



Achieving excellence together



Welcome

Choosing the right secondary school is one of the most important decisions that you will make with your child.

At Pittville School it is our belief that every young person has gifts, talents and abilities and we aim to recognise and unlock each child's potential, therefore maximising their life chances. Pittville is a smaller than average secondary school with approximately 890 students. We intend to develop continually in order to provide an excellent level of education, pastoral care and guidance for all our students. Our priority is to work in partnership with parents and students to help them achieve the very best possible success. We firmly believe that each student should be challenged intellectually, creatively, personally and socially, in preparation for their future life.

Pittville is a true comprehensive school catering for the whole spectrum of ability and we are proud of that. We are a small school and we know our students well. Because of our size we are able to personalise the learning of students in a way that other, larger schools cannot. Here at Pittville, we believe that good relationships are at the heart of a well-organised, happy, calm and respectful school environment. We believe that all students, regardless of their ability or background, should be challenged and given opportunities to achieve the best they can. We are committed to the highest possible standards and expect our students to be aspirational in everything they do.

At Pittville, the welfare of our young people is of great importance. We have a very strong pastoral guidance system; the personal development and educational progress of students is supported and monitored closely by tutors and heads of house, with student wellbeing supported through our extensive team within our student support area, including dedicated staff assigned to each house, and a full-time school counsellor.

Our students are actively encouraged to take part in one of the many extra-curricular activities. It is our desire that all students should enjoy their learning and their whole school experience, and we work extremely hard to ensure that this is the case. Parents and other visitors to Pittville frequently comment on the calm, positive and purposeful atmosphere, which is essential in making sure we have a school that delivers a high quality education for all.

I hope that you will find this prospectus useful and informative; we invite parents and prospective students into our school to see us in action and I look forward to meeting you.

Mr R Gilpin
Headteacher

Transition

Ensuring a smooth transition from primary to secondary school is a key part of our work at Pittville School. We are proud of our strong links with partner primary schools. In many cases this means we have developed relationships with students before they join Year 7 through visits to Pittville to experience certain subject areas. From day one, new students will be immersed in our values of Respect, Honesty and Kindness. We are clear as a school about both the potential of our young people and the ongoing development of our school; our values are at the heart of our school community and help everyone to make the right choices and behave in the right way each day. The welfare and happiness of every student is extremely important to us. We have an experienced pastoral team to help and care for your child. Form tutors work closely with students on a "day to day" basis to help them settle into their new school.

Our recent OFSTED commented that 'Pupils say that bullying is very rare'. We pride ourselves on building good working relationships with parents and carers so that together we can ensure that each child makes good progress, gains confidence and achieves, both academically and socially.



"At Pittville I've participated in lots of fun activities and have made some great friends. Lessons are challenging, there's always something to look forward to at school."

Year 9 student



Respect, honesty and kindness

Our core values at Pittville School are Respect, Honesty and Kindness. We recognise that we are welcoming learners who will become young adults during their time at our school. We believe in the importance of character education and that our whole school community have a responsibility to contribute to our positive school environment. We respect our students as individuals.

We are honest in our conversations with young people, parents and carers and we model and expect kindness from our students whether they are interacting with their friends, visitors or staff. We believe that relationships matter, and we will work restoratively with young people in order to support them in times of conflict.

Our students and staff are all invited to be involved in work that we continually undertake to ensure that Pittville School is a respectful, supportive and welcoming environment for all.

“We are delighted with our son’s first year at Pittville. He is growing in confidence and is happy.”

Pittville School Parent

Curriculum

Our overarching aim is for every one of our students to achieve, succeed and become active, productive members of our ever-changing world. To this aim, Pittville offers a broad, balanced and carefully sequenced 5-year curriculum with high quality and creative teaching, with a strong emphasis on developing independent learning. The curriculum in each subject area is planned with the interest, needs, aptitudes and diversity of our students in mind.

At Key Stage 3 all students undertake a core curriculum consisting of English, mathematics, science, French & Spanish (MFL), geography, history, RE, drama, art (including textiles), PE, and RSHE. In addition, students in Years 7 and 8 take part in design technology, food & nutrition, ICT and music on a rotation basis throughout each year.

