

14 October 2016

Dear Parent/Carers

We are reaching the end of this first half term of the academic year. Our students have settled in well and we are looking forward to immense progress over the year. The school too needs to progress and develop and we are launching a new initiative which commits us all, staff and students, to raising our standards across the board and maintaining the 'outstanding' provision for which Ninestiles has a reputation.

It is imperative that we hold ourselves and our students to the highest standards of dress, behaviour and academic challenge and we are therefore launching a 'Standards for All' campaign, which will see an escalation in standards across all areas of school. The attached document sets out the 'Basic 9' expectations in three specific areas, 'Be ready', 'Be Safe' and 'Be Respectful'. There are five for students and four for staff, which we will uphold at Ninestiles. They have been devised by the Senior Leadership Team in consultation with staff and students through the Student Innovation Group (SIG). These expectations, under the 'Standards of All' banner, will be launched on Tuesday 1st November when students will also receive a planner and an individual set of equipment as listed below which they will be expected to have with them at all times.

As a result of the implementation of these standards, the sanctions under Behaviour for Learning have also been amended and I would like to make you aware of these changes so you are able to support the school in your conversations with our children. The main elements of our Behaviour for Learning policy remain intact but important changes are as follows:

1. The second warning for poor behaviour in the classroom has been removed. Students will have one warning and if poor behaviour persists, students will be given a C2 which is a 45 minute detention. This means that a C3 is now Isolation.
2. The standard of student uniform must be maintained. The uniform booklet is attached to remind parents and students of the school's expectations. A standards violation will result in a C2 45 minute detention.
3. Students will be expected to have the equipment listed i.e. pen, pencil, ruler, rubber and planner, which we will provide in the first instance. They will then be able to replenish their equipment from Student Welfare at a minimal cost. The sanction for failing to have the correct equipment will be a standards violation, resulting in a C2 45 minute detention.
4. In order to promote the health and well-being of our students and promote their learning, the school has taken the step of insisting that any drinks that students may have around school is water or a health drink purchased from our restaurant. We are a fizzy and energy drink free zone. A student drinking a fizzy sugar-laden drink on the school premises will receive a C2 45 minutes detention.

I appreciate that you may have some feedback for us with regards to these changes. On Wednesday 2nd November, the day after the launch, we will be holding our first Parent Forum meeting and would like to invite parents to join us. It will be held between 12-1pm and will include a light lunch. We will discuss the impact of these changes on the school community and we welcome your views. If you would like to take part in the event, please email Jackie.McGillcuddy@ninestiles.org.uk or telephone 0121 628 1311. We recognise that this may not be a suitable time for all parents, but subsequent Parent Forum meetings will be held at different

Hartfield Crescent, Acocks Green, B27 7QG | 0121 628 1311 | enquiry@ninestiles.org.uk

times of the day to enable as many parents to be active in it as possible. If you are unable to attend, but would like to make your views known, please email the address above with your comments. We will be explaining the changes to our students in the week beginning 17th October.

We sincerely believe these rigorous changes will make Ninestiles a better place to study, learn and be successful and we very much appreciate the partnership with our parents, which will ensure the implementation runs smoothly.

Ninestiles Book Fair

All research shows that students who read for pleasure get better grades in all subjects than those who don't. You can support your child by encouraging them to make use of the Ninestiles Open Learning Area (OLA) to develop and maintain a reading habit. A minimum of about 10-15 minutes reading every day can make the difference. You can also help by supporting the following initiatives:

Monday 21st November to Thursday 24th November 2016 8.00am to 3.30pm – Book Fair

All students, staff and parents/carers are welcome – Please call 0121 628 1311 ext. 195 (Mrs Agar – Librarian) to book a time.

Top quality books, stationery, posters, bookmarks and more are available. Look out for Book Fair competitions and prize draws.

Forthcoming events

Thursday 13 th October	Futures Evening
Monday 17 th October	Awards Evening at the Town Hall
Wednesday 19 th October	Year 7 Parents' Evening
Friday 21 st October	School closes for half term
Monday 31 st October	Inset day
Tuesday 1 st November	Launch of 'Standards for All'

Finally, may I take this opportunity to wish you a restful and relaxing half term and to remind you that students' return to school on Tuesday November 1st 2016.

Yours faithfully



Sian Hartle
Principal