

NEWS NINE

- March 2023 EDITION -

Respect | Commitment | Achieve




Ninestiles, an Academy
SUMMIT LEARNING TRUST



@Ninestiles



ninestiles_an_academy



@NinestilesAnAcademy

Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Carers

As we draw to the end of a short but memorable term, I am delighted to be able to share with you our latest newsletter. In a term full of challenges and disruption from snow days to national teacher industrial action and transport challenges posed by bus and train strikes, I am once again heartened by the way our Ninestiles, an Academy community rises up together to tackle these events and ensure our learning comes first.

This term has seen our learners demonstrate their excellence in a wide range of extra-curricular activities and sporting fixtures as well as the outstanding work that went into producing our whole school production of Matilda. We've seen students nominated for regional awards such as the Young Active Citizens, that you'll read about in this newsletter, and we've seen the school earn the prestigious Quality in Careers Mark, the very well-deserved Music Mark Award, as well as the amazing achievement of Mr. Talib being nominated for Pearson National Secondary Teacher of the Year award. We welcomed learners from our Summit Learning Trust feeder schools for art lessons and have secured another full year group of incoming Year 7 students for September, demonstrating the trust and confidence our community has in the fantastic teaching and learning taking place at Ninestiles.

Finally, it was amazing to come together again as a community last week and celebrate our Iftar with friends, family, the Deputy Lord Mayor of Birmingham, and our local MP, Jess Phillips. Events such as these always remind me of the strength of our Ninestiles, an Academy community.

Enjoy the newsletter and have a restful Easter holiday. Ramadan Mubarak to all those celebrating this special time.

Best wishes

Alex Hughes

Principal



Inclusion & Resource Base

This term we have focused on developing our learners' understanding of our school core values of Respect, Commitment and Achievement.

We have shown commitment by encouraging learners to join us for additional intervention and Homework Club from 8.00 every morning. Several of our learners have taken this opportunity to do their additional learning for GCSE History and Geography and this has seen them make steady progress in their assessments.

We also have structured social time before school where our neurodiverse young people can take time out with others for a game of pool and chess or just a chat with familiar adults. We're particularly excited that we've developed a relationship with Games Workshop and, by the time you'll have read this, some of our Year 8 Resource Base learners will have become immersed in the exciting world of Warhammer.

Our structured social time takes place at lunch and break and Mr. Shields, our visiting SEND tutor, continues the fun and games and is currently engaging some of our harder to reach young people with his expertise in Stop Motion animation.

We'd like to say 'thank you' to Mrs Allso who has taken on the mantle of Occupational Therapy Champion and has undergone training with the OT service to learn how to better support the physical development of our learners and help them realise the link between physical strength and mental wellbeing. Mrs Allso has also worked with Ms McKeon to revamp the HAL curriculum for Resource Base learners, to ensure that it is as inclusive as possible and gives all our young people a sense of achievement through the study of AQA Unit Awards.

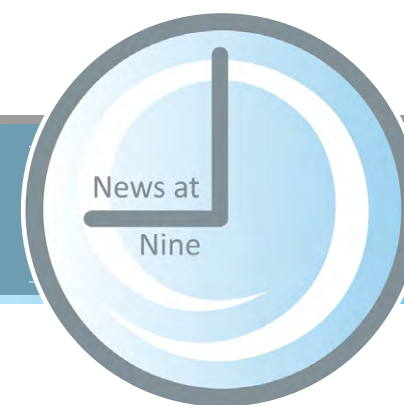
All Resource Base learners have been successfully awarded unit awards from pre-entry level Functional Skills, to pre-GCSE English Literature.

We've also welcomed Ms Chohan, Ms Aftab and Ms Begum to our team who are doing additional close support for some of our most vulnerable learners.

Next term, we hope to have a full enrichment programme in place for Year 11 for after their exams; meet all our 12 new Resource Base learners; and ensure that, through our Developing Local Partnerships work with our feeder primary schools, that every learner coming to Ninestiles in September has A Great First Day.

Mr Weir and Mrs Bowker

Inclusion SL



Y7 Ms Kaur

Our learners have been very busy this half term!