In Year 9, all students continue with the core curriculum but have the opportunity to choose one MFL that they wish to continue, and two of the rotation subjects including textiles, which they will study in more detail across the whole year. Some students choose to continue with both French and Spanish which is made possible through a weekly lesson after school. This enables students to continue with both languages to GCSE if they choose to. A small number of students may not continue with languages in order to follow a more personalised curriculum more suited to their individual needs.

At Key Stage 4 all students undertake a core curriculum consisting of English, mathematics, science, RE, PE and

RSHE. In addition, students study four 'option' subjects through to the examinations at the end of Year 11. We want to ensure that all students are able to progress on to the next stage of their education at 16 and therefore offer different pathways to students. Students are carefully guided through the options process to ensure that they are selecting both a challenging and appropriate suite of subjects to follow. Pittville offers a full range of traditional GCSE qualifications as well as some vocational qualifications.

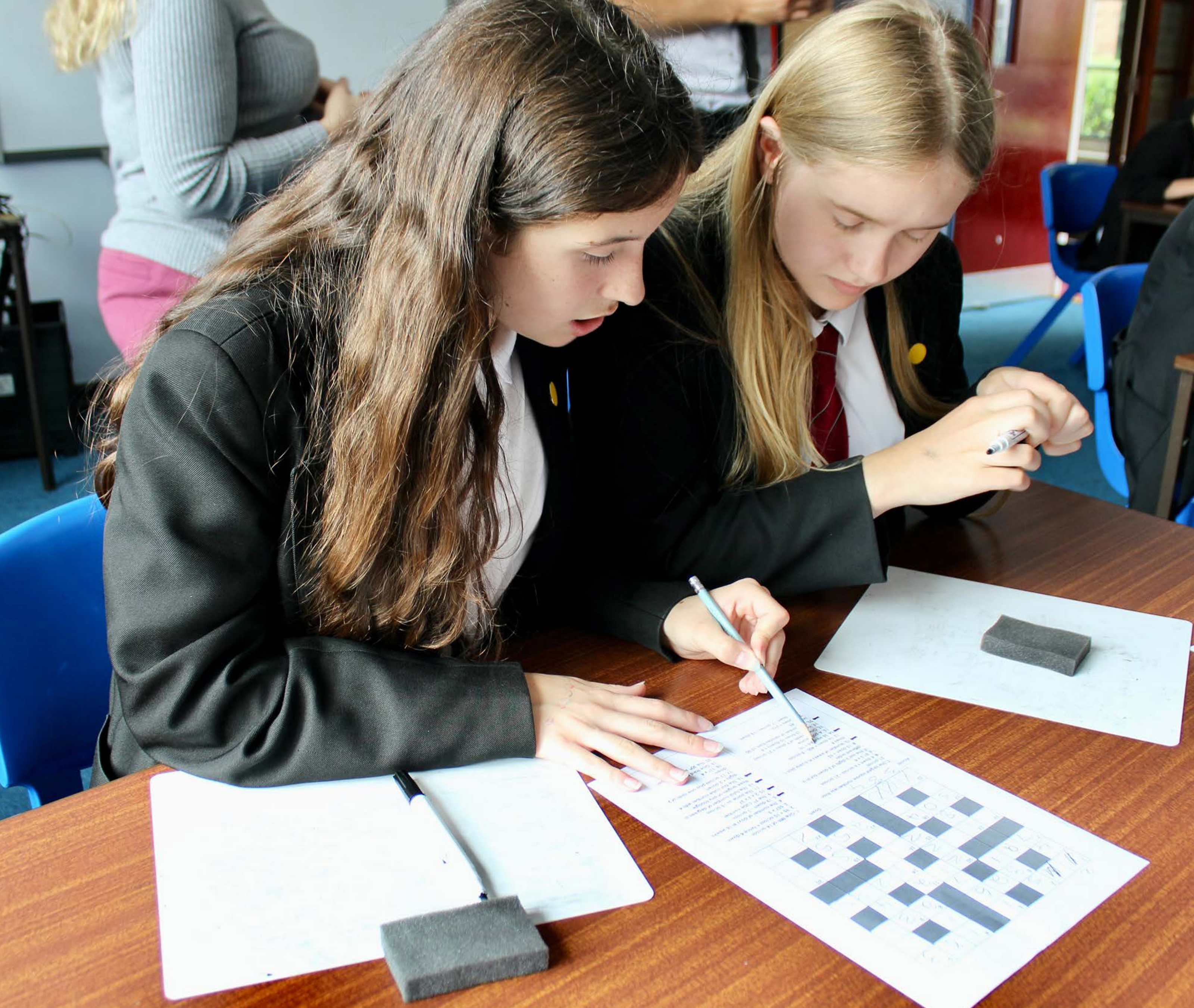
Most students are expected to select at least one EBACC subject (geography, history, French or Spanish) as part of their option subjects. In addition to subjects studied at KS3, a number of new subjects are also available at KS4 including business studies, health & social care, film studies and dance. RE and PE can both be studied as an option subject leading to a GCSE or BTEC qualification, this is in addition to the core curriculum followed by all students.

