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**Headteacher** Richard Gilpin

## **NEWSLETTER – Term 1 2024/25**

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this first newsletter of the school year finds you well and that the summer break was a welcome opportunity to relax, re-charge and spend time with family and friends.

Welcome to the start of another academic year here at Pittville School. If you are receiving this newsletter for the first time, let me take this opportunity to welcome you to our updates of news and events. We aim to produce a newsletter at least once each half-term, packed with celebrations of student achievements, awards and success. In addition, the newsletter often contains important messages and key dates.

I look forward to working with you throughout the year ahead and to all the successes we will share. Your support, as always, is much appreciated and please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have a concern, worry or query.

Kind regards,

R Gilpin  
Headteacher

### **EXAM RESULTS**

The school gym was an exciting hive of activity on Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> August, as our class of 2024 came to collect their GCSE results. We are proud to share the best ever results at Pittville School this year; including English results that have risen to 78% of students achieving a grade 4 and above and 75% achieving a grade 4 and above in maths. Half of our students achieved a grade 5 or above in both English and maths.

The proportion of students achieving the top grades has also increased with a fifth of all grades being grades 9-7.

Mr Gilpin commented that, 'there were some terrific individual results and we are delighted that we have seen an increase in the number of students achieving the top grades, with 108 grades being at grade 8 or 9. 24 of our students achieved at least one

of the very top grades (grade 9), which puts them amongst the very highest performing students nationally in those subjects.

A huge congratulations to Finn Sutton who achieved 5 grade 9s and 2 grade 8s, Stanley Roach who achieved 4 grade 9s and 3 grade 8s, Ruby Smith who achieved 5 grade 8s and 4 grade 7s and Jennifer Phipps who achieved 5 grade 8s and 3 grade 7s. Many congratulations to all our students; we are delighted for all those students who have worked so hard to achieve the results they need in order to embark upon the next stage of their education.

A huge thank-you to all our staff who have worked tirelessly to support our students achieve their potential.





### CYCLING TO SCHOOL

I am delighted that we have so many students who are choosing to cycle to school. Students must be careful when leaving school at the end of the day and when cycling on the main roads around the school. Students agree to cycle safety when they apply for a cycle permit. Students who are found to be cycling recklessly and dangerously will lose their cycling permit. Students are also required to wear a cycle helmet. If they do not have a helmet, then we ask that they do not cycle to school until they have acquired one. This is, of course, for their own safety. Could I ask parents to talk to students about the importance of cycling safely and responsibly.

For students that currently do not have a cycle helmet we will allow a little time to acquire one and expect students to be wearing a helmet by Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> September, 2024, after this date students without a helmet will not be permitted to cycle to school. Your support is appreciated.

Mr Watkins

### WELCOME

We would like to extend a warm welcome to the following members of staff joining us this term: Miss Baker; Mrs Berrington; Mrs Drumgold; Mrs Eastwood; Mrs Gittoes; Mr Layton-Hill and Mrs Thomas. We look forward to getting you know as the year progresses.



## UNIFORM AND EQUIPMENT

Thank you for your support by ensuring that students have returned or joined us, this term, in the correct school uniform. Students look very smart and being fully equipped ensures that they are in the best position to learn.

Can I take this opportunity to remind you that students use black ink pens, and this is therefore an essential part of their basic equipment. If you need any clarification on the uniform, PE kit or equipment requirements please visit our website, [www.pittville.gloucs.sch.uk](http://www.pittville.gloucs.sch.uk).

## ATTENDANCE

Thank you for an excellent start to the year with regards to attendance. Our students have returned and attendance is very pleasing, at this stage. At the start of the year can I urge all parents and carers to encourage excellent attendance. We know that attendance is linked to attainment, so please encourage your child to be here every day unless there is a very good reason not to be.

## YEAR 7 – MEET YOUR TUTOR EVENING

Meet Your Tutor Evening is an ideal opportunity for year 7 parents/carers to meet their child's tutor, ask questions and assess how their child is adapting to secondary school. This will take place on Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> October. Appointments will be available to book soon. Please look out for more information on Edulink. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on this evening.

## OPEN WEEK

During the week commencing Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September we will be conducting tours of the school with prospective students, parents, and carers. Mr Gilpin really looks forward to this week and it is always a joy to share the excellent teaching and learning that happens here at Pittville. If you are aware of someone who might be interested in taking a tour please ask them to contact us to make an appointment. Tours are available at 9am, 11.30am, (11.15am on Wednesday), and 2.15pm, (2pm on Wednesday).