A special mention to those who have achieved 100% attendance or improved their attendance this half term.

Well done to the learners who put their own time and effort into taking part in the Scientific Literacy Challenge. All entries were of a high standard and impressed everyone who read them. The learners that took part have received a certificate and a prize for their efforts.

A huge well done to those learners who have earned the privilege of Learner of the Week breakfast with the Principal. Learners are nominated by their teachers and are commended for their efforts.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy Easter and look forward to welcoming Year 7 learners back soon.

Y8 Mr Ahmed

It has been another wonderful term for Year 8 students at Ninestiles. Julia Stockrocka won the Science Literacy Competition that was held within the Academy and is one of many successes across the year. It is particularly pertinent as Julia also inspired her friend, Noor Mushtaq, to enter and together they both endeavoured to produce amazing entries that as a year group and, as their Director of Year, I was really proud of.

In addition to this, students across the academy had the opportunity to go to the Commonwealth Service as a reward for excellent behaviour and commitment to learning. One such student was Mehroze Subbani. Mehroze is always doing what he can to help students and teachers and is always doing good deeds. We have recently had a few new students join Year 8 this term and Mehroze has been helping them find their way round and helping them settle into school. I am very proud that Mehroze chooses to help as he does, and very grateful!

Finally, my favourite thing that has happened in Year 8 during this wonderful term is that students who are not Muslim have been showing support to those who are observing Ramadan by also keeping fasts alongside them. This shows the beautiful community we have built within Year 8 and within Ninestiles.

Y9 MISS REEVES & MR HARVEY

Having taken over the Director of Year 9 role in January, it is nice to take this opportunity to introduce myself to Year 9 parents and carers. As well as teaching Healthy Active Lifestyles (HAL), I have also been a Director of Year for previous year groups at Ninestiles and held the post of Achievement Leader before that.

This has certainly been a very busy term for Year 9 students as they began thinking about their Options choices. As they begin to personalise their own learning and academic pathway, learners have had to think quite carefully about which subjects suited them best or would help them with their Post-16 aspirations. Students have been very mature in their approach, and I would like to thank all families for their support throughout the options process.

As part of our extracurricular provision, Year 9 students have also had the opportunity to represent Ninestiles; in February, 3 students participated in a Maths Challenge, with one of the being awarded the 'Best in Year 9'! Mr Mahmood took Year 9s to play in football matches away against Small Heath Academy where they won 10-0, and away against Waverley School which finished in a 1-1 draw. Mrs Zalubka and Mr. Kirby took a group of Year 9 students to a KS3 table tennis tournament at Small Heath Academy, where they won with an impressive score of 38-10 to Ninestiles. A huge congratulations to all the students who participated in these events, and a big thank you to the colleagues involved in organising, escorting, and supporting our learners

Also deserving a special mention:

- Tutor group 9-3 who have received the most praise points this academic year
- Tutor groups 9-6 and 9-8 who both have the highest overall attendance so far, this academic year

I'd like to wish all students and their families a very happy Easter break!

News at
Nine

Y10 MR. PRINCE

Well done Year 10 for your continued hard work with your GCSE courses. It has been a busy spring term - our learners are currently preparing themselves for their pre public examinations (PPE's) due to commence on Monday 17th April. Examination timetables have been distributed and we will be holding a special assembly to further help our learners prepare for their PPE's.

Our Year 10 learners have been working well in exploring their future career prospects. During our morning tutor program, learners have been given the opportunity to create their CV's in preparation for work experience in the summer term. I would like to recognise Mrs Fazil for all her hard work and support with the Year 10 Careers Programme - look out for more careers events coming up next term, including mock interviews.

This term I had the privilege of accompanying over 100 Year 10 learners to the Belgrade Theatre in Coventry to watch 'An inspector Calls'. This trip was organised by the English department and was a huge success; all students who attended demonstrated exemplary behaviour and were a huge credit to the school.

I would like to extend my thanks to parents and carers for your continued support. Without you, it would be impossible for our learners to progress thus far on their educational journeys. For all families celebrating, I would like to wish you a happy Easter and I hope all students are able to have a lovely break and come back ready and refreshed for the summer term.