As at Key Stage 4, a small number of students follow a modified curriculum allowing them to reduce their option subjects to two or three and enabling them to follow a more personalised curriculum better suited to their individual needs. This curriculum is always cohort driven and will change based on the needs of each individual year group.

At present, students are taught in a combination of mixed attainment and setted teaching groups in Year 7 and 8. In Year 9, as students begin to embark on the early stages

of their GCSE courses in the core subjects of English, mathematics and science, some setting is introduced to enable appropriate access to the tiered syllabuses in both mathematics and science. Other subjects remain in mixed attainment groups as they will be in most GCSE option groups.





Assessment

Students' work is regularly assessed against a range of criteria. Routine assessment of a student's work is vital to ensure that the teacher knows them well. Assessment is an on-going process which includes the marking of classwork, homework and internal assessments and exams. This combination of assessment strategies enables staff to carefully monitor student performance throughout the academic year.

At Key Stage 3, whilst many subjects will set a formal written assessment, some of the more practical-based subjects will make on-going assessments of your child's progress in relation to age-related expected progress in these subjects.

"Pupils make strong progress from their starting points."

Ofsted 2019



Reporting

Your child will be assessed formally at one or two defined points in each year group. These assessments are cumulative, requiring students to utilise their learning from previous years. Written reports are sent home following each assessment point, detailing information about their current progress and giving clear targets in order that they further improve their knowledge and understanding and, where necessary, close any gaps in their knowledge.

In addition to the report you will receive following a standardised assessment point, you will also receive an Attitude to Learning grade for your child from each subject once every half term. We firmly believe that if a student attends regularly and works hard at all times, they will make good progress in all areas relevant to their own ability.

Excellent/good ATL grades (grade A or B) form the basis of our whole school rewards policy and students will be expected to have excellent/good attendance, behaviour and attitude to learning grades in order to be involved in reward trips and events.

Parent/carer consultation evenings will be held each year. These are a combination of on-line and face-to-face events giving you the opportunity to discuss your child's progress with their subject teachers. In addition, parents/carers are invited to meet with their child's form tutor early in the first term to discuss how well they have settled in and any concerns that you may have. Similarly all parents/carers are invited to meet with their child's form tutor in the final term to discuss progress made and address any concerns for the year ahead.

"You get a real sense of community here at Pittville. Since joining everyone has been so friendly and welcoming and made me feel like part of the team immediately." New member of staff

Teaching, learning, homework and enrichment

Teaching and learning is at the heart of our school. Challenge for all, high aspirations and expectations are a priority. Pittville is a reflective and collaborative school, and we place teaching at the forefront of all we do. The learning that takes place in the classroom is vital, as is the learning that takes place beyond it. Challenge for all, high aspirations and expectations are a priority and the acquisition of effective literacy and numeracy skills are supported across the curriculum.

Pittville School offers a broad range of enrichment opportunities including after-school clubs, independent study sessions, field trips and residential visits both home and abroad. Taking part in extra-curricular opportunities enables students to gain confidence, meet new people and develop interests.

Throughout their time at Pittville, students follow a Relationships, Sex & Health Education curriculum, which empowers students with the knowledge, skills and understanding to make healthy and safe life choices, develop positive relationships and respect diversity.

Students are set homework in all curriculum areas on a regular basis. Homework is set online via Microsoft Teams. The consistent focus of homework is retrieval of knowledge, preparation, or practice.



