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Headteacher Richard Gilpin

NEWSLETTER – Term 6 2023/24

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the Term 6 edition of the newsletter. It has been a very busy and successful term with lots of events and activities taking place. Last Friday we said farewell to Year 11 students at their prom at the Racecourse. We wish them all the best for results day in August.

I would like to thank parents and carers for their support this year and I wish you all a restful summer break. I look forward to seeing many of you again in September.

Kind regards,

R Gilpin
Headteacher

SENIOR TEAM APPOINTMENTS

We are delighted to announce our head students and senior team appointments. It is a great honour to serve as a head student, prefect, or house captain and our team of students do a fantastic job supporting the wider school community.

Head Boy: Freddie Plaskitt; Head Girl: Elsie Darley and Chloe Power

Deputy Head Boy: Freddie Greenwood

House Captains

Abbott House: Harry and Milo

Aston House: Jasmine and Wilhelmina

Stokes House: Madison and Scott

Livingstone House: Ivayla and Maddie

We look forward to working with you in your new roles.

Mr Watkins

YEAR AHEAD MEETINGS

As we look ahead to next academic year, we would like to provide advance notice of our 'Year Ahead' Meetings. These will take place in September and October.

In these meetings, we will share key information concerning the following areas:

- Our curriculum
- Reporting
- Assessment
- Communication
- Homework
- Revision strategies

The meetings will take place at 6-7pm on the following dates:

- Years 7 and 8: Monday 9th September
- Year 9: Tuesday 10th September
- Year 10: Wednesday 11th September
- Year 11: Wednesday 2nd October

Mrs Kavanagh

YEAR 10 MOCK EXAMS

With the Year 11 exams ending, Year 10 students took their turn in the hall for their exams. It was a very busy couple of weeks and the students deserve to be congratulated for their mature and conscientious approach. Well done, Year 10.

Mrs Pitt

It was not only the exam hall that witnessed some great efforts from Year 10. Over in the tech block, Miss Fry was also impressed with how students applied themselves to a mock food practical exam, reporting that students completed the exam and worked hard to achieve some great results. Parental support and engagement were most welcome and proved invaluable to the students. Thank you.

YEAR 6 INDUCTION

On Wednesday 3rd July, we were delighted to see a packed hall for our Induction Evening which began with talks from Mr Gilpin and Mr Kavanagh. This was followed by an early opportunity for our new Year 7 students to meet and spend a little time with their tutors.

The following day, students returned to experience taster lessons in a wide variety of subjects: art, dance, food technology, drama, DT, English, French, geography, history,

ICT, maths, music, PE, RE, and Spanish. Our prefects and teaching assistants were on hand to ensure a smooth transition around the school. We look forward to welcoming all the students again as they continue the next stage of their academic journey.

Mr Kavanagh

ART AND DT SHOW

Thursday, 11th July saw the much-anticipated end of year show over in the art and DT department. The area outside was given over to display some art and design work from KS3 and KS4 students. In the catering section taste buds were tempted with an array of food, prepared in advance, and served by students to invited parents and carers.

Many parents and carers enjoyed an afternoon tea, prepared and served by students.

Well done to all the students that took part and to the art and DT team for hosting such a wonderful show.

DONATED Y11 UNIFORM ITEMS

Thank you for your response to our request in the last newsletter issue. We have a sale scheduled for Sunday, 18th August between 12.30pm and 4pm, during a flower show with Cheltenham Horticultural Society. All are welcome to visit the plant and flower show and look through the uniform items on sale. Parking will be available on site. Thank you to FOPS for supporting this sale.

READING AT PITTVILLE

One of our key foci this year has been to improve reading outcomes for students at Pittville. To achieve this, we've looked at how reading is taught across the curriculum; how we encourage reading for pleasure and how we use data to inform our interventions and monitor progress. There has been a wealth of activities and events across the year to support these initiatives. Just last week we were visited by local author Hayley Hoskins, whose latest book *The Whispering Twins* is now available. We also held a spelling bee competition at lunchtime. Congratulations to Khadija Ahmad in Year 9 for her excellent spelling capabilities; a £20 Amazon voucher is now yours!

Interventions such as Lexia and Bedrock have resulted in students improving their reading age scores by sometimes years in the space of a few months! Certificates to recognise these achievements will be coming home with your child.

Teachers from across our broad range of subjects have found innovative ways to incorporate reading strategies into lessons. This has enabled students to receive

consistent exposure to reading across their daily timetable and help drive the progress we are seeing.

We have taken the entirety of Year 7 to Waterstones and to the local library this year. We've incorporated a class novel into tutor time, alongside comprehension questions and vocabulary, and have boosted our own library stock with new and exciting titles.

