucester, Worcester, and Solihull Sixth Form College. Learners took ownership of their own attitude to learning and worked collaboratively in small groups to see what university life is like.

With this, Year 9 will be choosing their options for GCSE next term, and this is an important time in their life. After visiting the universities, it has made learners understand why this process is so important, especially when thinking about future employment prospects. It was great to see learners engaging with the student ambassadors by asking questions, which will come in use in the foreseeable years.

The Open Evening event earlier on this term also saw Year 9 engage in conversation with external providers for future careers. It was lovely to hear such positive feedback on how Year 9 conducted themselves as young learners.

As always, I want to say a special congratulations to all form tutors and tutees on such a fantastic start to this academic year! I look forward to continuing the highest expectations into next term.

To all parents, guardians and pupils, have a lovely Christmas Break!

Follow us on Twitter:

@NinestilesY9

@Ninestiles, An Academy

Y10 MR. PRINCE & MS KHATUN

Year 10 have had a great start to the academic year. They have settled well into the start of their GCSE courses and have recently taken their November assessments, which have given them a forecast of what their GCSE grades may look like at the end of Year 11.

Currently, Year 10 are preparing for their work experience programme, which will take place in the summer term. Within tutor time, students have been introduced to the process of finding a work experience placement and have been discussing the different types of work they can go into. As the academic year progresses, they will be undertaking more workshops to prepare them for their work experience week, which will be very exciting. Parents and carers, we appreciate your help in supporting our learners in finding and securing placements.

In September we revamped our praise and rewards system. Students have benefited from new prizes, which has been an effective method of managing expectations in the classroom, as well as actively promoting school values. Year 10 have received a great deal of praise this academic term. Since September, students have achieved 3149 praise points, which is an amazing achievement and one they should all be very proud of! Overall, Year 10 have made a wonderful start to the academic year, and we are excited to see how they will get on in the new year.

Y11 MR. YOUNG & MRS BESSELL

Year 11 have worked incredibly hard over the course of their first term. They have had visits from Solihull Sixth Form College and Solihull College to discuss the process of college application. During tutor time, we are continuing to provide additional English and Maths lessons to support all our learners to be as successful as possible. The Year 11 team have been really impressed by the number of learners working incredibly hard in Period 5 and sometimes Period 6 - some learners are in school until 5pm with their minds totally focussed on the end goal! The commitment of these learners epitomises our slogan of 'To achieve what others don't, we do what others won't'. The end of term has seen the conclusion of Year 11's first wave of PPEs. Again, the effort that has gone into these will reap the rewards.

Careers interviews are still being completed, with each learner getting access to a bespoke careers action plan. The planning and preparation for the prom is well underway. We look forward to involving the learners in the planning of the event over the coming months.

THE NINESTILES STUDENT UNION

The Student Union has been very busy since the start of term. They are currently preparing for the Christmas festivities and will once again accompany the Acocks Green Lions on their annual visit to people in the community via Santa's sleigh.



The Student Union have teamed up with the UNICEF Ambassadors to work on a safer travel to school project. The teams have been working with a representative from the Active Travel Ambassador Project, Mr. Hussain and Ms Kaur to complete an audit of how learners and staff travel to school and how we as a community can make our area safer. We will provide updates on how the project is going, so watch this space!

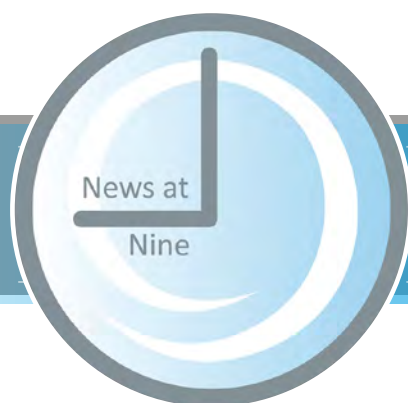


NEWS from: Art & Design

Christmas card competition

This term, all eight schools from across Summit Learning Trust were invited to take part in the annual Christmas card competition. This meant that there were almost 6,000 entries, from primary to senior. At Ninestiles, we chose to have a winner from each year group and then choose a final winner to be entered into the Trust competition. We are absolutely delighted to announce that the winner was Zakiyah Raja, one of our fabulous Year 10 learners. Her card will now be made professionally and used as this year's Trust Christmas card. Thank you to all those involved.