*"...The school's positive and happy ethos
is continuing to improve."* Ofsted 2019



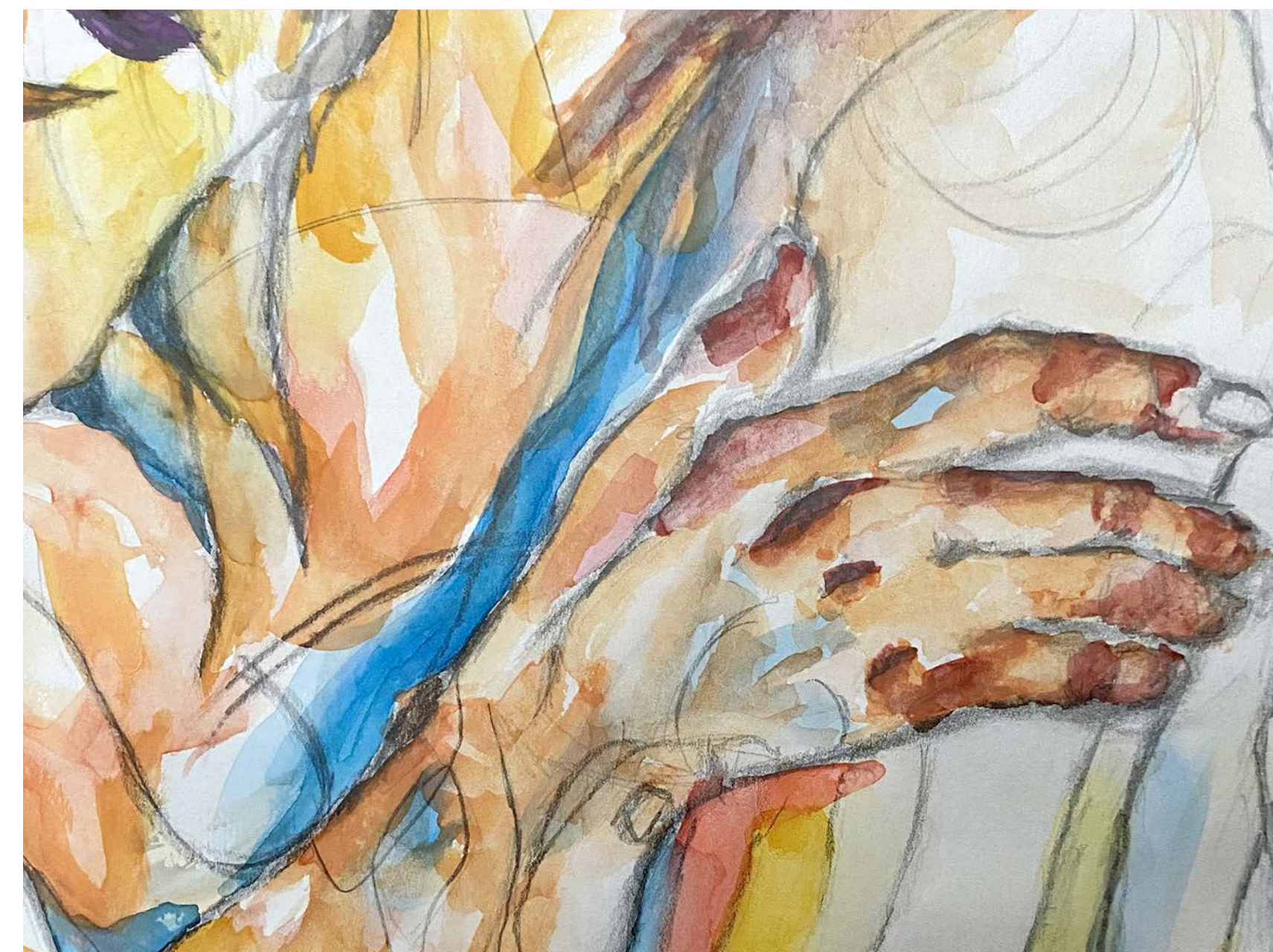
