

Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a very happy summer holiday. I know that the staff are looking forward to a well-earned break.

It has been a typically busy end of term. Activities week was hugely successful and I would like to thank the staff for putting on such a wide range of trips and activities. I would like to thank Mr Edwards for his organisation of the week. We have had some exceptionally positive feedback about the Year 10 work experience week. It seems that the students have worked really hard and got a great deal from their placements. Well done to Year 10.

The school year just seems to have flown by-maybe it is because I am getting older! I was delighted to receive so many positive comments in respect of our Ofsted report; a real high point of the school year. I would like to pay a public compliment to all the staff and students here at Pittville. As the lead inspector commented, 'there is something very special about the culture at Pittville'. I am very proud of the work of both students and staff. It continues to be a real pleasure to be head of such a great school.

Attendance

We continue to work hard as a school to raise the profile of attendance and the link between good attendance and excellent performance at GCSE. It is vitally important that we continue to work in partnership with parents to ensure that our attendance remains high so that students continue to make excellent progress at Pittville.

Reporting Absence

Parents of students in ALL year groups 7-11 should report an absence by leaving a message on the following phone number 07715083948 or by emailing achieve@pittville.gloucs.sch.uk and making it for the attention of Attendance.

Cashless Payments for Meals and Trips at Pittville School

We will no longer be accepting cash payments for meals, trips or other goods sold through school. Once you have logged in to your ParentPay account you will be able to pay for any items, trips or meals at school. This system will also be used to give consent for trips, workshops etc. If you have any difficulty accessing your unique account please contact the finance office on 01242 548702 or 01242 548714

School Skirt

We have now introduced a compulsory school skirt and you may choose from a pleated or straight version. The skirts are currently on display in our school reception. These skirts are available from the following suppliers: www.schooltogs.com or www.theschoolwearcompany.co.uk

Girls are still able to wear plain black school trousers which meet our uniform expectations.

Year 7 Trip to Cheltenham Science Festival

On Wednesday 5th June, 36 Yr7 students attended the Cheltenham Science Festival where they took part in many activities from learning how the brain works, building and coding a robot to experiencing virtual reality technology. Students had a fantastic day learning new skills and discovering how science can be used in a variety of careers. If you haven't yet been to the Cheltenham Science Festival, I would highly recommend going next year, it is a great experience for all ages!

Year 10 French Class to Arras Trip

We had a really successful trip with Year 10 to Arras and le Touquet-Paris-Plage at the end of June. This mini trip is designed to give our GCSE French classes a taste of French culture and we certainly managed to pack a lot in, starting with a visit to St Omer cathedral on our way down. Once in Arras we ate at a local restaurant and then sat in the town square people - watching until it got too chilly. The following day we found an amazing boulangerie, which put our timings out as we couldn't make up our minds what treats to buy! Back on track, we had a picnic at le Touquet on a very windy beach before heading back to Calais and then home. Quelle chance!

Year 9 Languages Trip to Denmark Road High School for Girls

On Monday 8th July, Miss Allan took a group of our most aspiring linguists in Year 9 to Denmark Road High School for Girls in Gloucester. They participated in a morning of language activities and games. They represented Pittville School with maturity and confidence and Miss Allan was exceptionally proud of them. Activities included: foreign film, music and grammar games. The students gained a lot from the morning and we give our thanks to DRHS for organising the event.



Barcelona 2019

Miss Allan, Mr Litherland, Mr Tibbotts and Miss King took a group of 20 year 10 students of Spanish and Art to Spain in July. We spent 4 days exploring the vibrant and exciting city of Barcelona. The trip was jam-packed with activities such as swimming in the 1992 Olympic swimming pool, visiting Gaudí's cathedral; La Sagrada Familia, visiting La Boquería market and watching an authentic Flamenco show. The students were able to use their Spanish and get a clear insight into Spanish life and culture. They decided that Spanish people are generally very loud! So that must be where Miss Allan gets it from! They also immersed themselves in Spanish cuisine by preparing and sampling Tapas and even trying Paella de Mariscos one evening in a typical Spanish restaurant. ¡Olé!

Livingstone House Charity Fundraiser

Congratulations to Mr Litherland who on Saturday 8th June completed "Heineken Race to the Tower", a 52 miles, 24 hour Ultra Marathon across the Cotswold Way from Whiteshill near Stroud to Broadway Tower. He did a fantastic job in completing the two marathons in 11 hours and 30 minutes and raised £1200 for Livingstone's House Charity, Heidi's Heroes. A massive thank you to all the staff, students and parents who support Mr Litherland's fundraising!

