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**Headteacher** Richard Gilpin

## **NEWSLETTER – Term 2 2024/25**

Dear Parents/Carers,

We find ourselves at the end of another busy term, and I hope this newsletter finds you well and prepared for the Christmas break. I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the entire Pittville School community, to wish you all a safe and happy festive season. I look forward to all that Term 3 brings when we return on Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

Kind regards,

R Gilpin  
Headteacher

### **ACHIEVEMENT EVENING**

At the very end of term one, on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October, we hosted our annual achievement evening awards. The evening provides an opportunity to recognise and acknowledge academic and pastoral success and to shine a light on some otherwise unsung heroes within our Pittville community.

Our guest speaker this year was Roy Blatchford CBE, who spoke engagingly to a packed hall. It was an honour to welcome him to our school to present our awards. Roy was joined on stage by Mr Ian Johnstone, one of our school governors, who assisted with the proceedings.

It was lovely to see so many ex-students return to collect awards, sitting alongside current students, and to see how proud parents and carers were too. The presence of ex-students celebrating their achievements is a true inspiration for our current students.

Our senior students and house captains spoke with confidence and pride. There was a great sense of community spirit amongst those handing out programmes, those supporting with speeches, and students, past and present, collecting awards.

Thank you to everyone who came and supported such a special evening and congratulations to all our winners. Mr Gilpin, and Senior Leadership Team.



## CEP

On 19<sup>th</sup> November a group of Y10 students attended an Inter-climate conference at the Borough Council offices, Promenade, Cheltenham. One of the students, Isobel, shares her experience:

“We attended the CEP Inter-climate Conference earlier this term, based on COP29, with various other schools also participating. We pledged to try and improve our country’s (Australia) climate and aid other nations with their progress. The layout was extremely similar to an actual, formal UN conference, and it was such an amazing event to attend. In total, 5 students from Pittville represented our country. The other attending schools had amazing ideas, and having the opportunity to listen and respond to their individual pledges was so interesting. During the lunch period, we had the opportunity to wander around stalls with varying environmental projects, with representatives telling us about their company. It was an incredible experience, and we’re all so thankful to CEP, the council, and any others with their part in organising this event.”

Isobel Davies, Year 10



Well done to you all.

## CHELTENHAM BOROUGH HOMES – STUDENT SUCCESS



Following on from recent student success with Cheltenham Borough Homes, I am pleased to share that one of our Y10 students, Hennessy, recently gained an Asdan qualification in Employability and Skills.

Feedback from Cheltenham Borough Homes staff included the comment that 'Hennessy was the politest young man they have had this year!'

Well done, Hennessy.

Mr Watkins

## REWARD TIES

More students have qualified and been awarded new ties over the last two terms. We have seen an increase in students qualifying for both silver and gold awards. Mr Watkins has been particularly impressed to see some students turn things around with their attitude and behaviour – keep up the good work.

Our heads of houses are filled with pride to present these awards, so aim to be on the reward list for next term!

DAVIES Isobel	GOLD
JOHNSON Isabella	GOLD
FRAPE Jack	GOLD
KEEN Merryn	GOLD
GROSDMOUGE Thomas	GOLD
URSELL Edie	GOLD
THOMSON Tilly	GOLD
KENDALL George	GOLD
PRICE Natalya	GOLD
EDWARDS Joseph	GOLD
ROBINSON Elliot	GOLD
LEWICKI Olaf	GOLD
TARIQ Hamza	GOLD
GALA Kacper	GOLD

SOPER Isobel	GOLD
GROSDMOUGE Olivier	SILVER
PROSSER Alan	SILVER
BOWEN Ellie	SILVER
BROWNE Zach	SILVER
CAMBRIDGE Bella	SILVER
FROWD-BATE Lyra	SILVER
PETERS Holly	SILVER
SWALE Laura	SILVER
DAVIS-JONES Molly	SILVER
GODDING Izzie	SILVER
COWE Zeke	SILVER
FREITAS Ines	SILVER
KEEN-HAWKINS Alfie	SILVER
KAVANAGH-JENKINS Audrey	SILVER
WILDIN Isaac	SILVER
DAN Reka	SILVER
ELCIN Leyla	SILVER
CLARKE Ethan	SILVER
HEATHFIELD Ruby	SILVER
CLEMENT Thomas	BRONZE
SHAIKH Rida	BRONZE
BOWEN Delila	BRONZE
BRYANT Ruby	BRONZE
ORPIN Lewie	BRONZE
HYETT Carmen	BRONZE
MORRIS Flic	BRONZE
BAIKIE Eadie	BRONZE
MIRCHEVA Siana	BRONZE
WALKER Poppy	BRONZE

### CEP

Further to the student article in the last newsletter on the Y10 CEP Textiles workshop at Cheltenham Ladies College, we are delighted to share that students have begun to deconstruct old garments into new revived haute-couture-inspired pieces relating to the theme of Man VS nature. They will be building garments ready to showcase on a runway at the end of the year.