**See our winning designs above*



Faculty Ambassadors

This term, the Art, Design and Food department have started a school first of a Faculty Ambassadors Club. Two pupils were elected for each year group from an extensive number of submissions. Students were chosen based on their applications, their interests, enthusiasm and talent within the faculty. It was incredibly difficult to choose, but we are delighted to have ten superstars represent our faculty. The first role of the ambassadors was to choose their own tie design, which we thought might be a little tricky, with so many opinions at the table, but it was a unanimous vote. All the ambassadors now proudly wear their new tie and their ambassador badge which was designed by Fearne Walsh.

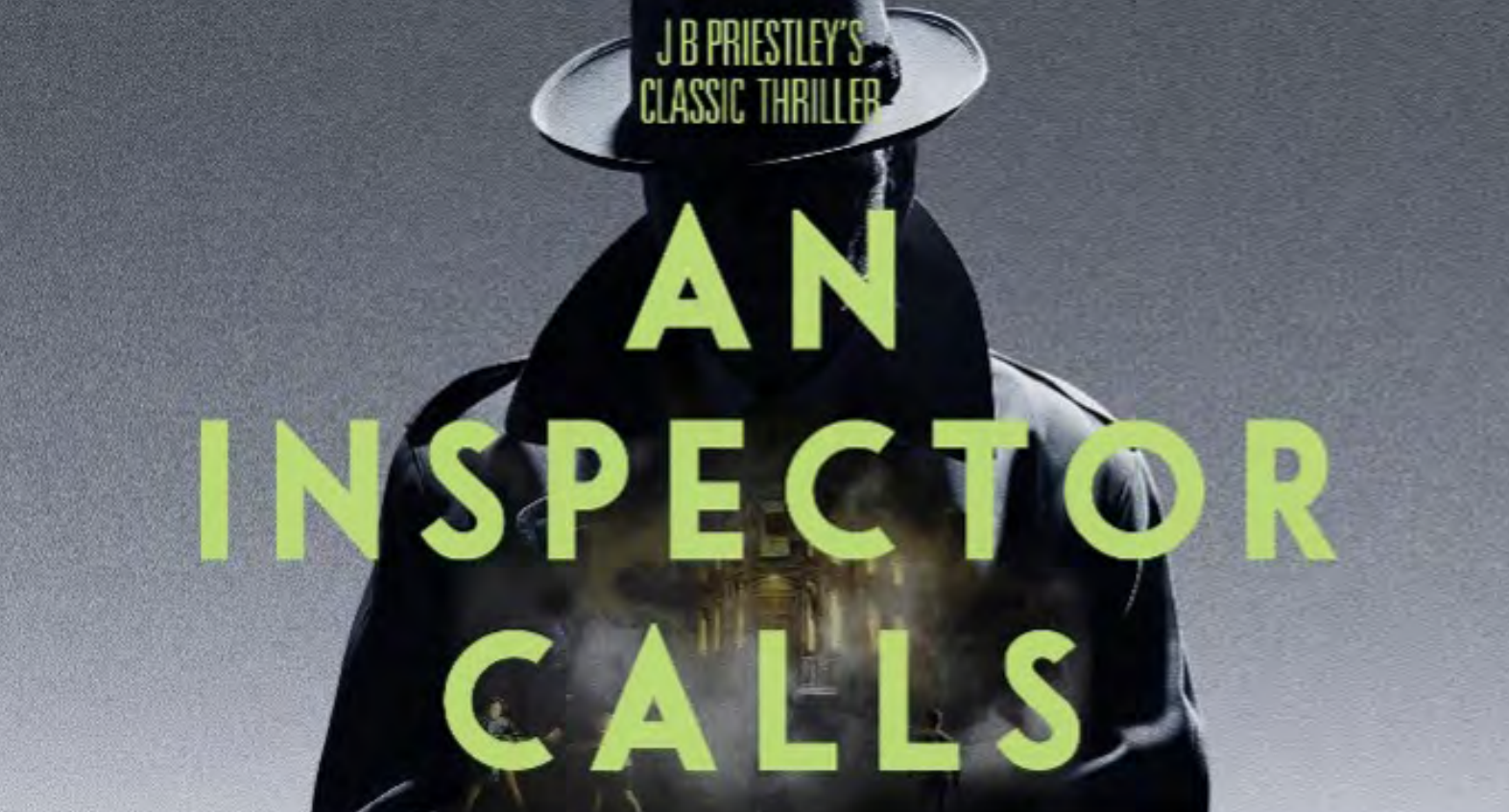
The second job for the ambassadors to undertake was that of judging the Christmas card competition. The art teachers decided upon the first round selection and then the ambassadors chose the winners who were: Zainab Awaan 7-1, Lexie Brueton 8-5, Karima Mohammed 9-12 and then the overall winner, chosen by Mr. Hughes, was Zakiyah Raja, 10-10, whose card won final competition for the Trust. The Ambassadors are now looking forward to taking over a display area in the school and setting up Artist of the Month competitions.



