

Pittville School Literacy

Newsletter

DECEMBER 2016



Newsletter
Issue 2

Reading Matters!

Reading is fundamental to function in today's society. Students who cannot read will find functioning independently difficult in society. Reading is also a vital skill in finding a good job and many well-paying jobs require reading as a part of job performance. Reading is important because it develops the mind. The mind is a muscle and it needs exercise. Understanding the written word is one way the mind grows in its ability.

Books, magazines and even the Internet are great learning tools which require the ability to read and understand what is read. A person who knows how to read can educate themselves in any area of life they are interested in. We live in an age where we overflow with information, but reading is the main way to take advantage of it. Reading develops the imagination. TV and computer games have their place, but reading allows you to go on journeys in your mind. We understand the importance of reading at Pittville School have spent the first term focusing on engaging students more in reading for pleasure.

Whole School Reading Project

This year all students are involved in reading 'Treasure Island' during registration time on a Friday afternoon. The reading project has been launched to engender a reading community here at Pittville, where students of all ages have a shared experience of reading. It has been a very successful project and has meant that students get to listen to members of staff, other than their English teachers, reading.

Greek geeks!

This year KS3 have embarked on a journey to learn about the ancient Gods, Goddesses and stories that surround Greek mythology. It has had a very enthusiastic start with the pupils learning about the Olympian

God family trees and creating a display for others to learn from.

This half term we are focusing on 'Theseus and the Minotaur' with the view of creating a piece of descriptive writing about the beast, and a board game that takes players through the perilous journey of our protagonist, Theseus. This all happens on Tuesdays after school.

Miss. L. Doyle

Book appeal: we need more reading books for students. Please bring any unwanted books into the school for our students to read.

In November a group of Year 8 students worked with Year 6 students at Holy Trinity School for a 'Non-fiction Writing Day.' This was very successful, and Year 8 students honed their own skills after teaching the younger students.

Year 10 students are reading with Year 7 students in morning registration to help them to improve their reading skills.

Year 9 students studied 'The Woman in Black' last term. They have the opportunity to see it performed live at The Everyman theatre, Cheltenham on Friday 21st January. Please get letters from Miss. Mills in Room 5.

GCSE English revision sessions are after school on Wednesdays.

Year 11s and Year 10s went to see 'A Christmas Carol' on Wednesday 14th December at The Everyman and it was a thoroughly enjoyable experience.

Spelling Bees

This year sees Pittville's first round of 'Spelling Bees' at KS3. Each year group will do a spelling test in their tutor groups and the top spellers will then compete for the coveted title of 'Best speller of 2016' in the main hall. The first Spelling Bee took place on 9th December.

Lilian Roach from Year 7, Livingstone House won the first Spelling Bee.

Questions that we often hear from parents:

How can I help my son/daughter to read?

The first thing that you can do is ensure that students have some quiet time before they go to sleep at night. This means that televisions, games consoles and phones are off so that they can concentrate on reading.

Talk about what they are reading at school and what they are enjoying. Encourage them to swap books with their friends and research what other children are reading at their age, and make recommendations.

My son is only interested in non-fiction, how can I get him to read fiction?

This isn't a problem at all, the fact that he is reading is brilliant. You could always recommend fiction books, based on the same themes as his non-fiction material.

WOW and NOW!

At the start of each week, students are presented with a 'Word of the Week' and 'Number of the Week'. This enables them to learn new words and expand their vocabulary. They also do tasks where they use the word in context and other activities which improve their Literacy skills.

will soon be installed so pupils can continue to read and succeed. The Library recently hosted the Year 9 Options information morning during PSHE this week and an official opening and book-reading afternoon is scheduled for March - so watch this space!

Library opening times during Mrs



NEW LIBRARY OPEN FOR ALL

Following the extensive building work during the summer and at the start of the new academic year, we are pleased to announce that the new Pittville Library is open for business!

From September Mrs Hawling and her committed group of Librarians have been working hard to organise and stock the shelves with our extensive book collection. We have also installed a collection of bean-bags for easy reading as well as new modern coloured tables and chairs which match the new contemporary colour scheme. New ways to access our Accelerated Reader program

Hawling's absence are:

TUESDAY – 1:05pm to 1:40pm

WEDNESDAY – 1:05pm to 1:40pm

THURSDAY – 1:05pm to 1:40pm

Mrs. L. Davies