NEWS @ NINE

Y11 MR. YOUNG

Year 11 have had a really busy start to 2023. We have seen Year 11 continue with their extremely hard work in all subject areas and complete their final set of PPE exams. Year 11 have been making the most of Maths and English intervention during Tutor Time, along with the additional 4 hours per week of Period 5 study. I know all my colleagues are really looking forward to seeing how each and every learner has achieved in their exams.

We have also seen the roll out of Period 6. We have had over 100 additional hours each week being utilised by learners. For those learners who want to make the most of their mornings, Breakfast and Homework Club is a wonderful opportunity to get in extra study time before the school day begins. We are also looking forward to seeing as many learners as possible during Easter School over the holidays, putting in those extra hours of commitment to their learning, and giving themselves the best chance of success with their formal exams as possible.

The term has been topped off by a wonderful trip to Alton Towers. 100 learners went on the trip and had a fantastic and well-deserved experience! We all look forward to supporting Year 11 on their final push to their exams.

News at
Nine



@Ninestiles



ninestiles_an_academy



@NinestilesAnAcademy

Community News



Community Iftar

Thank you to everyone who supported our Community Iftar on Friday 24th March - it was a fantastic evening! You helped to raise £1300 for the Human Relief Foundation, which will go to the victims of the recent earthquakes in Turkey and Syria. The photos below show how well attended the event was, and the variety of lovely things our guests enjoyed.



Mental Health Event and Young Active Citizen Award

Ninestiles learners, Trinity Mooney (Year 9) and Ellie-Mae Roney (Year 7), are both very active members of their local community youth club at the Fox Hollies Forum, known as Youth Project Acocks Green. The group's mission is to 'make Acocks Green a great place to be a young person'. Trinity and Ellie-Mae regularly volunteer at fund-raising events, and welcome members of the community to events held there. During the summer of 2022, Trinity and Ellie-Mae successfully bid for funding to run a one-day social action event based around Mental Health support in schools. With help from teaching staff and contacts of the Fox Hollies Forum and youth group, the girls organised a Mental Health Support Evening at Ninestiles on 31st January. The girls wanted the event to be very inclusive and open to everyone: those with mental health challenges and their friends and families who support them. It was a wonderful evening. Over 70 people attended from their own school, other local schools, and members of the community, to learn about the importance of protecting your mental health, and ways in which you could do that. Visitors were able to try mindful yoga and boxing, visit information stalls run by mental health charities and take away goodie bags to round off the evening. As a result of the work they do in the local community, the event that they put on at school, and the timing being right (!) we were able to nominate Trinity and Ellie-Mae for a West Midlands Lieutenancy Young Active Citizen Award. Ninestiles is incredibly proud of Trinity and Ellie-Mae so we look forward to hearing if they've won.



Road Safety

Please make every effort to park a short distance from school to keep Hartfield Crescent as clear as possible. Please also park with consideration of our neighbours and do not block driveways and footpaths.

Please remind your children to take great care when crossing the roads around school – learners are sometimes perhaps a little too excited to get home and forget to look both ways before crossing the road. Please have these important road safety conversations with them on a regular basis. Thank you for your support.



We've had an exciting and busy term in English

The term began with a Year 10 public speaking workshop led by Speak Out, in which thirty of our Year 10 students were nominated by their teachers to participate in a full day of oracy. The day culminated with the students giving some fantastic speeches. Our top seven students were then asked to write an extra speech and participate in an assembly final. Our winner and runner-up will now be judged by an expert panel and, if successful, will represent the school at the national final in June at Birmingham University. We look forward to updating you with our progress!

A small group of outstanding Year 11 learners also represented us in the regional final of the ESU MACE competition, which was held in January at Solihull School. The students had already survived one gruelling round of this intense competition, but they just missed out this time. We are extremely proud of their accomplishment in reaching this round against primarily college teams.

One of the most exciting days on the English calendar this term was our trip to the Belgrade Theatre with Year 10 to watch a superb production of An Inspector Calls. Our learners were an absolute credit to the school and with their PPE assessment covering the play in the summer term it was a welcome revision tool.