This summer, why not take a trip to the local library with your child to join the Gloucestershire Library's Summer Reading Challenge? Or pick up a good page-turner for them for your beach holiday? Or even read the same book as them so that you can compare your views afterwards. Taking time to read for pleasure is a key indicator of a child's future success. Gentle encouragement can reap great rewards. Happy reading!



RSHE - DROP DOWN DAYS

This year Pittville School rolled out their new RSHE connected programme, which aligns tutor times, assemblies, and drop-down days on a half-termly basis to help students access different RSHE themes in an engaging and age-appropriate way.

Monday 8th July saw our final successful drop-down day of the year, on the theme of 'Awakened Mind, Bright Future.' Students across all stages experienced and enjoyed the following events and workshops:

Year 7 Enterprise Day, where they started the day with a talk from an entrepreneur and then, in small groups, designed and pitched their own product that could fit in a can.

Year 8 began to explore careers and engaged with the online careers' platform 'Unifrog' which allowed them to complete their own personal quizzes and career profiles. Students also learnt about job pathways with the organisation GROWS. Perhaps a highlight of the day was students getting their first experience of the Duke of Edinburgh

Award Scheme on our school field, putting up tents and trying their hand at first aid.

Year 9 students walked to the Cheltenham Children's Library to learn about the STEM themed summer reading challenge and volunteering opportunities. They also attended an online workshop with the British Heart Foundation and learnt about the issues of cannabis and vaping.

Year 10 were preparing for Work Experience with GROVs and a bespoke programme designed by our careers' coordinators, Ms Lawton and Mr Raistrick. This was an excellent way to prepare for an exciting week experiencing the world of work.

Please do discuss with your children what they learnt and enjoyed about the day.

With thanks to all our wonderful students and staff who have made our RSHE curriculum so rich, engaging and entertaining this year.

Mrs Wood, Curriculum Leader for RSHE.

Y8 – Teamwork in action



ALUMNI

We always like to hear from Pittville alumni. It is great to share that Jay Patel, an ex-Abbott House student, is now working with the F1 Redbull Racing Team.

Jay's mum reports, 'Jay has already started a permanent role as a Junior ESS Test Engineer at F1 Redbull Racing and Redbull Technology, Milton Keynes.

Again, Jay and I are very thankful to the staff at Pittville, who have given guidance and supported Jay throughout his time at Pittville. You have a wonderful team there, who care for students and encourage them to achieve their full potential. We very much appreciate their hard work and effort. Please pass on our gratitude to the staff.'



Well done, Jay. Great to hear from you and we wish you well for your time at Redbull F1 Racing.

SCHOOL PRODUCTION

LEGALLY BLONDE

The Musical JR.

We are thrilled to announce that the cast and crew are ready to start rehearsals, in September, for this year's school production, *Legally Blonde*. Look out for details in the coming months to ensure you get your tickets for the show, scheduled to take place in December.

CHELTENHAM TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB - MEET AND GREET

At the end of June, Pittville played host to Cheltenham Town Football Club's first team. The players and coaching staff visited to use our grounds for a training session and met with many, excited, students at break. There was a great atmosphere in the gym and the players took time to chat to the students and sign footballs and shirts.

Mrs Crowe.





GLOUCESTER COLLEGE TRIP – Y10

A group of Y10 food preparation and nutrition students enjoyed an enriching trip to the catering department at Gloucester College, Cheltenham Campus. Under the guidance of the skilled chef tutor, the students were treated to a hands-on cooking experience producing restaurant quality tortellini (stuffed pasta). This practical experience not only enhanced their culinary skills but also gave them a deeper appreciation of the art of cooking. They will be able to use the skills learned in their future GCSE NEA exams.

Students then had the opportunity to explore various other departments, gaining insight into the diverse educational opportunities available at Gloucester college.

Departments included fashion and design, make up and beauty, gaming, and IT. The visit was both educational and inspiring, providing the students with valuable knowledge and a glimpse into future potential career paths.



SPORTS DAY 2024

3rd July saw the return of the annual sports day at the Prince of Wales Stadium. There were several close races, with students excelling in their sprint finishes.

We are proud of everyone for taking part, representing their house and school. Thank you to all the parents and carers that cheered them on.





STUDENT SUCCESS

It is great to share that both Harry and Freddie Plaskitt received a performing arts prize at the recent Cheltenham Festival. We look forward to seeing their talents on our school stage in upcoming productions! Well done.