During November, Year GCSE 10 3D Art students visited the MAD Museum in Stratford upon Avon as part of their coursework studies. The Mechanical Art and Design attraction displays interactive pieces of mechanical art, in particular, kinetic art and handmade automata.

As part of their visit, students were able to use and see how these quirky pieces of art were made. Drawings and research notes were also taken so that all aspects of this visit could be recorded in students' sketchbooks when back in school





NEWS from: English

The English department has had a busy term. Our Year 11s have advanced to the second round of the competition in the English Speaking Union Mace. The second round will take place in late January, and we are confident that our learners will once again make us very proud. Our students also performed admirably in the ESU Public Speaking Competition; sadly, we did not advance to the next round this year.

We are busy planning for our annual Year 11 trip to see A Christmas Carol on 16th December, and our Year 10 pupils will have a fantastic trip in March when we take them to see An Inspector Calls.

Both productions are directly related to our GCSE texts, as Year 10 have been studying An Inspector Calls this term and are now finishing their Macbeth module. Year 11 have recently started Macbeth and will continue after the new year. Our KS3 learners have been the beneficiaries of an exciting new curriculum, with Year 7 studying poems from other cultures and Years 8 and 9 reading Romeo and Juliet and Blood Brothers, respectively.

It's been a busy term, and we are excited for the next one!



NEWS from: Humanities

GEOGRAPHY

This term the Geography team has taken out 150+ Year 11 students to conduct their physical fieldwork in River Blythe. Students were equipped with wellies and jumped into the river to gain data about its width, depth, velocity and sediment size. It was great to see students getting stuck into an unknown environment and splashing around. We have also taken 70+ Year 7 students to Birmingham City Centre to experience the German markets and see how regeneration has benefited or hindered Birmingham. We have more trips on the way for students in Years 8, 9 and 10 to look forward to in the next part of the academic year.



MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

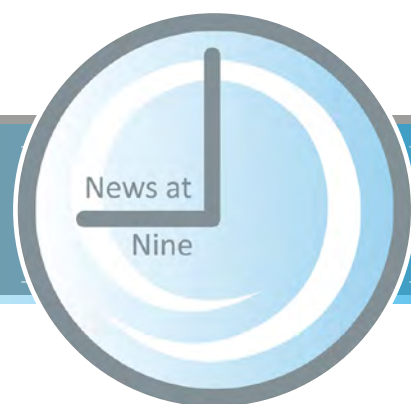
This term saw the return of Japanese club where learners are exploring Japanese culture, as well as practising introductions and discussing their interests in Japanese.

In French and Spanish lessons, Year 7 learners have mastered the basics and are now discussing their family and friends. Year 8 are learning how to order food and drink in a restaurant and Year 9 are preparing for their GCSE options by expressing opinions about school subjects and their future plans.

Our top KS4 Memrise learners this term are Divine Mhuashati, Khadija Sarfaraz, Tahira Kiani, Aliya Ghafoor, Gurdeep Singh and Avyakta Chauhan. Well done!

PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS

As we approach the festive period, Philosophy & Ethics encourages all our learners to reflect on the year we're leaving behind. As a time of religious celebrations and festivals, we hope everyone can have a restful break after a term of learning. We have covered issues such as Peace and Conflict and the war in Ukraine with KS4, and moral issues such as poverty with Year 9. We hope that we can all remember those less fortunate than ourselves. Best wishes for the new year.



HISTORY

This term in History saw a Battlefields Tour to Belgium and France where we took 40 students to some of the main battle sites and WW1 memorials. All the learners enjoyed the tour and felt they had a much better understanding of WW1 and why remembrance is so important. This followed on with Remembrance assemblies, where we shared the special ceremony we had at Thiepval, and Ali Sardar Khan in Year 10 read a poignant poem about why we remember people affected by conflict, both in the past and today. We also ran a Remembrance competition which saw lots of brilliant entries. The winner was Eesa Raozaman in Year 9 for his wonderful memorial. We welcomed some Year 13 A-Level students from Solihull Sixth Form to talk to some of our Year 9s about A Level History and future careers in history. It was wonderful to see our learners engage with this session and ask lots of questions!



