

Dear Parents/Carers,

We find ourselves here at the end of another academic year. Term 6 has been particularly eventful, comprising Sports Day, Refugee Week, 'Big Assembly' and a wide range of other activities and trips. We also bid a fond farewell to our Year 11 students to whom we extend our very best wishes for the future.

I wish you all a well-earned rest over the summer holidays, and I look forward to the seeing many of you again at the start of the new academic year in September.

Mr Gilpin

FAREWELLS

At this stage of the year, we inevitably have to say goodbye to some members of staff. We are sorry to lose Ms Brinkworth, Miss Cresswell, Mr Closson, Miss Dennis, Mrs Davies, Mr Eastwood, Miss Gifford, Miss Harte, Mr Presley and Mrs Wyatt and we thank them for everything they have contributed to our school community. We extend our very best wishes to all whether they are taking up new posts in September or embarking on what we hope will be a long and happy retirement.

SENIOR TEAM APPOINTMENTS

We are delighted to announce our Head Students and Senior Team appointments. It is a great honour to serve as a Head Student, prefect, or House Captain and our team does a fantastic job supporting the wider school community.

Head Boy: Walt; Head Girl: Eleanor

Deputy Head Boy: Stanley; Deputy Head Girl: Isobel

House Captains

Abbott House: George and Lily

Aston House: Will and Amelia

Stokes House: Kirsten and Jacob

Livingstone House: Livia and Calixte

We look forward to working with you in your new roles.

Mr Watkins

YEAR 10 MOCK EXAMS

With the Year 11 exams ending, Year 10 students took their turn in the hall for mock exams. It was a very busy couple of weeks and the students deserve to be congratulated for their mature and conscientious approach. Well done, Year 10.

Mrs Pitt

It was not only the exam hall that witnessed some great efforts from Year 10. Over in the tech block, Miss Fry was also impressed with how students applied themselves to a mock food practical exam, reporting that 68 students completed the exam and worked hard to achieve some great results. Parental support and engagement were most welcome and proved invaluable to the students. Thank you.

YEAR AHEAD MEETINGS

As we look ahead to next academic year, we would like to provide advance notice of our 'Year Ahead' Meetings that will take place in September and October.

In these meetings, we will share key information concerning the following areas:

- Our curriculum
- Reporting
- Assessment
- Communication
- Homework
- Revision strategies

The meetings will take place at 6-7pm on the following dates:

- Years 7 and 8 Year Ahead Meeting Monday 11th September
- Year 9 Tuesday 12th September
- Year 10 Wednesday 13th September
- Year 11 Wednesday 4th October

Mrs Kavanagh

YEAR 6 INDUCTION

On Wednesday 5th July, we were delighted to see a packed hall for our Induction Evening which began with talks from Mr Gilpin and Mr Kavanagh. This was followed by an early opportunity for our new Year 7 students to meet and spend a little time with their tutors.

The following day, students returned to experience taster lessons in a wide variety of subjects: art, dance, food technology, French, geography, ICT, English, Business Studies, maths, music, PE, drama, DT, history, and science. Our prefects and teaching assistants were on hand to ensure a smooth transition around the school.

As the extra day on Friday 7th was cancelled due to industrial action, we will devote Tuesday 5th September to ensuring that the induction process is completed. We look forward to welcoming all the students again as they continue the next stage of their academic journey.

Mr Kavanagh

ALUMNI

We are always pleased to hear how our ex-students are getting on. Recently we heard from Jay Patel who has finished his Aerospace engineering degree, achieving a First, and has now started his internship at Red Bull Formula 1 Racing in Milton Keynes.

Jay's parents wish to "thank all his teachers for all the help and guidance given to him during his time at Pittville. We really appreciate your support in where he is now."





Many congratulations Jay!

POST RESULTS DAY SUPPORT

Exam results day can bring with it many decisions that need to be made and this can, sometimes, involve several options to consider. Gloucestershire College have been in touch with the following information:

All campuses will be open on Friday 25th August between 10am-2pm for students and parents/carers to pop in and see us to talk to our experienced support teams about their next steps.