Well done to Lucy Ross, Paulina Figa, Hazel Cook and Lily Poole for some inspirational pieces of work.





## REMEMBRANCE OBSERVANCE

Our school community joined the nation on 11<sup>th</sup> November in an act of remembrance to commemorate and reflect on all those that have served and sacrificed from Britain and the Commonwealth.

Several of our students took the opportunity to pay their respects by wearing their cadet uniforms with pride.



## CYCLING

Students must be careful when cycling to school. The main roads around school are always particularly busy first thing in the morning, and when students leave school at the end of the day. 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. I would strongly encourage parents to talk to students about the importance of cycling safely and responsibly. Thank you.

Mr Watkins

## STUDENT SUCCESS

Jack Shingler, Y8, continues to excel with running. A recent report from Cheltenham Harriers, states:

'We are celebrating U13 Jack Shingler, who achieved something that would have been considered unbelievable at the start of 2024.

Jack broke club records in the 600m, 800m, 1200m, 1500m and Mile! He is ranked 1st in the UK rankings in the 1200 and Mile, whilst his performances have placed him 4th and 5th respectively on the UK all-time list for the two events. In the 600m he is ranked 2nd in the UK this year, 11<sup>th</sup> in the 800m, and 5<sup>th</sup> in the 1500m. He took home medal after medal this season too, starting the year with Southwest Schools cross country Gold.

Jack's performances are impressive, but he also stands out for his enthusiasm and his willingness to give everything a go. Over the course of the year he has competed in everything from hurdles to shot put. He has consistently turned out for the club at a huge number of league matches, scoring vital points each time.

This is just Jack's first year in the sport, and we can't wait to see what he does next! He also ended up winning the National Schools Cross Country championships and England Athletics have presented him with the Southwest Region Junior Athlete of the Year Award. This is a huge achievement, as the SW Region comprises the seven counties: Avon, Cornwall, Devon Dorset, Gloucestershire, Somerset, and Wiltshire.'

Well done Jack.





**SCHOOL PRODUCTION – LEGALLY BLONDE**



The school production this term saw the hall bathed in a bright shade of pink! Over three consecutive nights the cast and crew for 'Legally Blonde – The Musical' entertained a packed audience to a thoroughly entertaining and uplifting show.

FOPS provided much welcome refreshments during the interval.

Thank you to all who helped, whether front of house, back-stage, or as part of the cast.

Look forward to the next production!

**Y7 CAROL SERVICE**



On Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December, Y7 performed at the Christmas Concert at Highbury Congregational Church.

The Church was full of parents and carers and Y7 sang beautifully, ensuring the message of Christmas was captured for us all. Great work, Y7.

## CAREERS



### Careers

It's been a busy term for Careers at Pittville.

### Racecourse Careers Fair

On the 27<sup>th</sup> November, the whole of Year 10 and 11 went to the careers fair run by C2S Educational Outreach Live. Over 50 businesses contributed, many from within Gloucestershire. Students were able to talk to representatives from the NHS, the army, a range of manufacturers, law firms, accountancy, the care sector, charities, construction, design, recruitment, and more.

Cohen, in Year 11, commented that 'the careers Fair at the Racecourse was really helpful; there were so many employers there! I went and saw the Royal Air Force as I was interested in becoming a pilot. They were helpful and talked me through the entry requirements. We realised that becoming a pilot may be a stretch for me, so we explored other options and now I think I'm aiming for a role such as a Weapons System Operator'.

We hope this will become an annual event for students to attend.

### Year 11 mock Interviews

As part of our December Drop-down Day, our Year 11 students experienced a mock interview.

27 interviewers kindly gave their time to support this event, representing organisations such as Kier, NHS, Armed Forces, Lilian Faithful Care Homes, Police, GE Aviation, Renishaw and UCAS. We also appreciated help from our local Colleges: SGS College Stroud, Gloucestershire College, and Cirencester College.

Our students were incredible! They had prepared for the occasion by completing a mock application form, which was given to the employer. They then experienced an interview of up to 20 minutes. They came dressed for the part (some even in 3-piece suits) and represented themselves, their year group and Pittville School magnificently.



