



Pittville School
Cheltenham

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Headteacher Richard Gilpin

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Dear Parents /Carers

Welcome to Pittville. I want to inform parents/carers of developments at Pittville.

Change to School Day Times

Last academic year the decision was made to amend our school day on Wednesdays to facilitate staff training. Every Wednesday school will finish at 2.45pm. For more details please see the relevant letter on our school website. Please let your child's tutor know if this causes you any problems during the first few weeks of term.

Start of Term

For this year only the start of term will be slightly disrupted as we are having two inset days at the start of term. We apologise for any inconvenience caused. Years 7 and 11 begin school on Wednesday 4th September. Year 7 will start school at 8.30 and Year 11 will start school at 10.45. Years 8, 9 and 10 will start school at 8.30 on Thursday 5th September.

Early Closure Friday 6th September

Just a reminder that school closes early on Friday 6th September for staff inset. We will finish school at 12.05pm.

Uniform for September

All tutors will carry out a formal uniform check at the start of the school day. Any students with incorrect uniform will be sent to student reception. We will contact parents/carers to explain what the uniform issue is and to ask that it be resolved as soon as possible. Please take care when you buy new uniform over the summer that all items meet our uniform standards. Lots of retailers sell clothing in their school uniform sections which do not meet our standards. We will have some items of uniform that we may be able to lend out to help support parents to resolve any issues. Please note that 'hoodies' are not acceptable. Students should be encouraged to wear coats or plain black jumpers. If hoodies are worn on the school site they will be confiscated. Please see our school website for the booklet regarding uniform expectations at Pittville.

School Skirts

We have now introduced a compulsory school skirt. You may choose the 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.

Behaviour

We are pleased with the impact that the modifications to our behaviour policy have had on the small minority of students who fail to meet our classroom expectations. As headteacher I have the full support of school governors in setting out clear boundaries for all students. Students who fail to meet these expectations can expect to be dealt with in accordance with our policy. All parents who send their children to Pittville agree to sign up to our policies and I would ask for your continued support in maintaining our very high expectations of student behaviour.

In order to ensure that learning is our number one priority and that nothing gets in the way of learning conversations we have asked students to remember:



- Uniform is to be worn correctly at all times
- Ties need to be worn correctly i.e. down to the students waist (not three stripes)
- Skirts must not be rolled up – must be just above the knee
- Cuffs on blazers should not be rolled back
- Top buttons done up at all times
- Follow school policy regarding earrings, jewellery and make up (Only one stud in each earlobe – nowhere else)
- That they engage fully in all learning activities and conduct themselves so that they and all other students can learn
- To be punctual to lessons
- Students must complete homework on time and produce quality work of which they can be proud of.
- To make sure that care is taken with classwork and that exercise books are neat and tidy
- Participate appropriately in our community so that students can be proud and happy
- Chewing gum is not allowed in school
- Lucozade and energy drinks are banned. They will be confiscated.
- To respect the school environment and not to drop litter
- Conduct themselves maturely and respectfully to and from school and in all public places.
- Be mindful of members of the public when cycling/scooting to and from school, being respectful of pedestrians on pavements.

Mobile Phones

We reviewed our policy on mobile phones for last September with the Governing Body. Research shows how social media use and misuse can have significant effects on well-being and self-esteem which can lead to anxiety and depression. The role of social media in cyber bullying is well documented. Students will be 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, headphones and other personal devices must be switched off and out of sight 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.

If a phone/personal tablet is seen in school at any time it will be confiscated and parents/carers will be asked to collect it from the school's reception.

A copy of our mobile phone policy will be available on the school's website for parents to view. We thank you for your support in this matter.

Lateness

Please can I remind parents of the importance of punctuality to school. All parents have a responsibility to ensure their sons/daughters arrive at school before the bell at 8.35am. We will continue to use our 'roll-call' system for our morning registration. This means that all students will be expected to be standing at their allocated place in their tutor room at the 8.35 bell ready to answer their name on the register. Any student who is not present for roll-call and does not have a valid reason for being late will be issued with a 30 minute detention after school the same day. Should this be the case we will phone/email you to let parents/carers know. All school gates will be locked at 8.35 and anyone arriving after this time will need to access the school through the main gate reporting to main reception.

Equipment

Daily equipment checks to make sure that all students have the basic equipment with them and are prepared for the school day, will continue in September as they have done so this year. This stops teachers from providing equipment on a regular basis to the small number of students who do not bring everything they need. Students will be required to have a pen, pencil, ruler and their school planner. Any student without these items will be

sent to student reception where they will be issued with the missing equipment. Repeat offenders will be issued with a detention(s).

Open Week

Our open week begins on Monday 30th September. Open evening is Wednesday 2nd October between 6pm – 8pm. We will finish school at 1:05pm on Wednesday 2nd October so as to give staff time to prepare for open evening.

Additional Reminders for the first half term:

11th September - GCSE Information Evening 6-7pm

18th September - Year 11 Info Evening 6-7pm

19th September - Drayton Manor Rewards Trip

10th and 11th October – Croft Farm Y7 Residential

17th October - Year 7 Tutor Evening 4-7pm

24th October - Year 11 Consultation Evening 4-7pm

Yours faithfully

R Gilpin
Headteacher