Holy Trinity Writing Day – Tuesday 2nd July

Year 8 literacy ambassadors worked with year 6 students from Holy Trinity on Tuesday 2nd July. They spent the day learning how to debate interesting topics, and the structure of a formal debate. The day finished with a debating competition about the best celebrity. Students teamed up to research their own chosen celebrity and battle against each other to win the debate.

Project Rugby

A selected group of students have been participating in 'Project Rugby' which is run by Premiership Rugby in collaboration with "England Rugby". These sessions are being delivered by Harvey Skelton, rugby coach and community rugby development officer for Gloucester, and Gloucester rugby legend Terry Fanolua.

Mobile Phones in School

Please may I take this opportunity to remind parents and students of the correct procedure for students contacting home during the school day. The expectation is that students come to the main reception/student reception and/or speak to a member of staff to ask permission to use a phone. I would like to direct you to the school website to see our mobile phone policy in full. In particular the following section of the policy:

Rules for the Acceptable Use of a mobile phone in school by students:

Students are allowed to bring mobile phones into school. If they choose to do so it is on the understanding that they agree with the following limitations on its use, namely:

- Mobile phones must be switched off and in the bottom of student bags from the moment they pass through the school gates in the morning to the moment they leave the school gates at the end of the school day.
- Mobile phones must be switched off at all times during the school day whilst students are on the school premises including in lessons and at break and lunchtimes. It is not acceptable for phones merely to be put on silent or pager mode.
- The only exception to the above is where a member of staff instructs a student to use their mobile phone in a lesson to support the learning in that particular lesson.
- The phone must be kept out of sight at all times.

'Wear Wellies Day' – Stokes House Fundraiser

On 24th May, Pittville School held a house fundraiser for Winston's Wish. This is a national fundraising event. Children often 'puddle jump' through their grief – meaning at one point they can be really happy; the next in tears. Students came into school in their own footwear and paid £1 which went to Winston's Wish.

Students in the Medical Room

If students are unwell they are to go to reception to speak with a first aider. The decision to phone home should always be made by a first aider. Students should not phone parents to ask to be collected.

Primary Careers Fair

On Monday 1st July we hosted a careers fair which was organised by Cheltenham Borough Council. Over 180 students from local primary schools together with our year 7 students attended the fair. Exhibitors included The Everyman Theatre, John Lewis, GCHQ, Police and Fire Services.

Play in a Day

On Thursday 11th July, 28 Year 7 students from 7XEn1 rehearsed and performed an abridged version of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' to parents and friends as part of our gifted and talented programme. The performance was both hilarious and heart-warming, and was testament to the hard work and dedication of the students in creating such a magical evening with only a day to practise. If 'all the world's a stage', then these students will have no trouble in their future endeavours.



Sports Day 2019

On Wednesday 3rd July Pittville School took all Y7- Y10 students to the Prince of Wales stadium for Sports Day. The weather was beautiful, so we made the decision to start a little later than originally planned. We had excellent participation from all houses. I just hope that we can continue to get more and more students involved. There were too many amazing performances to pick out any!

Year 7 Results

1st - Abbott
2nd - Aston
3rd - Livingstone
4th - Stokes

Years 8 to 10 Results

1st - Livingstone
2nd - Abbott
3rd - Aston

Sports Awards 2019

On Wednesday 10th July we held a Sports Awards assembly in the afternoon, and invited students who have represented the school in competitive sports regularly and also shown commitment to after school practice.

We gave out certificates for player of the season in a number of sports, we also gave out colours for students who have been committed for 2 years (green) or 4 years (red).

We selected our Sports Ambassadors for the year ahead, who will be sporting role models.

The final awards were KS3 Sports Personality of the year – Monty Bedwell, and KS4 Sports personality of the year – Shannon Kelly

New PE tops for Boys for summer term

From October 2019, Parents will be able to purchase new Boys PE tops for the summer term 2020. They will be available to purchase from Schooltogs and more information will follow.



PE Trip to Brighton – Netball and Rounders Tour

We took 13 students on a Netball and Rounders Tour to Brighton. The girls played some extremely tough games, and were unlucky with the results. In one of these games, they only lost by three points! If they had an extra quarter, we feel that they would have pulled this back as the game was very close throughout. These tours are always hugely popular and some of the Year 10 students who went this year were lucky to have joined us in previous years. I know the Year 9s are looking forward to coming next year!