In addition to the daytime tours there is an open evening, on Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> September, from 6pm until 8pm. No appointments are necessary for the open evening. Again, prospective students, parents and carers can come along, have a guided tour with one of our excellent prefects and take the opportunity to ask questions to current students. If you prefer to wander unaccompanied then you may do so. The evening will also showcase our wonderful curriculum areas, giving a flavour of what Pittville has to offer. Head teacher talks will be delivered at 6.15pm in the main hall and again at 7.15pm. It is expected to be a busy evening and we look forward to sharing our wonderful school and how we work.

## DISCOS

We value the support we receive from FOPS, Friends of Pittville School, and one of the many fundraising opportunities that FOPS organises is the Year 7 and Year 8 disco. Y8 is scheduled to take place on Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> October at 7pm and Y7 on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm. Look out for regular articles and future events from FOPS in the newsletters.

## Y7 CULTURE DAY

Back in term 6 our year 7 students had the opportunity to explore and celebrate culture and diversity. Student reporter, Nemindi, writes:

'Celebrating Culture Day at Pittville School: A Vibrant Journey for Year 7s.

Pittville School recently celebrated its annual Culture Day, a kaleidoscope of colours, traditions, and diversity that brought the rich tapestry of global cultures to life for its year 7 students. The event, held with enthusiasm and zest, aimed to foster a deeper understanding and appreciation of different cultures among the young learners.

The highlight of the day was the array of engaging activities that immersed students in various cultural experiences. From intricate henna designs to the art of writing their names in Sinhala and Tamil scripts, students eagerly embraced the opportunity to explore new languages and scripts, guided by enthusiastic teachers and volunteers.

Creativity flourished as students took part in colouring sessions inspired by traditional patterns from around the world. Each stroke of the brush or crayon became a tribute to the artistic heritage of different cultures, sparking conversations about the significance of art in expressing cultural identity. Laughter and excitement filled the air as students participated in traditional games from different countries. From lively rounds of Chinese jump rope to skilful manoeuvres in Indian kho-kho, these games not only entertained but also taught valuable lessons about teamwork and sportsmanship.

The day was more than just activities; it was about forging meaningful connections. Students shared stories of their own cultural backgrounds, showcasing traditional attire and artifacts that sparked curiosity and admiration among peers. These exchanges fostered a spirit of inclusivity and respect for diversity among the year 7 cohort.

As Culture Day drew to a close, the impact lingered. Students left with a broader perspective of the world and a deeper appreciation for the mosaic of cultures that make up our global community. The event served as a reminder that while we may come from different backgrounds, we are united by our shared humanity and the richness of our cultural heritage. In conclusion, Culture Day at Pittville School was not merely an event, but an educational journey, that celebrated diversity, promoted cultural understanding, and ignited a passion for learning about the world around us. It was a day that will be cherished in the memories of year 7 students as they continue to explore, respect, and embrace the cultures that shape our world.'

Thank you to Nemindi, and well done to all who took part and celebrated our diverse culture.

## REFUGEE WEEK

A further event from the end of term 6 saw Pittville School acknowledging refugee week with an array of activities. Student reporter, Nemindi, writes:

'Celebrating Refugee Week at Pittville School: A Tribute to Resilience and Creativity.

Pittville School recently marked Refugee Week with a heartfelt celebration of resilience, creativity, and shared humanity. This special event not only highlighted the diverse experiences of refugees but also showcased the talents and empathy of the school community.

One of the highlights of the week was the competition for poems and short stories, where students poured their emotions and insights into powerful literary pieces. The theme of displacement, courage, and hope resonated strongly throughout the submissions. Winners were awarded not just accolades, but also delicious bars of chocolate, adding a sweet touch to their well-deserved recognition.

However, the true heart of the event lay in the personal stories shared by refugees themselves. Students and staff were moved by the bravery and fortitude of individuals who have faced immense challenges and adversities. These firsthand accounts served as poignant reminders of the importance of compassion and understanding in our increasingly interconnected world.

A special guest, renowned for his evocative poetry, graced the event with his presence. He not only shared his own experiences but also captivated the audience by reading two poignant poems inspired by the life journeys of two refugees. His words painted vivid portraits of resilience and the human spirit, leaving a lasting impression on everyone present.

The event at Pittville School during Refugee Week was not just a commemoration but a testament to the power of storytelling, empathy, and solidarity. It underscored the school's commitment to fostering inclusivity and honouring the courage of those who have sought refuge and a better life.

As students and staff reflected on the stories shared and the voices heard, it became clear that understanding and compassion are the cornerstones of building a supportive and harmonious community.'

Thank you Nemindi, for an excellent report on an important subject and well done to the students and staff that took part during the week.

## 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 23 <sup>rd</sup> September	Open Week
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> September	Open Evening, early
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> October	Year 11 Year Ahead Meeting 6-7pm
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October	Year 7 Tutor Evening (In Person)
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> October	RSHE DDD1
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> October	Y8 Disco
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 11 Progress Evening (In Person)
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> October	Achievement Evening
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> October	Inset Day

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