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**Headteacher** Richard Gilpin

## **NEWSLETTER – Term 5 2023**

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the end of Term 5 newsletter. This is the final newsletter for our current Year 11 cohort, who are well under way with their GCSE exams. Keep up the hard work revising, particularly over the holiday; it will be worth it when you open the envelope in August!

I hope this welcome spring sunshine continues over the Bank Holiday weekend and that we all have an opportunity to rest, relax and prepare for the final term of this academic year.

Kind regards,

R Gilpin  
Headteacher

### YEAR 11

We are about to say a fond farewell to this year's Year 11 students who joined our school community in September 2019.

We'd like to say a grateful thanks to Walt, Eleanor, Stanley and Isobel, our head students, who have supported the school through their roles this year and to our House Captains: George, Lily, Will, Amelia, Kirsten, Jacob, Livia and Calixte.

We are immensely proud of how students conducted themselves thus far in their exams. We hope that Year 11 remember the house sports and fixtures, various trips, including New York and Drayton Manor, Easter egg hunts and House Coins.

We still have several weeks left of exams and our upcoming Year 11 prom to celebrate the achievement of these wonderful young people. It has been a privilege to see them grow from timid primary school leavers to the strong and successful learners we see today. The Class of 2024 will be warmly remembered, and we wish them every success.

## DONATED Y11 UNIFORM ITEMS

With Y11 coming to the end of their time with us we would be grateful to receive any unwanted items of school uniform, particularly blazers, ties, and PE kit. If you are happy to donate these items please bring them into school and deliver to reception.

Thank you for your continued support.

## RSHE – HYBRID DROP DOWN DAY

This term we held a slightly different version of a drop-down day. The day included Y7 participating in a Young Minds Matter assembly; Year 8 completing a workshop on mental health awareness with guest speaker, Satveer Nijjar, and Year 9 completing some hands-on training in the use of a defibrillator with Great Western Air Ambulance Charity.

The Year 7 assembly with Young Minds Matter was well received by our students with the visiting speakers reporting, 'they were the quietest and best-behaved group they have ever presented to' and how impressed they were with the group's input, questions and answers which demonstrated understanding and depth of knowledge.

Well done Year 7.

Year 8 visited the library to complete a session on stigma and mental health, self-harm, and suicide awareness, how to support themselves and their friends, how to manage distress, the importance of talking, and where to go for support. Well done to Year 8 for demonstrating a mature response to a sensitive, yet important, topic.

Year 9 observed some demonstrations on emergency resuscitation, what to do and how to respond to an emergency. The session also offered Y9 students an opportunity to practice some CPR skills on a dummy. We were also pleased to see an alumni member, Niamh Regan, who has gone on to qualify as a paramedic, leading some of the training. Well done Niamh and well-done Year 9 for taking on board such an important life skill.

## PITTVILLE BAND PERFORMS AT CIVIC CEREMONY

On Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May the Pittville School Band attended and performed on stage at the Inauguration Ceremony of the Mayor at Cheltenham Town Hall.

The band represented the school, performing a medley of tracks to the civic leaders and guests. Well done to Finn Sutton and Benji Marvin, together with Mr Grewar, for an outstanding performance. Mr Gilpin.







ACCXEL CONTRCUTION SCHOOL - TRIP

On Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> May several year 8 and 9 students attended a 'Construction Futures' intervention at AccXel Construction School in Cinderford. Mr Kavanagh and Ms Lawton reported that students demonstrated great skill in bricklaying and general construction. Well done all, we know who to call for advice on constructing the new sports hall.



Well done all, great effort.

## SCHOOL PRODUCTION

The drama department has announced that the school production in the autumn term will be, 'Legally Blonde.' This is a super musical and we have had a huge amount of interest this year, so I anticipate this will be our best yet! Auditions will be next term and the performance will be in December. Look out for more information in term 6 and good luck with the auditions.

## FOPS

We are at the of Term 5 already and we are rapidly running towards the end of yet another academic year!

Thank you for all the support we have had this term. We very much enjoyed the external event run by Cheltenham Horticultural Society, which we were able to support in April, and we look forward to their summer event, also being held onsite, in August.

We wish all our Year 11s the best of luck for their GCSE exams, which have already started, and continue to take place after the half term break. Well done to the five lucky prom goers who managed to bag themselves a free ticket this term through the postcard raffle, of which there were 400 to choose from!

The FOPs team wish you a fantastic evening once all these exams are over!

If you've completed your final PE lesson of the year already and have kit you would like to donate into FOPs for our preloved sales, we are always looking for donations and you can guarantee they will be sold on to future Year 11s to be reused and recycled. This also applies to any other uniform items you wish to donate after your final exam.

Donations can be taken to reception for our attention or message us through the Facebook page and we can arrange delivery.

Once again good luck Year 11s and all the best for the future from FOPs!

