



## Pittville School

### NEWSLETTER – Term 1 2022-23

#### Tribute to Queen Elizabeth II

It is with great sadness that we as a school community mark the passing of our Queen, Elizabeth II. This is an historic moment in our country's history; for many people she was the monarch for the whole of their lives.

Queen Elizabeth embodied our school values of respect, honesty and kindness. Our thoughts are with our new King, Charles III and the rest of the Royal Family.

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this first newsletter of the school year finds you well and that the summer break was a welcome chance to relax, re-charge and spend time with family and friends.

Welcome to the start of another academic year here at Pittville School. If you are receiving this newsletter for the first time, let me take this opportunity to welcome you to our updates of news and events. We aim to produce a newsletter at least once a half-term, packed with celebrations of student achievements, awards and success. In addition, the newsletter often contains important messages and key dates.

I look forward to working with you during the year ahead and to all the successes we will share. Your support, as always, is much appreciated and please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have a concern, worry or query.

Kind regards,

R Gilpin  
Headteacher

#### Return to study

I have been impressed with the attitude shown by students returning to Years 8-11 this term. Our new intake of year 7 students has also impressed us with how quickly they have settled in and embarked on their Pittville School journey. I am looking forward to all that our students can achieve. Remember, if you need to discuss anything regarding your child and their settling in period please contact their tutor in the first instance or email, [achieve@pittville.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:achieve@pittville.gloucs.sch.uk) There will also be opportunities to regularly discuss student progress and attainment at tutor and parents evenings throughout the year, both online and in person.

#### Year 7 – Meet your tutor evening

This will take place on Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> October. Appointments will be available to book on Edulink from Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> October at 9.00am.

## Uniform and Equipment

Thank you for your support by ensuring that students have returned or joined us, this term, in the correct school uniform. Students look very smart and being fully equipped ensures that they are in the best position to learn. If you need any clarification on the uniform, PE kit or equipment requirements please visit our website, [www.pittville.gloucs.sch.uk](http://www.pittville.gloucs.sch.uk).

We are aware that there may be certain issues with obtaining school and PE uniform. We ask that you keep your child's form tutor informed about any uniform issues. High standards are important.

## Exam Results

We are delighted to report terrific results at Pittville this year. This year 63% of students achieved grade 4 or above in English and 59% achieved grade 4 or above in maths. The proportion of students achieving top grades of 9-7 increased as did the number of students achieving grades 9-5.

There were some terrific individual results and we are delighted that we have seen an increase in the number of students achieving the top grades at grades 9-8, 9-7 and grades 9-5. We were delighted that 19 grade 9s were awarded to our students-an indication of exceptional performance in those subjects. There were lots of individual stories to celebrate where students showed exceptional resilience, made exceptional progress or just never gave up!

Many congratulations to all our students; we are delighted for all those students who have worked so hard to achieve these results, particularly given the challenges students have faced over the past three years. I would like to thank staff who have worked so hard to support students in achieving these results

### **A-level Success-Former students excel at Balcarras**

As you know we have a close partnership with Balcarras; many of our students progress on to their sixth form and achieve great success. This year our former students have performed superbly well and show what a great springboard Pittville provides for academic success at Key Stage 4. exceptionally well. Highlights were four former students who achieved straight A and A\* grades at 'A level and eight former students who achieved all grades at A\*-B. Superb achievements. All the students will now progress on to university. Well done to all.

Finally, good luck to the 21 students who have moved on to Balcarras from our 2022 Year 11 cohort and to all students who have joined colleges, sixth forms or are embarking on apprenticeships.

## Open Week

During the week commencing Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September I will be conducting tours of the school with prospective students, parents and carers. This is always a joy for me to share the excellent teaching and learning that happens here at Pittville. If you know of someone that might be interested in taking a tour please ask them to contact us to make an appointment. Tours are available at 9am, 11am and 2pm.

In addition to the daytime tours there is an open evening, on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> September between 6pm and 8pm. Again, prospective students, parents and carers can come along, have a guided tour with one of our excellent prefects and take the opportunity to ask questions to current students. If you prefer to wander unaccompanied then you may do so. The evening will also showcase our wonderful curriculum areas, offering a flavour of what Pittville has to offer. I will be delivering a talk at 6pm in the main hall and again at 7.15pm. I anticipate a busy evening and look forward to sharing our wonderful school and how we work.

