

20 September 2016

Dear Parents/Carers,

It is with real delight that I write this letter in my first few weeks as Principal at Ninestiles. For those of you who don't know me I have spent much of my teaching career at Ninestiles and have returned after being Principal at Cockshut Hill School for the last three academic years. It is great to be back, but also to welcome Cockshut Hill into the Ninestiles Academy Trust as it becomes an academy this term.

Our Open Evening last week was a wonderful event which saw the staff showcase the very best of Ninestiles. If you have a child in Year 6 and would like a chance to see the school in action, we have our final Open Event on the morning of Wednesday 21st September between 9.30am–12.00pm when we would be delighted to see you.

Parking in Hartfield Crescent

Traffic congestion on Hartfield Crescent continues to be a problem. I would urge parents/carers to support the school and respect our residents by finding a meeting place away from the immediate vicinity of the school or allowing your child to walk to school, an activity which is proven to promote their mental and physical well-being. I realise this is not a possible solution for all, but more thought and consideration for our residents and our staff, who can sometimes find themselves acting as traffic wardens, would be appreciated.

Students remaining on site after school hours

Ninestiles does not provide designated after-school care for students. The Open Learning Area is open each morning from 8.00am until 5.00pm on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, 3.50pm on Wednesday, 3.15pm on Friday week 1 and 2.50pm on Friday week 2, to provide students with a great space to complete homework or to read. However, staff are not responsible for the students after the end of the school day at 3.00pm Monday-Friday and 2.00pm on Friday week 2, unless they are in formal after school events such as drama rehearsals or sports clubs. Students should not remain on site unless they are in the OLA or participating in clubs.

Attendance

There is a very strong correlation between attendance and attainment. The expectation at Ninestiles is that children will attend school every day and attendance should not drop below 95%. We are currently running a Spotlight campaign targeting those students (and their parents) whose attendance falls below what is acceptable. Further details can be found under 'Spotlight for Attendance' in the 'Parent Documents' section on our website. Please keep our Attendance Team informed of any matters which may affect your child's attendance. They can be contacted on 0121 624 9070.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

It is our pleasure to invite all our parents to the Macmillan Coffee and Cake Morning on Friday 7th October between 11.00am and 12.00pm. It is an opportunity to meet other parents and some of the Ninestiles staff as well as raising funds for a wonderful cause. I look forward to seeing you there.

Forthcoming events

Thursday 22 nd September	Open Morning
Friday 7 th October	Macmillan Coffee Morning
Saturday 8 th October	Year 6 assessment for entry in academic year 2017-2018
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

May I take this opportunity to thank those of you who have welcomed me so warmly following my return. I look forward to working in partnership with you all in the education of your children.

Yours faithfully



Sian Hartle
Principal