

Pittville School Literacy Newsletter

Newsletter 2nd May
2016: Issue 1

Loving Literacy!

"Literacy is the combination of reading, writing, speaking and listening skills we all need to fulfil our potential. These life skills are essential to the happiness, health and wealth of individuals and society."

Developing the literacy skills of our young people has been a huge focus at Pittville School since they started back in September and we can already see changes in our students: they are reading more, and more students are visiting the school library. Our aims are to equip each student with the literacy skills that they need for the future and things have got off to a fantastic start.

Literacy focuses

Each term here at Pittville we have a Literacy Focus. This is something that we expect students to make a real effort to get right in all of their subject areas.

The focus for this term is spelling. Students are to ensure that their spelling is accurate and that they are developing certain strategies to make sure that they are learning spellings across the whole curriculum.

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

Encourage students to practise their spellings at home. Make sure that students use strategies that they have learned at school to improve their spelling, such as breaking the words into syllables, applying spelling rules, using a dictionary and making sure that they proof-read their

homework. "I am not very good at spelling, what can I do to improve?"

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Ready to Read?

Students have been reading during registration time in the morning as well as in their English lessons. Reading more will not only develop reading skills but improve vocabulary, spelling and writing skills. It is important that students have a reading book in their bags at all times so that they are fully prepared for their reading sessions.

Please encourage students to read at home as well.



First Story students are launching their book on 30th June.

Students at Pittville celebrated Shakespeare Day on 22nd April by baking cakes and making mosaics.

Dr. Paul. Innes also came in from the University of Gloucestershire to deliver a seminar to Year 10 students on 'Romeo and Juliet'.

Winners of the competition to see who could be photographed reading in the most unusual place were:

1st prize - Sacha Brown Stark

2nd prize - Sophia Fountain

3rd prize - Paris Duffus

Jasmine Charles, Carolina Schubert and Eleanor Lloyd are representing Pittville at the Poetry Slam competition which took place on Thursday 28th April.

READATHON

Recently students took part in a Readathon where they set themselves goals for their reading and were sponsored for this. Students raised a massive £630 half of which will be donated to Readathon charities and half will be used to restock the library with books.

Have you discovered Accelerated Reader yet?

All our Y7-9 students are enjoying reading books with our new system.

Accelerated Reader finds out, with a short reading test, the reading ability of students. Students are then allocated books that are suitable for their level of reading.

Accelerated Reader allows the students to take a short test on the book which tells us if they have read and understood it.

With Accelerated Reader, the staff and students can see how well they are progressing with their reading. Their levels improve and they can read more challenging books.

You will soon be able to access the programme from home to see how well they are doing.

Cheltenham Festival's First Story Project

At Pittville, we have been involved in a project called 'Cheltenham Festival's First

Story' where a group of Year 10 students have been working every Thursday after school with a professional and published writer to produce their own anthology of work. This anthology is no small matter: it is being published and put on shelves for book lovers to enjoy up and down the country! The students involved have been so dedicated and have loved working with Alicia Stubbersfield - our writer - and the results are incredible. Students will be launching their books at a V.I.P invite- only event on June 30th where staff, peers, parents and local dignitaries will get to enjoy students read their work and sign copies of their anthology.

Miss. C. Dring English Teacher

WELCOME FROM PITTVILLE SCHOOL LIBRARY

Pittville School Library is a well-used, vibrant, beneficial, vital and much loved resource. It is used as a classroom during the school day, with many classes taking advantage of the computers and non-fiction books available for research purposes. There is a very large range of fiction books available for 'reading for pleasure'. At Lunchtime, it is used as a social area, where students come to use the computers, do their homework, chat with their

friends, play chess/draughts/scrabble and read.

We encourage students to read, with the Accelerated Reading Scheme. Our records, over the past four years of using this scheme, show that it has not only improved the reading age of the majority of students, but has given them more confidence, has improved their vocabulary and helped them to achieve high grades in their exams.

So far this year, we have 12 Word Millionaires (those who have read over a million words since Sept. 2015) and 2 Double Word Millionaires (those who have read over two million words!). At this stage last year we only had six word millionaires! We celebrate our achievers and encourage others to read more.

“A fabulous achievement!”

We want every child to enjoy reading and to achieve their full potential.

Pittville School Library's motto is READ TO SUCCEED!

Questions that we often hear from parents:

How can I help my son/daughter to improve their handwriting?

My son/daughter's handwriting is awful, what can I do to help them?

The first thing that you can do is ensure that students are equipped for school. This means that they have a selection of pens that they can write comfortably with.

Students need to also take time with their work; they often rush through it and the teacher then struggles to read it when marking it.

Extended writing

Extended writing gets us into the habit of thinking and working independently, and thereby prepares us for an important life skill. It also allows us to work in a calm environment without distractions. A lot of pupils find that they enjoy extended writing because it allows them to express themselves more freely, and gives the teacher the opportunity to see them at their very best.

Extended writing also prepares students for their GCSE exams, in which they are asked to work independently.

Please encourage students to work at home on their extended writing by writing stories, practising essays etc in a quiet environment for longer periods of time.

WRITING COMPETITION:
NATIONAL YOUNG WRITER'S
AWARDS 2016.

To enter, students have to write a story of no more than 500 words mashing up two genres. The prize is a trip to Disneyland Paris and £500 to spend on books.

Please submit entries to Mr Apperley by Friday 3rd June. For more information ask your English teacher.

Further information

Please visit our Literacy page on the school website for regular updates and useful information about Literacy at Pittville School.

If you would like more information about how to help your child to improve their Literacy skills at home or you have concerns about their Literacy development, then please email: Miss. Amie Mills, Literacy Coordinator: amills@pittville.gloucs.sch.uk or ldavies@pittville.gloucs.sch.uk, Head of Communication Studies.



Shakespeare Day cakes baked by Year 7: 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' and Shakespeare himself.

READING BUDDIES

Year 10 students have been helping Year 7 students with their reading during morning registration this term. Year 10 reading buddies are:

Tamzin Smith, Freya Rogers, Ronan Merrick and Gosia Antosiewicz

They have worked really hard to help students with their reading.

“I am enjoying reading with Year 10”

COMING UP IN THE SUMMER TERM:

A SPELLING BEE

A YEAR 7 TRIP TO SEE 'A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S