Staff from the college will be on hand to provide guidance on the best study options. If students have already made an application but want to make changes, they do not need to visit. They can simply contact the Admissions Team by emailing applications@gloscol.ac.uk.

There is more information available on our website: [Post Results Advice Day | Gloucestershire College \(gloscol.ac.uk\)](#)

Students can register their interest in advance for this support day by booking a space here: [Post Results Advice Day 2023 Tickets, Fri 25 Aug 2023 at 10:00 | Eventbrite](#)
However, booking isn't essential and students are welcome to drop in at any campus during the day.

STUDENT SUCCESS

You may recall in our last newsletter that we celebrated Finn Sutton's performance in the musical 'School of Rock' at the Everyman Theatre. Finn was also joined by Silvie Hambling and Harry Plaskitt. Amongst the sell-out audience was Mrs Fletcher-Sykes, who commented that "Silvie and Harry performed amazingly in their parts in 'School of Rock' over half term. This was a performance for Cheltenham Operatic and Dramatic Society (CODS) - a

supposedly amateur dramatics society but genuinely there was nothing amateur about how they sang, played guitar (Finn) and acted.”



SPORTING SUCCESS

Summer Sports Extravaganza – Mr Orton

Our students have taken advantage of the (mainly) sunny weather this term to really embrace the summer sports on offer. Our athletics clubs have seen students hone their running, jumping, and throwing skills and this has been reflected by some fantastic results in competitions. In particular, the Year 7 and 8 teams produced some brilliant medal winning performances at the Cheltenham & District Schools championships and all-round team results were extremely pleasing. We won medals in hurdles, long jump, sprints, middle distance, and relays, so a good range of events. Although Sports Day was disrupted by unfavourable weather, there was still time for Riley Lockey, Dougie Prosser, and Jacob to break longstanding records in the 1500mtrs, javelin and long jump respectively. Esme Rolfe (Y10) took bronze at the County Athletics champs in the 200mtrs and then finished 9th in the SW Counties combined events championships, competing in her first ever heptathlon, a few weeks later. It was a frustrating, injury-disrupted summer for our wonderful hurdles and combined events athlete - Ivayla Atanasova – but she will bounce back, I’m sure.

A consistently high number of students have participated in Friday night rounders practice. Our rounders teams, across all years, have seen plenty of action with matches against many of the Cheltenham district schools. Many outstanding performances contributed to some very pleasing wins. Our teams have also competed in district festivals and once again performances reflected the hard work that both students and teachers have put in across the summer term.

Tuesday afternoon cricket clubs have also been very popular, with students from all years getting plenty of practice in the nets and in small-sided games. Again, their progress was underlined by some exceptional results amongst a very busy fixtures list. Our Y10 team just missed out on qualification for the semi-finals – losing out by just 12 runs. After many seasons of defeat, the victory over Tewkesbury was particularly enjoyable for the boys (and Mr Nicholls). In the younger years, our Y7 and Y8 teams enjoyed mixed results but again the progress across the length of the term was plain to see. I must mention Ethan Clarke and Charlie Watts who not only played in all games for Y7 but also played up a year in all but one game for the Y8 team.

I would personally like to congratulate and commend all the wonderful Pittville students who have represented the school so brilliantly this summer. We are so proud of you all!

As we near the end of term, our thoughts start stretching ahead to the autumn when rugby, netball, football and cross-country matches and competitions beckon. I hope even more of you get involved.

We continue to expand our provision of school clubs, fixtures and competitions, offering as many opportunities as possible to ensure that students remain physically active and healthy. Please check out the noticeboards for news of what's going on!

On behalf of the department, I would like to wish you all a lovely summer holiday and look forward to seeing you back on the sports fields in September. Mr Orton



SPORTS TOUR

In June, Mrs Crowe and Mrs Bury-Brunsdon took several students to Cardiff for a sports tour. Mrs Crowe writes that the students "were an absolute pleasure to take with us. The girls competed in both rounders and netball matches over the three days and came away almost undefeated – the best tour results we have ever had!" Results were as follows:

Merchants High School - Rounders– 24-15 ½ - Won
Bedwas High School – Rounders – 32 ½ - 19 ½ - Won
Bedwas High School – Netball - 10 -1 – Won
Bedwas High School – Netball – 15 – 6 – Won
Howell's School – 18 ½ - 18 ½ - Drew
Howell's School – 25 ½ - 14 ½ - Lost

The final school that we visited was an independent school, so we were happy with a draw and a loss! Player of the Match awards went to Martyna Dolan, Edie Hawkins, Poppy Alsop, and Amelia Drewett.