Our KS3 students are working diligently on challenging schemes, with Year 7 excelling in their study of George Orwell's Animal Farm, Year 8 enjoying Dracula, and Year 9 delving into conflict writing, which should prepare them well for their Year 10 poetry scheme.

NEWS from: Maths



In February, 47 learners across Years 9, 10 and 11 took part in the Intermediate Maths Challenge, a multiple-choice maths exam designed to challenge the best GCSE students. All learners performed amazingly well, resulting in 4 gold awards, 11 silver and 10 bronze, with Dawoud Alam and Mohammed Asharab, both Year 11, also qualifying for the Pink Kangaroo round, a national competition open to only the top 8000 learners across Britain.

To mark National Apprenticeship Week, Balaaj Bhatti, an ex- learner of Ninestiles, returned to school to talk with almost 200 Year 10 learners about his education journey after leaving Ninestiles, the path he has taken to be studying economics at Warwick University, and the exciting opportunities open to our learners in the field of economics and finance. Our learners were engaged and asked intelligent questions to further their understanding of the field and took away several tips from Balaaj that they could implement that would set them apart from other learners when they apply for university courses or apprenticeships in the future. (Photo above)

Across the school, learners have taken to and embedded the new Sparx maths programme into their weekly maths homework and revision routines. Learners have completed 1.6 times as many questions as at this time last year from the old Hegarty maths programme, equating to almost three quarters of a million more questions attempted.



Modern foreign Languages

In the MFL department, Japanese Club continues this term with learners taking part in sushi and origami classes, as well as learning how to discuss traditional Japanese culture. In lessons, Year 7 have been describing where they live, Year 8 are learning about French or Spanish music and cinema, and Year 9 are talking about their plans for the future. In Key Stage 4, Year 10 have learnt how schools are different in French and Spanish speaking countries and are beginning to prepare for their PPEs. We are extremely proud of the hard work Year 11 have put into their PPE exams - the countdown is on until the GCSEs! Several learners are preparing to undertake GCSE exams in their home language (Arabic, Panjabi, Bengali, Turkish, Urdu and Italian).

History

To tie in with National Holocaust Memorial Day on 27th January, we welcomed Danny Collman into school to talk to our GCSE History students. Danny had sadly lost his grandparents, aunts and uncles in the Holocaust and so he was able to share his very personal connection with the Holocaust with our students. All our students were incredibly respectful and asked some really important questions that Danny was happy to answer. It was a very special experience.



NEWS from: Humanities

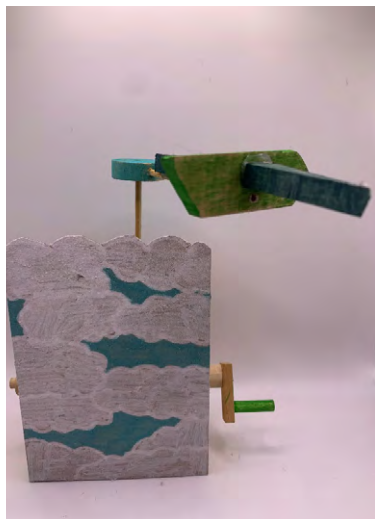
Geography

In January, the Geography team was able to take over 150 Year 11 students to conduct their human fieldwork. The students were researching around the benefits and consequences to regeneration in Coventry city centre. Students built their confidence up through the day whilst completing questionnaires with locals and building up relationships with store owners and the West Midlands Police force. Within the classroom, our KS3 students have been looking into the possibility of being able to feed 9 billion people by 2050, the economic development of the Middle Eastern countries, and travelling through the Americas to see the physical and human global influence countries have. The Options process has also secured over 170 students in Year 9 wanting to continue with their Geography studies at GCSE level – we look forward to teaching them from September!

Philosophy & Ethics

Wishing everyone a happy Vaisakhi and Easter. We hope all our students have a restful break. Philosophy and Ethics are excited to have the opportunity to study the GCSE through Years 9 and 10. We feel enthusiastic and this sentiment has shown in students' work and engagement with GCSE content since beginning to teach this. We'd like to thank all students and carers/parents for engaging with Seneca homework in Philosophy and this is supporting learning in the subject.