## ACE SUSTAINABILITY CHALLENGE



On Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May Mr Litherland took some Y10 students to the University of Gloucestershire for an ACE Sustainability Challenge.

The brief was to design an urban town plan on a Brownfield site in Cheltenham and then present their ideas. All the other schools were represented by year 12 students which included Dean Close and the Ladies College.

Pittville saw off all the competition to win the award. Congratulations to Reuben, Eve, Sienna, Milo, Ivayla and Barkhiya.



## MATHS CHALLENGE

In April, 35 year 8 students entered the National Junior Maths Challenge. It is a very demanding one-hour challenge in which the students must attempt up to 25 problem solving questions. The group did very well and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Some notable performances are listed below:

Amelia Choudhury - Silver (Highest Pittville score); Fadi Djebli – Silver; Lewis Payne – Silver; Emma Phipps – Bronze; Jess Ridley – Bronze; Ethan Clarke – Bronze; Zeke Cowe – Bronze; Carson Cleal – Bronze; Lee Bremner – Bronze; Archie Bethune – Bronze.

## CHESS TOURNAMENT FINAL

Two of our brightest young chess talents faced off this year in the Pittville annual chess tournament. Nadil and Nethula both saw off very strong year 11 players in their respective semifinals to set up a highly anticipated contest in the hall.

200 excited fans piled into the hall to watch the game unfold (it was being projected on the big screen). The first match ended in a stalemate as Nadil took control of the tie, but Nethula managed to force a draw through stalemate. In the replay, Nadil again took the lead but great defence from Nethula ended up with a brilliant fork that gave him the advantage. Nadil fought valiantly to stay in the tie but Nethula cancelled pieces down until he could land the final checkmate. Nethula is a very worthy champion, and we are all looking forward to next year as the Pittville Chess Club is growing in strength and numbers! Congratulations Nethula. Mr Hill

## MEDICAL ITEMS

Does your child use an inhaler? If so, we welcome storing a spare inhaler in our first aid supply room. Please ensure that the inhaler is clearly labelled with your son/daughter's name and tutor group. This can be handed in at reception and safe storage will be arranged.

## NURTURE GROUP LITTER PICKING

The Pittville nurture group has been busy this term litter picking. Some interesting discoveries surrounding the age of some of the litter were also revealed. Miss Daniel reports, 'we litter picked the bottom and sides of the front field this time as well. Bella took control of the middle of the field for the after lunch clean up.



Grace thought she was onto a winner when she found a crisp packet dated 2006, beating Mr Apperley-Tibbotts' date of 2021! However, Riley went deep into the bushes at the bottom of the field and found a Milky Way bar wrapper dated 2003. Riley didn't want a picture so here you have Theo modelling his success! The students were baffled by the evolution of some of their favourite snack brands over the years. We found lots of little creatures tucked away in crisp packets that were left back in the grass and bushes.'

### CEP YOUNG POETS COMPETITION

On 29<sup>th</sup> April five students represented Pittville in the CEP Young Poets competition. Mrs Davies, Mrs Godding, and Mr Lowey report, 'five fabulous young poets made us all proud tonight at the CEP Young Poets competition. They were the youngest and the best!' Congratulations to: Jess Lyford; Jacob Briner; Izzy Godding; Seige Hollands and Leah Capewell. Well done to you all.





One of our successful poets, Jess Lyford reports:

This term I took part in the Poetry Slam, organised by CEP, which was held at Cleeve School along with Jacob Brainer, Seige Hollands, Izzy Godding and Leah Capewell. We had all written our own poems during some special workshops and we also had an opportunity to improve what we had written in a practice workshop where we got to perform our poems in front of some peers and get feedback.

On the night of the performance, there were lots of other schools there, who had brought older children. I was quite nervous to get on the stage and read my poem out but once I started reading it, the nerves went away. Everyone's poems were amazing, especially all the Pittville ones!! Afterwards, we got juice and biscuits and everyone was very proud, including me! Jess Lyford Y7

### The Window

The view from the window stays the same  
but changes every day.  
The scenery doesn't change  
except for maybe the odd buttercup  
or on the ground...  
but none the less it stays the same  
but changes all the time.  
Like how the sun sets over the rolling hills  
or how the dew drops settle on each blade of grass.  
The view from the window stays the same,  
but changes every day

The room however never changes  
the same broken bed,  
the same thin quilt  
the same unopened door  
the way the dust falls down, down, down  
and settles on the rickety dresser  
From inside I look out,  
And paint a picture in my mind,  
which brightens up the room,  
of living out there  
being free  
But I know that won't happen.  
So I dream the day away,  
and look out of the window onto the fields  
and flowers gently swaying in the wind

The view from the window stays the same,  
But change every day

## STUDENT SUCCESS

Congratulations to Alice and Thomas Crocker, members of Tewkesbury Swimming Club who are now swimming at regional level.