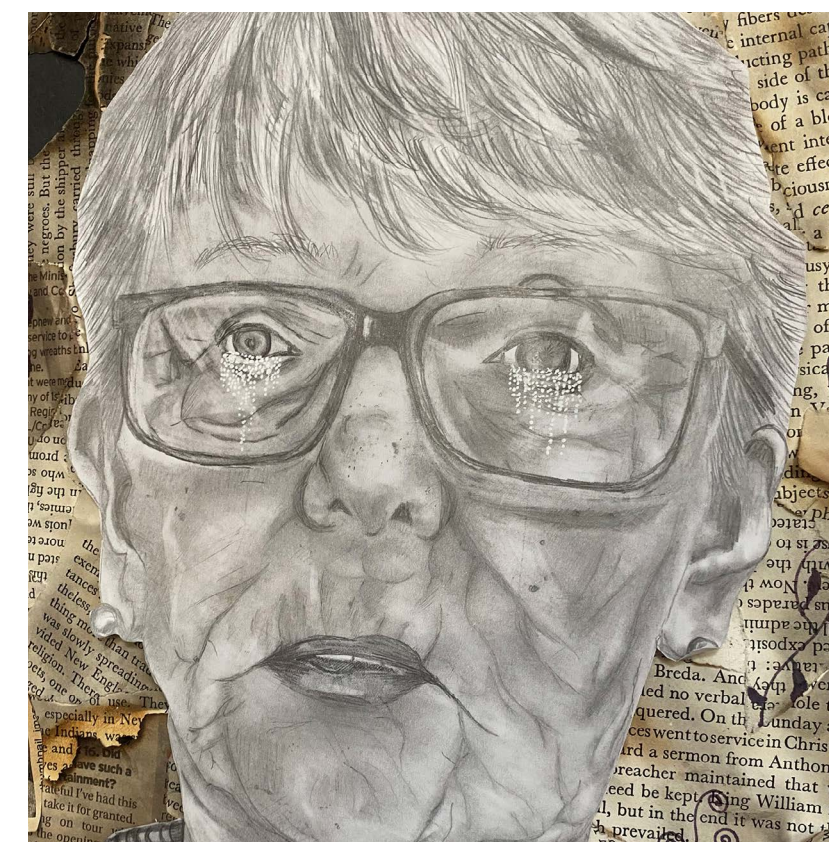
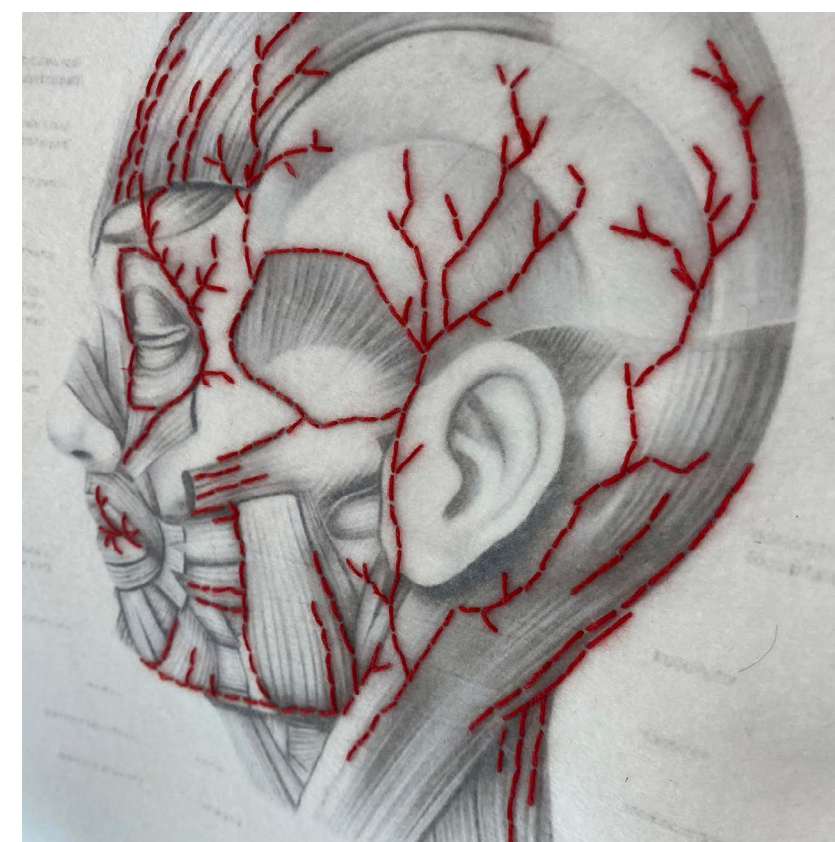
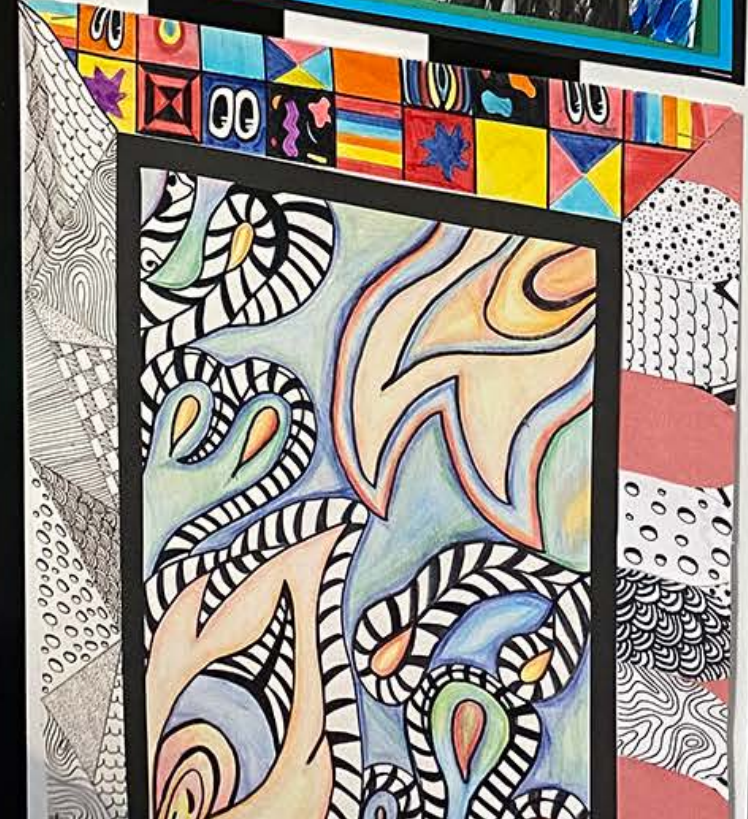
Pastoral care