Year 8 Football Team

On Thursday 11th July, Year 8 Boys football team played All Saints Academy for an end of year friendly. The boys smashed it and won 5 – 3 and it was a highly entertaining game. Well done!

Winner of Year 9 Reading Challenge

Congratulations to Victoria Emery for being the winner of the Year 9 Reading Challenge and recipient of a £100 Amazon Voucher. Miss Wheelwright welcomes feedback on this initiative from students so please feedback via email or to her in person.

Leadership Academy

We have built upon last year's success and have increased numbers to seven for the Leadership Academy this year. The Year 9 leaders are Eloise Fullwood, Jake Wilson, Kai Churchley, Keira Homer, Archie Alder, Molly Alsop and Ashton Brammer. The Leaders have had three days out at the University of Gloucestershire Oxstalls Campus, training to be a good leader, how to officiate in games and coaching skills to others. These three days were full-on including theory and practical sessions. After completing the training, the leaders have helped run and organise District Primary festivals at Cheltenham College Sports Centre, where they helped to deliver Athletic Multi Skills to key Stage 1 and 2 students. They have also used their new skills and helped run a Mini Red Tennis festival at the East Gloucester Tennis Club, again this was aimed at Primary school students. All Leaders have gained great knowledge and understanding on what a good leader should be and they can carry their experience into any future plans of coaching and leading. Well done guys on completing the course, you have all been fantastic and have achieved so much. A great advert of Pittville students and role models to the younger students.

Aston House

Aston House has had a fantastic summer term with vast amounts going on. We have had many of our students enjoying activities and trips such as Barcelona, Paris, Duke of Edinburgh, Sports Tour and Disneyland. I have been really impressed with the numbers of students who are taking part in these trips and thriving on the amazing opportunities offered here at Pittville. A special mention must go to all of the students who participated at sports day – it was such a fantastic atmosphere and this was all down to the students involved. Well done, too, to the year 10 students who won their year group's competition. In addition to this a huge well done to the year 10 rounders' team who came first in House Matches. The boys competed well in the year 9 and 10 softball tournament drawing with the other houses. In overall whole school competitions, it is currently very close, but as it stands, Aston are joint top of the leaderboard on attendance (sharing this with Abbott). Well done to all of our 100% attendees this year, of which there are 31. Thank you to all the students and parents for your support this year – for both Aston and Pittville School – I hope you all have a brilliant summer.

Mrs C Bury-Brunsdon (Head of Aston House)

Abbott House

I have thoroughly enjoyed returning to the role of Head of Abbott House (even if it has just been for a short time) and would like to say thank you to all the students and tutors for making me feel so welcome. It has been a very busy term in Abbott with lots of success in the classroom and on the sports field. Harry McHollan and Lewis Maskrey (both from 9AB2) were the Pittville winners in the Fit2Cook Create and Cook competition and Archie Owen (7AB2) was awarded a Certificate of Excellence for Outstanding Effort in Food and Nutrition. Heather Smith (7AB1) achieved her Word Millionaire on the Accelerated Reading Scheme and Kayla Jones (7AB2) was awarded her Double Millionaire so well done to both girls. The Inter-House Maths Competitions also resulted in success for Abbott with the teams in Year 7 (Sophie Jeffries, Jacob Cole, Archie Owen and Joel Aylmer) and Year 10 (Esha Patel, Emily Byrne-Pearce and Corinna Young) both taking first place. Special congratulations also go to Callum Gage (10AB1), who was Best in Year at the Intermediate Maths Challenge, and Rosemary Morris (7AB2) who achieved a Bronze Certificate for the Junior Math's Challenge. In sport Abbott scored success in rounders, coming first in the Year 7 competition and in softball where the Year 9 boys were overall champions for the first time. Year 7 Abbott students were triumphant on Sports' Day winning the Year 7 trophy but this wasn't quite enough to help Abbott win the overall trophy and we ended the day in a commendable 2nd place. A special mention also needs to go to the Year 7 boys' cricket team who tied for first place in their competition only to end up losing out on run rate. Mrs Kavanagh will be back in charge of Abbott House in September so all that remains is for me to wish all the students of Abbott House (and their parents) a lovely summer holiday and I look forward to seeing you all again in the new academic year.