Both have been training hard and gained both Gloucestershire County qualifying times and Southwest Regional times. This is an enormous achievement. They were two of three children at their club that qualified. They competed at the SE Southwest Regional Summer Championships in Bristol this weekend and Alice has an event in Somerset this coming weekend.

Well done, keep up the excellent work.



## PITTVILLE PARLIAMENT TRIP

The Parliament Trip, By Ella Regan

On Monday, 29<sup>th</sup> April, Pittville Parliament travelled to London to visit the Houses of Parliament. We had a very informative tour where we learnt about what you do in Parliament, the different ways of becoming a Parliament Member and the difference between the House of Lords and the House of Commons. It was exciting to be in the different houses as we could see where it all happens in real life instead of just on television.

We also learnt some very interesting facts one of which was that the royal family are not allowed in the House of Commons anymore – ever since King Charles I tried to arrest MPs for disagreeing with him! Afterwards, we visited lots of famous areas in London such as Big Ben, Buckingham Palace, and Downing Street. We stopped for lunch in St James' Park and many of us enjoyed an ice cream! Overall, it was a very enjoyable day – I spoke to people I normally wouldn't speak to, and I learnt a lot of new things.

Great article, Ella, well done.

## REPORTING AN ABSENCE

Parents of all students in ALL year groups 7-11 should report an absence either by leaving a message on the Attendance Office voicemail, 01242 524787, or via edulink, direct dial or by emailing [achieve@pittville.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:achieve@pittville.gloucs.sch.uk)

Parents should contact the attendance officer on the first day of absence and on any subsequent days. Any students arriving late for school must sign in at reception.

Please note any requests for holiday should be directed to the Headteacher.

## APPOINTMENTS DURING SCHOOL HOURS

When students are attending an appointment during school time, parents must let school know beforehand. Please either send a letter with your child (who should show it to their tutor and then hand it in at main reception when they sign out) or email [achieve@pittville.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:achieve@pittville.gloucs.sch.uk) detailing the time, what the appointment is for, who will be collecting the student, and the expected time of return.

### **Dropping students to school by car**

Please remember; there is no onsite drop off or parking for parents/carers, parents/carers must not come onto site (unless with a planned appointment) or stop outside the school on Albert Road. Parents/carers should find a safe place to drop their children off and the students should complete their journey to school on foot.

### **Dates for your diary:**

Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Term 6 begins.
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> July	Y10 MFL speaking exams.
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	Sports Day
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Induction Evening
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> July	Induction Day
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> July	RSHE Drop Down Day
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> July – 12 <sup>th</sup> July	Work Experience Y10
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> July	Activities Week
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> July	End of academic year, 12.30pm for students.



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Pittville performing arts



Pittville School invites you  
to

**STOP** X X X  
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→ → → **NOW**

**AN OPEN  
FORUM FOR  
PARENTS ON  
HOW WE  
CAN END  
BULLYING**



**VISIT RM2 FOR HELP!**

# BE A BUDDY NOT A BULLY



Kindness is the true strength;  
stand tall and stand together  
against bullying

**VISIT RM2 FOR HELP!**



# STOP



# BULLYING

OUR DIFFERENCES MAKE US UNIQUE.  
TOGETHER, THEY MAKE US STRONG



VISIT RM2 AT LUNCH FOR HELP!

# STOP BULLYING



Stick and stones may break my bones, but words can hurt me too.

**VISIT RM2 AT LUNCH FOR HELP!**

# **STOP!**

## **BULLYING**



**TAKE A STAND AGAINST BULLYING.  
TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

**VISIT RM2 AT LUNCH FOR HELP!**





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## A Parent's Guide to Safety and Privacy Settings



**When you give a child access to the Internet, you give them access to the adult world.**

The Internet treats everyone as adults and there are many things, they are not yet ready to know, which is why it is vital that some form of safety settings are in place. Doing something is better than doing nothing.

**What happens online has an effect to what happens offline and what happens offline has an effect to what happens online.**



**Online safety is when young people know who they can tell if they feel upset by something that has happened online.**

**Parents** please contact your school to enquire attending their next e-safety workshop or have any concerns.

Working with Home Office 'PREVENT', The Police and Crime Commissioner and Children's Safeguarding Partnerships to help keep children safe online.

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# Book early for the summer

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**AUGUST 2024**

MONDAY 12TH & 19TH	1-3PM	MULTISPORTS
TUESDAY 13TH & 27TH	1-3PM	DODGEBALL
WEDNESDAY 14TH & 28TH	1-3PM	ARCHERY
THURSDAY 15TH & 29TH		TRIPS
FRIDAY 16TH & 30TH	1-3PM	BOXERCISE / MARTIAL ARTS

+COOKING WITH JOSIE JOINS FOR SOME SESSIONS  
MOUNTAIN BIKING FOR THOSE WITH EXPERIENCE IS ALSO ON OFFER  
PLEASE BE IN CONTACT FOR INFO ON TRIPS

School Years 5-10

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All Rock Team are DBS checked

Charity Number: 1190651

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