It was such a positive experience for all. These are samples of employer's feedback:

*'If that was a real interview, I would hire you as a real candidate!'*

*'Excellent, articulate and mature'*

*'Exudes enthusiasm and her body language is open and professional'.*

*'... has excellent interpersonal skills. She has a bubbly, and engaging personality which will enable her to be a fantastic teacher'.*

*'.....had completed his application form to a very high standard. He had given excellent examples of his work and school experiences.*

*'... came across very well at interview. She has made the most of the opportunities presented to her in school. I thoroughly enjoyed meeting her... and wish her every success.*

*'... has included a lot of information in their application form. It is great to see so many extra-curricular activities.*



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Students fed back the following:

*'I feel like 'X' was able to give me lots of useful information that'll be relevant in the future to my career plan'.*

*'I understand the way an interview works, and learning what and how I can show my interests and strengths in an interview'*

*'The interviewer said I had a firm handshake and appeared confident'.*

*'I was able to come across as confident and enthusiastic. My interviewer said that I was really easy to talk to'.*

*'I was able to talk about the job I aspire to be in'.*

*'I was able to come out of my shell and speak fluently'.*

### **The Armed Forces**

On 11th December, students in Years 10 and 11 received an engaging presentation from LCpl C. Jones and his colleague. They learnt about his experiences, and the myriad opportunities within the Armed Forces. Students felt their perception had been challenged and many stayed to explore training available and have their questions answered!

We intend to invite the engagement team back for students to experience physical challenges, problem solving, and team building.



IN HER VOICE – COMMUNITY ACTION WORK

On Friday, 6th December, a group of girls and young women from Years 8 and 10 were invited to the Cheltenham Town Council offices to share their views and experiences of

growing up and living in Cheltenham. The students were questioned by a range of professionals and had the opportunity to meet with the mayor and visit his chambers.

The girls impressed all involved with their insights and confidence and will be continuing their community work in the new year.

Well done to Alice C, Alice S, Carys, Elsie, Grace, Gracie P, Gracie S, Jess, Leni, Lillie, Macie-Paige, Marta, Millie, Michalina, Ruby, and Tishawna for sharing their voice.

Thank you to Miss Allan, Ms Bishop, Miss Daniel, and Mrs Swartz for their time in running the school-based sessions.

### CYNAM EMPOWER CYBER TRIP

On Wednesday 27th November, we took 13 Y9 students to the annual EmPower Cyber event, organised by CYNAM and attended by a number of industry experts such as CyberFirst, BT, BAE Systems and Southwest Regional Organised Crime Unit. The event aimed to educate students about cyber security, introduce them to the type of companies that work within the sector and inspire them to consider careers within the industry.

Students took part in four workshops:

CyberFirst – Students had the opportunity to use VR headsets to explore immersive environments and engage in a range of educational simulations.

BT – Students had to solve clues and complete challenges to reveal the identity of a hacker.

BAE Systems – Students were provided with a Lego robot and needed to adjust the sensors and speeds to successfully navigate a course. Our students managed to configure the robots to complete the track faster than some other local schools.

Southwest Regional Organised Crime Unit – Students experienced working in a digital forensic unit in the police force.

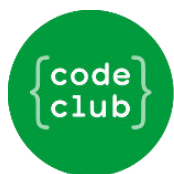
Pittville students showed enthusiasm, determination, and excellent problem-solving skills. Well done to all!

#### Year 8 CyberFirst Competition

Vavara, Charlotte and Aurelie took part in this years' National CyberFirst competition. The competition aims to inspire girls aged 12 and 13 to pursue their interests in technology and pursue a career in cyber security, where women currently make up just 22% of the workforce.

This year's contest, entered by over 8,700 girls from across the UK, saw pupils tackle challenges covering topics from cryptography and logic to artificial intelligence and networking. Our team completed a number of difficult challenges and scored over 400 points!

### Code Club Update



The return of after-school Code Club has seen record numbers of Year 7 students attend and take part in various coding challenges using Scratch. Projects have included a chase game, a boat race, Catch the Dot, and a Pong game. There are limited spaces still available to join after the Christmas break. See Ms Vaughan (Rm 43) for more details!

### Starting soon! Y9 Girls-Only ICT Club

Attention all Y9 girls! Are you ready to dive into the exciting world of ICT? Join our girls-only ICT Club! This inclusive space is designed to empower young women to explore ICT skills, while connecting with like-minded peers. Whether you're a beginner or have some experience, the aim is to boost your confidence and spark your passion for technology. Don't miss out on this chance to build friendships, learn crucial skills, and pave the way for a successful future in the tech industry. Sign up today and be part of a vibrant community that celebrates girls in ICT!

Every Tuesday lunch time in Room 43. Starting first week back in January. No need to book - just turn up! See Miss Gittoes or Ms Vaughan if you require more details.

### STUDENTS UNWELL

From January 2025, students will only be allowed to leave school when unwell if they are collected by a parent or carer. If students cannot be collected, they will have to remain in school. Students will not be allowed to walk home unaccompanied.

### 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 that 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 6 <sup>th</sup> January	Term 3 begins.
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 11 photos
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 9 remote options week
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 9 Progress Evening (In Person)
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> January	RSHE DDD 3
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 11 Progress Evening (In Person)
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February	End of term 3

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