Mr Poole (Acting Head of Abbott House)

Livingstone House

As the academic year comes to an end I always feel an enormous sense of pride as Head of Livingstone House. I would like to take this opportunity to thank lots of people. First of all, my House Captains – Bonnie Hosey and Izzy Gifford. Our Head Girl Charlotte Pardoe and Deputy Head girl Ellie-Mae Sawle. I thank them for their endless support, maturity and setting a great example to the whole school. Mrs Flanders did a great job with the leavers' assembly and we all had a fabulous time at the Year 11 prom, dancing the night away celebrating the Year 11's five years with us. It was a great night organised by our very own Mrs Cooper. Thank you! I will miss our Year 11's and wish them the very best of luck for the future. It is now time for our Year 10 students to 'step up'; we have two great tutor groups and I know they will set the right example to the rest of the school. I have just had the pleasure of working with over 40 prefects during our Year 6 induction. They were simply incredible. Well done to all of you!! I wish the Year 10 students the best of luck with their work experience. I am sure they will do the school and themselves proud! Sports day, once again, was a highlight for the house this year. Winning two year groups and the overall points tally, was an incredible achievement. Well done to the whole house! A real team effort that makes me so very proud! This now gives us a chance to lift the house trophy this year. Finally, I would like to thank all my tutors, and Livingstone's pastoral manager Mrs Cooper for all their hard work this year. A special mention should go to Mr Litherland who raised over £1200 for our house charity, Heidi's Heroes, completing a 52 mile run from Stroud to Broadway tower. We are all very proud of him! An extraordinary effort. The cheque will be presented at the start of next term to Mr Paul Wood, the founder of the Heidi's Heroes. I hope you all have a good rest and enjoy your summer catching up with family and friends.

Mr Kavanagh (Head of Livingstone House)

Stokes House

Stokes' students have had a wonderful and jam-packed year here at Pittville. First of all, congratulations to all the Stokes' students who competed in Sports Day – you did our house proud indeed. It was fantastic to see all the students chanting and waving their yellow banners to cheer on their fellow Stokes competitors from the stands at the stadium. We have also enjoyed visits from Julie Stokes – our namesake – who has come to meet Stokes students throughout the school year to tell them all about Winston's Wish, the work they do and how she set the charity up. She is incredibly inspirational and is proud to be associated with Stokes. We also held a really successful charity event this year called Wear Your Wellies Day. Lots of students came in to school wearing their wellies (or other funky footwear) in support of the event, which raised around £400 for Winston's Wish. It has been an absolute delight to be the Lead Tutor for Stokes this year and I wish every student and parent a restful summer in anticipation of the new academic year

Miss Dring (Lead Tutor for Stokes House)

UKMT Junior Mathematics Challenge

As well as gaining a gold certificate in the UKMT Junior Mathematics challenge Kieran Hurley in Year 8 scored highly enough to be invited to take part in the follow-up Kangaroo round. He came in the top 25% of this competition and so has also earned a merit award for this round.

Year 11 Prom

The year 11 students had a lovely time at their prom which was held in the Panoramic Restaurant at Cheltenham Racecourse at the end of June. It was attended by 100 students and many staff came to see how fabulous they all looked. All students, boys and girls, made a special effort with their appearance and all looked very glamorous. Ellie-Mae Sawle was crowned Prom Queen and James Howard Prom King.

Holy Trinity Art Workshops

Holy Trinity Year 5s attended three art workshops on site on their current theme 'Born Free'. Students created a range of African inspired poly prints in the first workshop. Students learnt how to press their design into polystyrene and how to create a clear print onto colourful paper. In the second workshop students produced an African mask using a range of skills including tonal shading, creating a graded wash using watercolour and dotting with tools to add detail. In the final workshop students learnt about collage, using a range of images and materials to create a sunset scene with animals' silhouettes.

EAL Fun Day

The Pittville Fun Day has become a tradition for a number of feeder Primary schools. This year's activities included Art and Craft, Musical Theatre, Foods of the World tasting session, variety of sports and Learn a new Language Workshop. It was a real success as all our younger visitors enjoyed the day. We had lovely thank you emails back from the Primary teachers saying, their "students were 'buzzing' about their experiences the whole week!". We would like to thank the Pittville students who were helping run the event and were a real credit to our school. A huge thank you to all from the SEN Faculty team, who organised and coordinated this fantastic event!