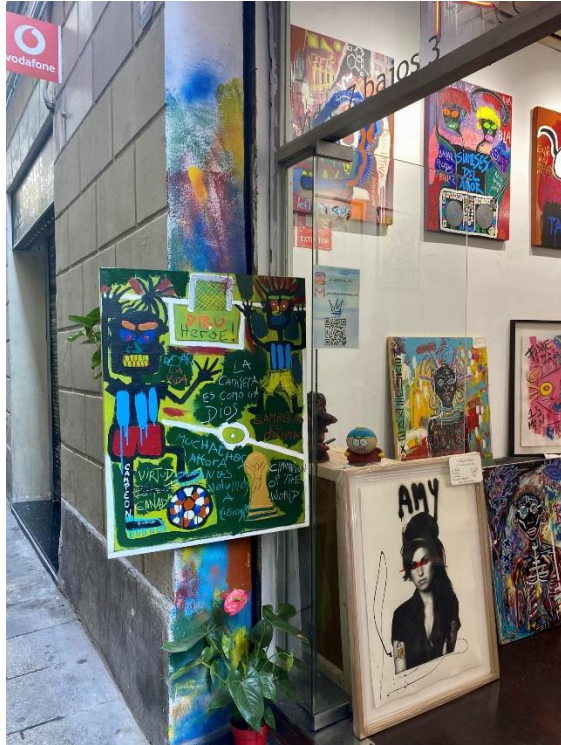
Well done to everyone who took part, a great effort!

BARCELONA

Forty year 10 students spent four days in Barcelona. What a fabulous time we all had! Students behaved themselves impeccably and were an absolute credit to the school. In the hot sun, we walked and used the metro to explore Barcelona from our chic hostel. We went to various independent restaurants, experienced the culinary delights of the Boqueirao, and cooled down in Barceloneta beach and Montjuic open air swimming pool. Students had a guided visit of the Sagrada Familia, and the Picasso museum, and we even found time to watch a Flamenco show in Plaza Real. Students and staff will have many positive memories from this trip! Staff couldn't be prouder of these students. Bring on Barcelona 2024! Mr Litherland

The photos look amazing, making selection for the newsletter very difficult!







INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE DAY – THE BIG ASSEMBLY

At Pittville, we respect our many refugee students and their families and celebrate their creativity, resilience, and contributions to our school community every day of the year, because doing this during just one week of the year is simply not enough.

In February, our Ukrainian students wanted to mark the year of the unjust war, which was started by Russia invading Ukraine in 2022. They prepared and delivered assemblies to all houses, educating their peers about the real struggle their nation is going through.

This year, Refugee Week had the theme of Empathy. As part of the Simple Acts initiative, we had the word of the week as "empathy" which is what we want our students and staff to feel about all adults and children who are on their journey to safety from war, political prosecution, famine, and natural disasters.

Another initiative was to write a message: during their English lessons, KS3 students have written letters and messages to all refugees offering them love, courage and hope for journeys to safety. They have made paper boats out of their messages, which are displayed in a giant mobile in the library. Watching short documentary clips in tutor periods and subject classes allowed students to be part of the refugees' experience, as we all know that moving images messages are extremely powerful.

On 20th June, International Refugee Day, the whole school joined the Great Big Live Assembly, organised by the Sanctuary Foundation and we all felt a part of the live broadcast discussion with teenagers who live in a refugee camp in Jordan. The Syrian teenagers shared their stories and spoke about the importance of education in their difficult circumstances. Mrs Davies



Paper boats mobile display in the library – boats contain messages of love, courage and hope for a safe journey from KS3 students to refugees

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD SCHEME

The Duke of Edinburgh programme at Pittville has had another successful year, putting 26 students through the Bronze Award and 21 through Silver. We've been off adventuring in the Black Mountains, on a very wet Silver expedition in April, followed by another less damp and thoroughly enjoyable trip to the Brecon Beacons.