NEWS from: HAL



HEALTHY ACTIVE LIFESTYLES

Since September, the HAL department has run a number of extracurricular clubs, however, by far, the football sessions run by Leroy, Remi and his team have been the most popular. Building on the success of the lunchtime sessions, we have seen large numbers of learners participating.

From these sessions, a group of Year 10 students played a fixture on a Sunday which they drew 2 – 2, and it is hoped that with Leroy's experience of community football, further fixtures will take place on a weekend.

Following the girls only sessions, Miss Zalubka took a team of Year 7 and 8 girls to a football festival held at Archbishop Ilsey. With mainly Year 7's in the team, playing against older girls, they showed great skill and determination to finish 4th out of 7 teams.

We hope to run several new afterschool clubs after the Christmas holidays however if there is a particular activity you would like to participate in after school then please talk to your HAL teacher.

NEWS from: Inclusion

We've had a very busy and successful Autumn Term

At the start of the year, we welcomed our new Resource Base Year 7s who, despite being very nervous on their first day, have all grown in confidence and are enjoying their success at Ninestiles with invaluable support from Mrs Lord and Mrs Dhliwayo. They have been working on a project with Scanning Pens to explore how assistive technology can support learners to read and are very excited about the prospect of this being filmed in the new year.

Many of our Resource Base learners have been nominated for Learner of the Week, prompting one parent to say: *'Wow, I'm so proud of him, I don't know what to say. A big thank you to you and the resource base team for helping him throughout this first term.'*

We've also changed our curriculum so it's even broader and more balanced than ever before with all Year 10s and 11s in Resource Base taking Functional Skills English as a way of practising exam technique and building on oracy skills developed in English. There were some great presentations and panel discussions enjoyed by the group. Particular highlights were Ayaan Khan's talk on space; Isaac Morris' exploration of the importance of art; and Hamaad Mahmood's exposition on the importance of education.

We have also been developing our use of AQA Unit Awards to underpin the endeavours made by learners elsewhere in school: Year 11 are about to claim for a unit on An Inspector Calls; Year 10 have covered Growth Mindset, and Macbeth; learners in other year groups have been doing awards to support their reading for pleasure which we will claim for early next term.

Our other Inclusion interventions have continued to have a positive impact on learners: Mrs Beech's ELSA and Young Carers' work has been rolled out across our Trust; Mr Heekin has been taking learners to a range of outside events, both cultural and sporting; and our HLTAs, Mrs Newman and Mrs Cable, have been supporting our most vulnerable learners with their reading and key skills.

We've worked alongside colleagues in other settings to enhance the experience for your children. Mrs Boore and Mrs Allso visited our friends at The Meadows Resource Base in Northfield to find out what they do to support learners with DLD – as a result, we have now been asked to help develop DLD support for secondary schools across the city; Mrs Allso and Mrs Green have also completed a pilot project that develops occupational therapist practice in schools and our learners are now developing their core muscles and posture like never before. We've also been taught how to use Social Stories by the Communication & Autism Team to help our neurodiverse young people better navigate the obstacles of teenage life; and our friends at Selly Oak Trust and The Edge have been giving invaluable support and advice in meeting the needs of our learners.



NEWS from: Science

Now in its third year at Ninestiles, Educake is going from strength to strength. Educake provides online science homework and revision to improve learners' knowledge and understanding. When learners log in to Educake (www.educake.co.uk/downloadtheApp), they will see any quizzes they have been assigned at the top of the page. When learners take the quiz, they'll get immediate feedback and so will the teacher. Educake can also help learners be more efficient about their revision; they can set themselves a test on any topic, and they can guide their own learning with the Track Progress page, which shows them where their strengths and weaknesses are. All year groups have homework set on Educake on a weekly basis following the timetable below.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Year 10 – X band	Year 9 – X band	Year 7 – X band Year 8 – X band Year 11 – Y band	Year 10 – Y band Year 11 – X band	Year 7 – Y band Year 8 – Y band Year 9 – Y band