Safeguarding at Pittville

IN CASE OF EMERGENCIES: Will we be able to contact you in an emergency? So that we will be able to contact you in an emergency please make sure the school has at least one additional contact name and telephone number. Please also make sure that we have your current contact details. If these should change over the holiday please let us have the new details at the start of next term.

FOR THE SAFETY OF OUR STUDENTS: Pittville School considers the well-being and protection of students to be of highest priority. All parents/carers must sign in at Reception when visiting the school. Parents and visitors should only enter the school buildings through the main reception. It is particularly important that this is done even if you may be bringing in a forgotten lunch box or piece of equipment. Please make sure you access reception by walking or driving along the main drive by the school field – please don't walk through the school buildings to access reception.

New Staff Appointments and Leavers

We say goodbye to:

- Hannah Taylor (History teacher)
- Carol Hawling (librarian)
- Clare Mayer (maternity cover Art teacher)
- Rebecca Austin (Tech teacher)
- Rebecca Jones (TA)
- Beth Rimmer (TA)
- Millie Ballinger (TA apprentice)
- Corinne Bury Brunsdon (maternity leave)
- Toby Williams (catering apprentice)

We welcome:

- David Eagleton (Deputy Headteacher)
- Ian Poulton (RE teacher)
- Paula Garcia-Toja (English teacher)
- Stephanie Kearns (Tech teacher)
- Rhian Price (Maths teacher)
- Katie Chrishop (Drama teacher)
- Iona Ludlow (English teacher)
- Sam Brinkworth (librarian)

Night at The Musicals

The end of the school year signals something big for the music and drama department – The annual school show. After a tricky start with illness and injuries we very much adopted the mantra, 'The Show Must Go On,' and our students pulled together to perform a spectacular musical extravaganza which we entitled, 'A Night of Musicals Featuring Hairspray.' Our talented singers, dancers, actors and musicians performed to an incredibly high standard and we are very proud of not only their skills, but their sheer determination to get everything ready for the evenings. The students and staff loved every second and we are already planning for our Winter concert, for which tickets will be available in mid-November.

Changes to the school day from September 2019

As a thriving educational community, we are continually exploring ways to evolve and develop teaching and learning at Pittville School. To this end, we are proposing to change the school day next academic year in order to better facilitate staff development and provide greater opportunities for teachers and support staff to connect with each other and to develop their knowledge and expertise in line with the developing broad and balanced curriculum. The proposal is to finish school 25 minutes earlier than usual on Wednesdays only. For the rest of the school week the end of the school day will remain as 3.10 pm. The proposal will not impact on learning time for the students. Students will go to period 5 at 1.45pm, straight after the end of lunch and will no longer have a tutor period. Students will be registered in period 5. This change is not being made to save money at the school and will not impact on the range of extra-curricular activities and sporting fixtures that will be offered. We believe that all stakeholders can be positively impacted by this update as our Heads of Faculty will have greater freedom to make decisions about how their team use this gained time and therefore will have increased opportunity to stay up to date with new developments in their subject area.

School day Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday	Amended day on Wednesday only
08:35 – 08:45 am registration	08:35 – 08:45 am registration
08:45 – 09:45 Period 1	08:45 – 09:45 Period 1
09:45 – 10:45 Period 2	09:45 – 10:45 Period 2
10:45 – 11:05 Break	10:45 – 11:05 Break
11:05 – 12:05 Period 3	11:05 – 12:05 Period 3
12:05 – 13:05 Period 4	12:05 – 13:05 Period 4
13:05 – 13:45 Lunch 13:40 bell	13:05 – 13:45 Lunch 13:40 bell
13.45 - 14.10 pm Registration	13:45 – 14:45 Period 5 and pm registration
14:10 – 15:10 Period 5	14:45 – 15:45 Department time

Events and Trips coming up

Dates for your diaries:

2 nd and 3 rd Sept	Staff Training Days	11 th Sept	Y9 GCSE Information Evening
4 th Sept	Y7 at 8.30am Y11 at 11am	18 th Sept	Y11 Info Evening
5 th Sept	All students in school	30 th Sept – 4 th Oct	Open Week
6 th Sept	School closes at 12:20	2 nd Oct	Open Evening

On behalf of the staff, governors and students we wish you a restful summer break. I hope the sun continues to shine for you all!

Best Wishes



Mr Gilpin
Headteacher