



Pittville School
Cheltenham

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Headteacher Richard Gilpin

14th May 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope this letter finds you and your families well.

You are probably aware that on Monday, 10 May the Prime Minister announced that the country will move to Step 3 of the roadmap out of the pandemic from Monday, 17th May.

Face masks in schools

From Monday, 17th May, in line with Step 3 of the roadmap, face coverings will no longer be recommended for students in classrooms or communal areas in schools. Face coverings will also no longer be recommended for staff in classrooms. In all schools we continue to recommend that face coverings should be worn by staff and visitors in situations outside of classrooms where social distancing is not possible (for example, when moving around in corridors and communal areas). I am delighted to be able to announce this as a further step towards resumed normality in school. However, should students still wish to wear face masks in the classroom or around school please contact Miss Bottell or Mr Watkins by emailing achieve@pittville.gloucs.sch.uk

I would like to pay credit to the students for their mature approach to the wearing of masks. I know that this has been challenging for many students and the mature approach shown by the majority of students has made the managing of this so much easier for staff.

Further relaxing of controls at Pittville

Throughout the pandemic we have ensured that we have minimised the risk to students by keeping them in bubbles and by ensuring that not all students have had to move around the building. We propose to move back to a normal school timetable from **Monday, 7th June** when all students will move around the building to specialist rooms. We are currently consulting with staff and will be discussing this with governors next week. Should you have any comments, please feel free to email school using achieve@pittville.gloucs.sch.uk. I will update you on this towards the end of term.

We will continue to do the following to minimise risk:

- Minimising contact with individuals who are required to self-isolate by ensuring they do not attend school.
- Ensuring that students continue to use the home testing kits.
- Ensuring face coverings are used in recommended circumstances.



- Ensuring everyone is advised to clean their hands thoroughly and more often than usual.
- Ensuring good respiratory hygiene for everyone by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.
- Maintaining an enhanced cleaning regime, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often, using standard products such as detergents.
- Considering how to minimise contact across the site and maintain social distancing wherever possible.
- Keeping occupied spaces well ventilated.

Year 11 end of assessment period

Year 11 students are expected to attend full time up to and including Friday, 28th May. During this period students will be completing their Year 11 assessments which will contribute towards their centre determined grades for each of their subjects. It is important that students keep working hard in preparation for these assessments.

Expectations of students

We have held a number of assemblies recently to remind students of the unashamedly high expectations we have for the students at Pittville. The students have been reminded that at Pittville we like to keep things simple and that we expect every student to **attend** regularly, **behave** well in lessons and around the school site at all times and to work hard in the **classroom**. You may wish to discuss this with your son/daughter.

Change group and Equality and diversity day, Friday, 9th July

The Pittville School Change Group was launched in September 2020 with students led by Miss Bury-Brunsdon. The aim of the project has been quite broad. The intention was to open up the conversation about discrimination, equality and diversity at Pittville. Staff and students started meeting once a week from September to talk about these issues. The group have produced resources raising issues linked to experiences of discrimination, what discrimination is and what should be done next. We are determined that our school will be a community where every individual feels able to speak up, knowing they will be supported, if they are subjected to any form of discrimination. Over the past few weeks we have been talking to students in assemblies and in their PSHE lessons about the use of appropriate language in school. We would like parents and carers to support us in this week by talking to students and your families about this very important issue. As a school we will not tolerate any language that is perceived to be of a sexist, racist, homophobic derogatory nature.

On 9th July Pittville will be hosting an equality and diversity day during which a number of outside speakers will give talks to students around the theme of equality and diversity. Students are keen to produce a student charter that will be displayed around school from September.

Thank you for your continued support.

I hope you enjoy a pleasant weekend.

R Gilpin
Headteacher