Since September, Ninestiles learners have answered over 300,000 questions on Educake! An extra special mention must go to the following learners who have answered the highest number of questions on Educake for their year group:

- Year 11 – Tahira Kaini
- Year 10 – Fatehsheer Jarral
- Year 9 – Naima Ahmed
- Year 8 – Nathan Letkiewicz
- Year 7 – Momana Rani

NEWS from: Maths



In October, 26 of our Year 11 learners took on the challenge of the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge – a challenge aimed to test the best mathematicians in Years 11 to 13. With some questions requiring A-Level maths and further maths knowledge, our Year 11s had a tough task ahead of them. Despite this, we achieved some excellent results: 6 learners achieved a bronze certificate, Muhammad Qureshi a silver certificate, and Dawoud Alam gained Ninestiles' second ever gold certificate, and qualified for the kangaroo round - the second round of the challenge, reserved for only around 6000 students nationally. Congratulations to all the learners that took part – we are very proud of you.

September 2022 saw a new homework system being rolled out in maths. The platform allows for more parental engagement, showing parents/carers how much homework, their learners have completed each week. Learners have adjusted well from Hegarty to Sparx and uptake has been great. A special mention to the following learners who have already achieved Level 1 on the platform through additional independent study.

Year 7

Zainab Khan
Katrina Kaur
Malayeka Khattak
Shahzain Abbas
Selina Hussain
Robert Cirlan
Solianna Monterotondo
Laura Farley

Year 8

Sakina Ladha
Nathan Letkiewicz
Besma Ilyas
Abdul Hussain

Year 9

Mohammed Akbar

Year 11

Dawood Ibrahmi
Malaika Waqas

And a huge well done to Haaris Tanweer who achieved Level 2 and Rayaan Ur Rehman who has reached Level 5

It has been a busy term for the Performing Arts Department, and we have been extremely pleased to see so many learners taking up opportunities to learn new skills and attend clubs afterschool and during tutor. Those learners that auditioned for a part in our whole school production of Matilda, have been working hard learning their lines and songs, and we look forward to showcasing their talent in February 2023, for two nights of performances.

Over the next few weeks, learners will be busy practising pieces for our Christmas Gala (on December 15th), and for our Christmas Showcase events during break and lunch time. The showcases give learners opportunities to perform in front of a live audience and provide a great atmosphere for others to see what can be achieved when you work hard, practise and persevere.

As many grammar schools will testify, Performing Arts is an important aspect of the curriculum, and is often sought by colleges, universities, and employers, as a means of displaying crucial skills that are not seen in other subjects. For example, for those wishing to study medicine or dentistry, most universities will ask for students to demonstrate fine motor skills, teamwork and resilience; playing an instrument is an excellent way to demonstrate all of these. We urge parents and carers to encourage learners to participate in as many extracurricular activities as possible, as this will set learners apart from others in the future. This is also true when choosing options in Year 9, and we hope to see many learners opting for Performing Arts subjects this year.

Next year, there will be several opportunities for Performing Arts learners, across all key stages, to participate in workshops and attend concerts and performances. Keep checking with your teachers for an opportunity to gain a place on one of these fantastic trips!

Have a wonderful winter break.
Mrs McKeon, Ms Wright and Ms Lynch



We're flashing back almost 20 years to our Class of 2002 Yearbook. I was flicking through the yearbooks to get some ideas for this section of the newsletter when I stumbled across an image and instantly recognised the face!

Miss Chagger, a teacher of Science for the past 11 years at Ninestiles, was also a student here between 1997 and 2002, then known as Divya Chavda. Learners, would you have recognised Miss Chagger from this picture?

We have a very sweet toddler photo, a picture of Miss with her bestie, Sonal Jagatia, (and they are still good friends now!) and a form photo, with tutor, Miss McAvoy. Those uniforms wouldn't meet today's expectations with all that jewellery on show....



Divya Chavda

Forms



11MAM

Charlotte Archer, Zoe Baptiste, James Cadman, Divya Chavda, Rakhee Davda, Kim Dolphin, Matt Duffy, Oliver Kowalewski, Jade Laphorne, Josh Lason, Sean Maguire, Atzal Mahfooz, Dan O'Brien, Sam Owen, Hollie Precious, Tom Puar, Henna Sarwar, Peter Snell, Raymond Thomson, Matt Walton, Kayley Whitsey, Louise Wilson.

Buds



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