Year 7

Year 7 Design and Technology students have been working on developing their textile skills by designing and making soft Monster toys. They have focused on hand sewing techniques using paper patterns to produce their very own scary creations, all based on the starting point of the Disney film Monsters Inc.

The picture shown displays work in progress, where all the felt pieces have been cut out and pinned in place ready to be joined together. We just now need to think of a name for this brightly coloured one-eyed creature!



Year 8

Using the material of 'wood' has been the theme for this term's Year 8 Design and Technology lessons. Students they have been working on an engineering project, looking at the subject of Automata which is the art of moving toys.

Having investigated how cams and gears work, learners have researched the wonderful and playful work of designer Matt Smith before coming up with their very own moving toy design ideas.

Through the making process, learners have had experience of using hand tools in the workshop environment, where in particular they have developed the skill of using wooden dowel to strengthen the joints on their toy frames. Once all of the mechanisms were tested and operational, students then completed their automata by adding colour and decoration to bring their designs to life. Do you have a favourite toy from the ones shown below?

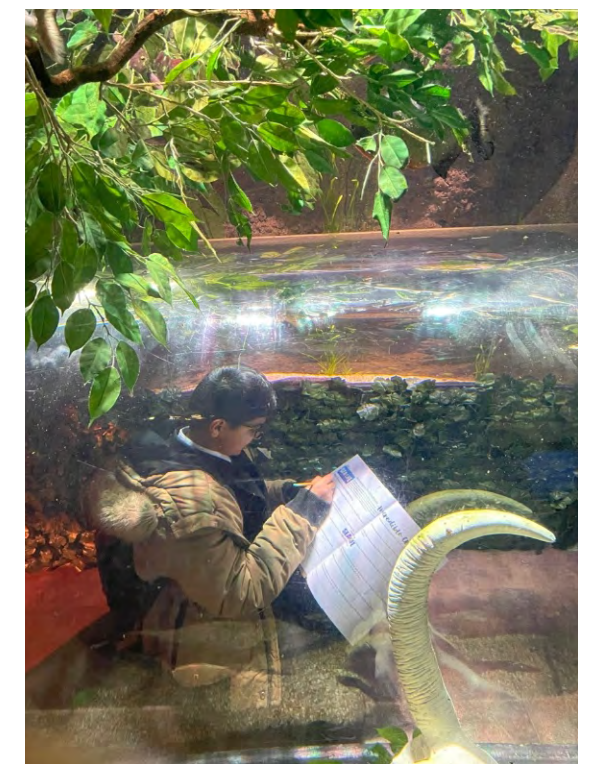
Year 10

Year 10 Art students worked on the preparation of the props and sets needed for this terms school production of Matilda. Kacey and Oliwia constructed the famous chocolate cake needed for our performance. Here we can see them working on a paper segment of the cake, they made six slices in total before painting it a delicious chocolate brown colour, it was nearly good enough to eat!



As part of their GCSE Art courses, we took 84 Year 10 students to the National Sea Life Centre located in Brindley Place, Birmingham. All four of our Art GCSE courses were represented, with individuals being present from our Photography, Graphic Communication, 3-D Design and Fine Art programs of study. The purpose of this visit was to give our learners the opportunity first hand to gather visual research in the form of drawings and photographs to aid their coursework projects.

A great day was had by all, and many fantastic photographs were taken on the subject of underwater life alongside an array of sketchbook drawings being created. Students were even able to handle real life starfish in the centre's hands on rock pool exhibit. We look forward to seeing our Year 10's Art coursework develop over the coming months, and of course we will keep you posted with regular updates of their fantastic artwork.





NEWS from: Science

Geobus

It was great working alongside @GeoBus_UCL with our Year 7s in Science, looking at planets and earthquakes during the workshop via zoom. Learners enjoyed the session and were inspired to learn more about seismology.