Mrs Curran

The PE department are proud to share with you our stand-out performances from the Cheltenham District Athletics meetings that have taken place over recent weeks. These are incredible events involving 4 different evenings with year 7, 8 and 9 competing at the highest levels. From Tewkesbury to Chipping Campden, Cotswold to Chosen Hill and all the secondary and grammar and private schools in the middle of Cheltenham. It really is something special.

In year 9 - Jo Edwards finishing second in the 100m this year.

Year 8 - Riley Lockey winning the year 8 long jump with a jump of 4 metres 77cm.

Rosie Sheerin winning the girls 200m final (a dead heat in 30.3 seconds)

Alexa Woodward - second in the 800m final.

And finally, Jack Shingler, smashing a record that has stood for 10 years. He won the 1500m in a time of 4 minutes 33s, a time that would currently put him in the top ten nationally. This was 15 seconds faster than the old record. Indeed, the whole stand,

parents, children, and staff applauded Jack, who gave the run of the evening and indeed the performance of the last 4 meetings.

PE department

Back in June some of our Y10 students took part in a sports tour with Mrs Crowe and Mrs Bury-Brunsdon. Mrs Crowe writes, 'After a day of cancelled fixtures, due to torrential rain, with the Welsh hills as our backdrop and the sun finally shining, we finished the tour with an awesome win against Bedwas school rounders team'.

Final score 24 Pittville to 6.5 Bedwas.

Lexi Wright was player of the match – batting.
Ivayla Antanasova was POM - fielding.

A big well done to Saskia who has been running with us each morning - even in the rain!

The students have been a delight to have on tour and been a real credit to the school.

Now time for netball!

The girls beat Bedwas' netball team 21-14 after over an hour of play. The group then travelled to Y Pant school, who have recently been Welsh Cup finalists, and are one of the top netballing schools in Wales. Our A team lost narrowly 7-6 - and played with one player less for the last quarter- cracking game! And our B team was beaten convincingly but showed great resilience. Despite this loss, we went into our rounders match against Y Pant slightly down beaten - but came back to win the match 23-16.5.

Well done to all.

FAREWELLS

At this time of year, we inevitably have to say goodbye to some members of staff. We are sorry to lose Miss Cottam, Miss Fry, Mrs Green, Mrs Motley and Mr Smith and we thank them for everything they have contributed to our school community. We extend our very best wishes to all, whether they are taking up new posts in September, or embarking on what we hope will be a long and happy retirement.

THERE-BUILD(R) TRAINING

We had the great pleasure of hosting two sessions of Thera-Build (R) training in June. Thera-Build® is a therapeutic programme for building confidence and self-esteem using LEGO®. It is based on playful, active interaction with children and young people to improve social skills, build resilience, and promote good mental health.



Fully funded by The Virtual School, Aly Thomsen returned to deliver two interactive fun-filled sessions, looking at games and activities that can be used in school settings to support students. As a Thera-Build® Hub, we were able to invite staff from over ten local primary and secondary schools, to Pittville, to take part in the training.



Thera-Build® is an adult-led, but child-centred programme, that is completely responsive to the individual needs of the child. Working together, building connections, in a safe, fun, and therapeutic way!



What do you see? The instruction for this activity was to build a castle. Our models are as unique as we are – helping to give us an insight into how our students interpret the instructions we give them and how knowing this we can better support their learning.



Thera-Build® recognises that behaviour is a communication that needs to be empathically explored. The training that Aly has delivered will empower all of those that attended not only to recognise this but support our children and young people with LEGO® in their educational settings.

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

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 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 2 nd September	Inset Day – students do not attend.
Tuesday 3 rd September	Term 1 begins for Y7 and Y11 with photographs.
Wednesday 4 th September	Term 1 begins for Y8 - Y10. All students on site.
Friday 6 th September	Y10 photographs
Friday 6 th September	Inset afternoon – student early finish at 12.20pm
Monday 9 th September	Year 7 and 8 Year Ahead Meeting 6-7pm
Tuesday 10 th September	Year 9 Year Ahead Meeting 6-7pm
Wednesday 11 th September	Year 10 Year Ahead Meeting 6-7pm
Monday 23 rd September	Open Week
Thursday 26 th September	Open Evening
Wednesday 2 nd October	Year 11 Year Ahead Meeting 6-7pm
Thursday 3 rd October	Year 7 Tutor Evening (In Person)
Friday 4 th October	RSHE DDD1
Thursday 10 th October	Y8 Disco
Thursday 17 th October	Year 11 Progress Evening (In Person)
Thursday 24 th October	Achievement Evening
Friday 25 th October	Inset Day

STAY IN TOUCH

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Pittville performing arts