A form tutor looks after each student and is the first point of contact for parents/carers. Tutors meet daily to discuss ideas about how school life can be improved with their tutor groups. All staff recognise the importance of effective pastoral and academic care and guidance in supporting young adults.

The house system extends our pastoral support: it is a focus for a range of exciting and challenging competitions that involve all curriculum areas. Each house gives students a strong sense of identity within our school community. Students regularly meet in their house for assemblies where the focus is on developing positive values and celebrating achievements. There are four houses: Abbott, Aston, Livingstone and Stokes. Each house has a head of house and a restorative practice lead who will support your child. We have an active student parliament which represents all year groups in the school. The parliament meets regularly.

We expect all students to do well at Pittville and there is a reward system for academic achievement, behaviour, good effort and attendance. In addition, Performing Arts have a discrete rewards system for acknowledging participation in public events. We are constantly looking at innovative ways to reward our students; we introduced a new reward tie system in September 2018.

Occasionally some students may need extra help and care. Access to mentors, welfare officers, support staff and, if necessary, outside agencies bring specialist knowledge and expertise to our work, consolidating the progress students make.





Parental and community engagement

A distinctive feature of Pittville School is the strength of the partnership that exists between home and school. Not only do we keep parents/carers fully informed through our reporting system, we also look to involve parents/carers as supportive partners in their children's education. For all our young people to achieve, an effective partnership between school and home is essential.

Parents are kept up to date with the latest information via a regular newsletter. Additional information is sent home via Edulink, our home-school communication application.

Our website is a valuable source of information for parents/carers and students as are our social media accounts.

We are always delighted to meet parents/carers to assist in supporting their children through the educational process or to offer advice and guidance as required.

"Pupils show high levels of respect, as a result of the school's teaching and successful promotion of tolerance".

Ofsted 2019



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