The Year 9s worked hard on their expedition this term in the Cotswolds and showed plenty of potential to take on the challenge at Silver level next year.

There have been several notable students in Year 11 who have left on a high - Jess Morris, Nay Harkness and Ceitidh MacLeod - all receiving extra awards for their terrific attitude and other achievements throughout their time doing the DofE at Pittville.

We are also happy to announce a 'DofE Week' commencing on the 11th September. This will include drop-in sessions for students interested in signing up for the year, some light camping activities in the grounds, and a big promotional push for us to get as many students involved as possible.

Onwards and upwards for the participants of 2023/24 which is looking like a bumper year for us already. Congratulations to all the students who have worked so hard in and out of school. Finally, a huge thank you to staff and parents who put in their time to make this award a shining light in the school's extra-curricular armoury!

PRIDE

June is Pride Month where people across the country celebrate and commemorate the LGBTQ+ community. Pride Month began after the Stonewall riots, a series of gay liberation protests in 1969, and has since spread across the world. Building on the success of our first Pittville Pride parade last year, we wanted to continue the great work that has been done this year by Mr Apperley-Tibbotts and the Pride lunchtime club, alongside Mrs Bury-Brunsdon and the Change group, by holding another parade with entertainment afterwards.

The parade was open to anyone who wished to join and, like last year, students worked hard to create placards and banners for the parade which they made after school in the art department. Despite our fairly typical summer weather, we were not deterred by the rain! The parade went ahead and was bigger and louder than last year with students dressed in their brightest clothes and playing instruments kindly loaned by the music department. We paraded around school, cheered on by students who, although not participating, stepped out of their classrooms to clap and show their support.

The parade continued into Pittville Park where dog walkers could not help but smile in appreciation of the joy expressed by our young people. After the parade we returned to school where we were treated to a performance by Keanan Sayce, one of our ex-pupils, now a successful rap artist who was about to travel to Dublin the next day to support Calvin Harris in concert! He is also one of the faces of the new Coca Cola campaign. We are very proud of his achievements and grateful for his time.

After enjoying Keanan's performance and listening to his inspirational speech, the children joined in a huge zumba session with Mrs Crowe, followed by a rendition of the Jerusalem dance. Thanks also to FOPS whose tuck shop offered some welcome refreshment! Pittville is well known in Cheltenham for the work it does to celebrate diversity and equality, and our annual Pittville Pride is a key part of that. Here's to next year! Miss Allan.





ART AND DT END OF YEAR SHOW



Afternoon tea reward for hard working students in the art, design, and technology faculty.

Well done to selected year 7, 8 and 9 students who spent the day preparing cooking and serving some fantastic food. Guests were impressed by the quality and professionalism of the students serving during the afternoon. Rain made us move to a classroom 10 minutes before guests arrived!

Miss Fry

The Art & Textiles department were incredibly proud of the KS3 sketchbooks and home learning work that was on display during our end of year show. We all found it very hard to select only 5 students each from KS3. We could have chosen dozens - what a talented bunch of students we have!

It was lovely to see some of our year 11 come to show their family all their hard work from the last three years in Art & Textiles. Parents and family members were absolutely amazed by the standard of work.

At the end of a busy year, it was so nice to celebrate all the hard work our students have put in across the department. Miss King.







ANIMAL AID

Karen Wilson, a speaker from Animal Aid, came into school to talk to Year 9 about vegetarian and veganism. She explained the variety of reasons people became vegans along with many other interesting facts. The talk was followed by a demonstration of vegan chilli and nachos that students sampled, along with vegan sausage rolls at the end of the session.

Next year we aim to balance this learning by inviting a local farmer into school to discuss meat production.



FOPS NEWS

Another year is almost complete! The Year 11's are done with their exams, the foreign school trips have returned in full swing for this year and we have completed our first event as part of the North Cheltenham Schools & Communities team at the recent Summer Festival held at Pittville School alongside Dunalley, St Johns and Holy Trinity.

