



Pittville School
Cheltenham

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Headteacher Richard Gilpin

2nd November 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

As the weather changes and evenings darken, we find that attendance begins to drop for many of our students. With this in mind, we have decided that November is going to be Attendance Month at Pittville.

We will be running weekly prize draws for students who attend each full week as part of our 'Strive for Five' initiative to make sure all students are attending every day. There will be a prize drawn for each year group in the canteen each Friday in November, beginning on 9th November. Every student who attends for the whole week will automatically be entered.

In addition, we will running tutor group prizes for each group which achieves 100% attendance for each of the four weeks during Attendance Month. Groups achieving this target will have an extended break each Friday, with donuts and other treats, in the canteen.

As a parent, please support us by making sure your child is in school every day possible. Once a student gets used to taking off the occasional day it becomes habit-forming and they often begin to ask for days off when it isn't really necessary. If you child is complaining of being unwell please consider whether they are genuinely ill or whether they are just slightly under the weather and could come into school with a little encouragement.

Can you also make sure they are suitably prepared for the weather by having a coat with them every day? We did a survey before half-term (on the day that Storm Callum hit) and only 40% of students had a coat with them that day (despite it being the wettest day of the year so far). It is no coincidence that the two year groups with the lowest numbers of students wearing coats (Year 9 at 30% and Year 11 at 29%) are also the two year groups with the lowest attendance in the school.

A blazer or a jumper are not really suitable for keeping children dry and warm in bad weather so we're going to be having a real push at encouraging all of our students to wear a coat this winter.

Finally, we realise that some students are reluctant to bring in large coats due to a lack of storage space in school. To address this we are looking at introducing lockers in the near future. In the meantime, students can always leave coats and bags in their tutor rooms should they need to.

Thank you for you continued support.

Yours sincerely

R Gilpin
Headteacher