## Policies

The start of the year seems a good time to remind parents of school policies. These can be found on the school website:

About us

Policies

The school policies are intended to give parents an understanding of how the school operates and the expectations the school has for all the students. In particular the policies on:

Behaviour; Mobile phones; Attendance; Child protection/safeguarding; Bullying.

## Friends of Pittville School

Welcome back to the new academic year, the last one seemed to go very quickly!

This will be a short round up of last year's efforts which were completed by a small team of crucial and effective individuals! You know who you are but a very big thank you for all you did to help us to achieve and raise the following:

### Schemes and initiatives

- Second hand uniform - £425
- Easyfundraising - £147
- Lottery - £1700
- Clothes recycling bank - £130
- InvestMyCommunity - £367

**Schemes and initiatives total - £2,769**

### Events

- Friday tuck shops - £411
- The return of the D I S C O - £515
- Christmas raffle - £1,161

**Events total - £2,087**

**Annual total - £4,856**

As a team, our remit last year was to try to raise as much money as possible with the least amount of effort. Even with this minimalist approach, we do require people, time and effort. Whilst we have tried our best, and have achieved what we can, if we as a group of parents want students to continue to get the extras from our school, which if you watch the news, is only going to get harder for the schools to be able to provide, then we need more help. Be that in the form of getting stuck in, offering to help with events, managing some of our fundraising initiatives or if you have the funds, signing up to the School lottery or InvestMyCommunity scheme.

We fully appreciate and also feel the purse strings tightening at home, but just a £2 [InvestMyCommunity donation](#) a month from 100 families in the school could raise nearly £2,500 per year for the funds. We currently have 14 regular donors to the scheme, in a school of approximately 900 students. Anything you can give, regularly or as a one-off donation, WILL help. Discussions are ongoing with school about what we are being asked for the coming academic year and what we might be able to put on, but for now, here are some dates for your diaries as well as the highlights of what we have been able to provide for school. As always, our [FoPs facebook page](#) is a great source of information about events that are happening and we are always interested in hearing from our parents, either through facebook or by [email](#).

## Some dates for your diaries

- Wednesday 5 October - 7:30pm - AGM at The Plough, Prestbury, all welcome
- Wednesday 19 October - 7pm - Year 7 Disco (details to follow)

## Provision requests that have been met

- Drayton Manor contribution
- Contributions to teachers mugs of treats
- Outdoor equipment - benches, table tennis and football tables
- Library book spinner

### Year 7 CAT Testing

Following the completion of the Year 7 CAT4 testing we will be arranging students into mixed attainment teaching sets from Monday, 19th September. All students will remain in their current tutor groups for registration and RSHE lessons. New timetables will be issued on Friday, 16th September.

Should you have any queries please contact Mrs Pitt.

### Attendance

At the start of the year can I urge all parents and carers to encourage excellent attendance. We know that attendance is linked to attainment, so please do encourage your child to be here every day unless there is a very good reason not to be.

### Cycling to school

I am delighted that we have so many students who are choosing to cycle to school. Students must be careful when leaving school at the end of the day and when cycling on the main roads around the school. 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. Could I ask parents to talk to students about the importance of cycling safely and responsibly. Mr Watkins

### Access to the school site

Parents/Carers are reminded that there is no access to the school site for parents unless they have a pre-arranged appointment at school. Onsite parking is very limited. You are encouraged to park off site. This is to ensure that the students are kept safe at all times.

### School gates

Please remember that the school gates do not open until 8.20am. We would ask students not to arrive before that time.

### Gloucestershire Constabulary Open Day

Please see attached link to Gloucestershire Constabulary and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner's Open Day on Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at 10am.

[Open Day detail poster 2022.docx](#)

## 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 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 student reception with the attendance officer. 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 them, and the expected time of return.

### Dates for your diary:

- Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September – Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September – Open Week – see details above.
- Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> September – Open Evening 6-8pm – see details above.
- Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September – Drayton Manor rewards trip
- Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October – Chelsea's Choice Safeguarding Play – Year 8
- Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October – Year 11 parents evening, in person
- Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October – Inset Day – End of term 1
- Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October – Term 2

## Stay in touch

### Follow us on:



Instagram

### Friends of Pittville:



Have a restful weekend.

Mr R Gilpin  
Headteacher