We have enjoyed supporting multiple departments this term including:

- Outdoor play equipment for Year 7's
- Supporting a new Outdoor club
- Yr11 Prom tickets
- Yr11 prom rewards (hair and beauty treatments)

The big-ticket item that we are working towards is to help school with a new minibus - as you can imagine, this is no small task! We couldn't achieve any of these things without your generosity so please continue to support us in whatever way you can. One-off or regular donations to FOPS can be made via InvestMyCommunity. Please remember to make a Gift Aid declaration and keep an eye out for details of a new way to donate from September – think ParentPay!

As always, we would love some more helpers either on a one off or a regular basis. If you think you can spare some time, do let us know! A reminder of where you can find us or how to contact us:

Instagram: @friendsofpittvilleschool Facebook: Pittville FOPS (was PTFA) message board
Email: fops.pittville@gmail.com

LIBRARY NEWS

We have had some fantastic reading achievements from our students this term. Zach Browne in year 7 has read over six million words this year, so many words that we have had to make a new AR badge to reward his accomplishment! Zach has taken 81 book quizzes and passed them all! Well done, Zach!

Leah Capewell in year 8 has read over 5 million words and recently raised the most money for our school Readathon. Well done Leah on your fundraising for Read for Good. This was a fantastic effort.



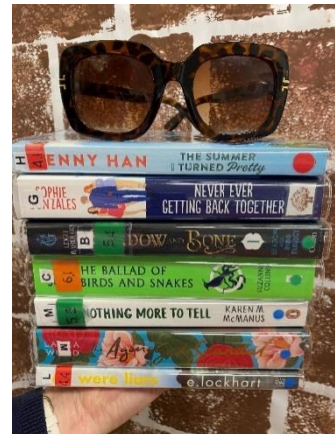
Bronze Reading awards have been completed by Zach Browne, Isobel Davies, Evie Jones and Leah Capewell. This is an amazing achievement, huge congratulations to you all.



Summer reading suggestions for years 7 and 8.

Summer reading suggestion for years 9 and up.

All titles are available from the library.
Have a wonderful summer!
Ms Brinkworth



JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Interested in working in a school and supporting our students?

We are looking to expand our team of Teaching Assistants at Pittville and would like to hear from you if you feel this is an area you would like to explore. We are also looking for additional cleaning staff to join our team; again, if this is an area of interest to you, we would like to hear from you. Please visit the vacancies page on our website for more details.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES

Stuck for ideas for the summer holidays? We have some suggestions.

New Brewery Arts are running a wide range of events this summer: talks, pop-ups, drop-ins, demonstrations, and fairs, creating new connections for local charities, families and community groups, including free family events with Let's Make Art and Cotswold Cre8.



Gloucestershire County Council are also on hand this summer, running the Holiday Activities and Food Programme for four weeks during the school holidays to help keep children in Gloucestershire happy, healthy, and entertained with free activities. You may have already seen this via an edulink message.



Gloucestershire Libraries are also running events this summer.



The Library Challenge aims to encourage children aged 3 to 12 and their families to discover everything their library service has to offer.

Children can find out what their library means to them by completing a range of tasks, including reading any books they choose, taking part in events and getting into nature.

Participants will receive incentives and prizes along the way, with a firm focus on discovering new interests and having fun.

Running from 15 July to 16 September 2023, The Library Challenge aims to encourage children and families to access their local library services and celebrate their own journey.

The theme is music and there will be plenty of tuneful fun and excitement to be had, with a whole host of events happening across the county.

They will include interactive theatre performances from the Everyman, instrument crafts and musical workshops highlighting a range of different musical genres.

Joining The Library Challenge is free and all 40 libraries across the county will be taking part.

Library membership is also free to any resident in Gloucestershire or neighbouring county. To sign up for The Library Challenge, visit your local library from Saturday July 15 or at any point during the summer and speak to a friendly member of the team.