Geobus is an outreach programme run by the Science department of UCL to support STEM in schools. The session was thoroughly enjoyed and was an engaging and hands on experience with the use of great resources and 3D glasses which all pupils loved. The workshop complemented our topic of Waves within the KS3 curriculum, allowing pupils to gauge a greater understanding of seismic waves. Learners were definitely inspired and were excited to complete a 3D model representing tectonic plates.



The Trust Scientific Literacy Competition

Ninestiles is now working in partnership with The Ogden Trust to promote the teaching and learning of Physics. The Trust Scientific Literacy Competition had to be related to space. The entries were judged in January and the feedback was really positive. Well done to all the learners who put in their own time and effort to submit an entry for this competition. The judges said all the entries were of a high standard and impressed everyone who read them. Ninestiles also submitted the most entries so a huge well done to everyone who entered. The overall winner was Julia Stokrocka in Year 8, who received a £30 Amazon gift voucher. The other students who submitted fantastic work were:

- | | | |
|----------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Shahmeer Raza 7-11 | • Janai Taylor-Ford 7-6 | • Fatima Omar 7-11 |
| • Raheem Ali 7-1 | • Grace Phillips 7-5 | • Sabihah Rahman 7-11 |
| • Leena Saied 7-5 | • Kiran Ali 7-1 | • Noor Mushtaq 8-1 |
| • Sumayyah Ahmed 7-1 | • Muhammad Binyamin 7-2 | • Desire Munhuashati 9-9 |
| • Izhan Zafar 7-6 | • Alex-Gabriel Angelescu 7-8 | • Pardeep Singh 9-12 |
| | | • Mohammed Ayaan Khan |

Community Stargazing Event

The Ogden Trust also funded the Community Stargazing event held at Solihull Sixth Form College. This was available to students and their families from all the Trust academies. Students had an opportunity to look at the full moon that was particularly bright that evening. Free binoculars were given to students to keep for future stargazing. The Ogden Trust has also paid for some telescopes that are available for teachers to use in future events or lessons.

British Science Week

For British Science Week, we have been lucky enough to have paid access to the 'Medical Mavericks' shows, courtesy of The Ogden Trust. These have included quizzes, 'The Senses Show' which had several engaging, 'hands-on' experiments to do during the show.

The Human Guinea Pig Show goes through a set of NHS careers called 'Health Care Scientists'. Some roles were explained in detail such as:

- Vascular Science
- Cardiac Physiologist
- Medical Engineer
- Renal and Urodynamics
- Ophthalmic Science.

There are over 350 kinds of jobs within the NHS and the 'stepping-stones' to get there are covered in the show. Hopefully these will have inspired our students and helped them to see the journey they take to get there, and the importance of studying Science.



We were so excited to showcase our whole school production of Matilda at the end of last half term – it was a fantastic showcase of the amazing talent we have here at Ninestiles. We would like to thank all our hard-working learners and colleagues, who gave so much time and effort to make the show the sell-out spectacular that it was! We would also like to thank parents and carers for their support. As you can see, the images have managed to capture the brilliant set, costumes, and performance skills from the production, and we hope that our next one will be just as successful.

Now that the Matilda has finished, our after-school clubs are back up and running, ready to provide opportunities for all learners to discover new skills and talents. We will be showcasing these talents at break and lunch times over the next few weeks, and after the holidays, to 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. We have been pleased to see an increase in uptake of Performing Arts subjects for Year 10 next year, especially Drama, and hope that this reflects an understanding of the importance of creative subjects within any curriculum.

Have a wonderful spring break.

Mrs McKeon, Ms Wright and Ms Lynch



NEWS from: The Archives

This term's From the Archives looks back to the Annual Awards ceremony in November 2010. The event was held at Birmingham Town Hall and hosted by the Principal at the time, Christine Quinn.

We've always been able to rely on our learners to give wonderful musical performances at our events, and they really make them extra-special. Did you attend this event?

Judging by the moustaches on show, several of our male colleagues were taking part in the Movember challenge – we reckon Mr. Hughes definitely suits a full beard better!



@Ninestiles



ninestiles_an_academy



@NinestilesAnAcademy