Visit gloucestershire.gov.uk/libraries/thelibrarychallenge to find out more and you can also follow Gloucestershire Libraries on social media for updates. To find events and activities happening in your local library this summer and beyond, and to book your places for free, go to gloucestershire.spydus.co.uk



SUMMER HOLIDAYS INSPIRATION

A WHAT'S ON GUIDE FOR FAMILIES TO FIND
THINGS TO DO IN THE LOCAL AREA

www.cheltenhamrocks.co.uk



SUMMER HOLIDAY FUN

Summer is here and we are SO excited to be sharing with you all the brilliant days out, places to eat, events and the free events you can be doing over Gloucestershire this Summer holidays. Keep us in your pocket for daily inspiration and ideas!

We update our website daily with everything happening in Gloucestershire - You can also find us at Gloucester Rocks, Cirencester Rocks and Stroud Rocks

[Visit our website to find out more](#)

FLOWER FIELDS AND WALKS

We've added some new parks, walks and play areas to the website, so there are even more local places to explore this summer. Plus, don't forget those beautiful flower fields for those summer photos.

[Click here to see our Flower Fields Article](#)

[Click here or follow the green Parks and Walks button on the website.](#)



HOLIDAY CLUBS

If you're looking for last minute clubs or activity camps over the summer holidays, then we have you covered. you can find ideas in our Holiday Club article.

[Click here to browse our Holiday Clubs guide](#)

KIDS EAT FREE

[CLICK TO FIND OUT](#)



www.cheltenhamrocks.co.uk



PARKING

We have received some comments from residents about parents/carers blocking drives when collecting or dropping off children near to school. We are also concerned that some parking is blocking cycle lanes and forcing students into the road. We would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the need to adhere to highway regulations and respect the local community when you are driving to and from our school and to be considerate of cyclists when parking near the site.

EXAM INVIGILATORS

Interested in working in a school and supporting our students?

We are looking to expand our pool of casual invigilators to work under the guidance of the Examinations Officer; the role will involve supervision of students who are undertaking examinations during May and June each year. You may also be required to work at certain other times throughout the year to help invigilate internal school exams.

The post would be ideally suited to applicants who are calm, approachable, reliable, and punctual with a flexible attitude and good communication skills. Candidates will also be required to understand the need for confidentiality.

Duties will include supervising pupils taking exams, supervising clash candidates between exam sittings, preparing exam rooms, and distributing and collecting exam papers in accordance with the JCQ regulations. This is a casual contract and working hours will be negotiated for each exam period. Hourly rate is £10.60.

If you are interested, please download an application form from our website www.pittville.gloucs.sch.uk or email jobs@pittville.gloucs.sch.uk

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 direct dial or by emailing 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 detailing the time, what the appointment is for, who will be collecting the student, and the expected time of return.

Dates for your diary:

Monday 4 th September	Staff Inset Day
Tuesday 5 th September	Year 7 and 11 only in school
Monday 11 th September	Year 7 and 8 year ahead evening
Tuesday 12 th September	Year 9 year ahead evening
Wednesday 13 th September	Year 10 year ahead evening
Tuesday 19 th September	Year 7 disco
Monday 25 th September	Open Week
Wednesday 27 th September	Open Evening
Wednesday 4 th October	Year 11 year ahead evening
Thursday 5 th October	Year 7 tutor evening
Thursday 26 th October	Achievement Evening
Friday 27 th October	Staff Inset Day – end of term one

STAY IN TOUCH

Follow us on:



Friends of Pittville:



Pittville performing arts



Could you be a Homes for Ukraine champion?

Join the many generous Gloucestershire people
who have opened their homes to those
fleeing the war in Ukraine.

We need people who have a spare room or two, an annexe, or even another property, to house a Ukrainian family and help them rebuild their lives.

Hundreds of Ukrainian guests have so far regained their independence and settled in Gloucestershire with the help of our champion hosts, and here's how you can help:

Sign up to express an interest in hosting. Find out more online or book an informal chat with the Gloucestershire Homes for Ukraine team.

The Homes for Ukraine team would then let you know about guests who match your household.

Meet the guests and get to know them before deciding whether to go ahead with hosting.

Hosting agreements are very flexible, and the Homes for Ukraine team are available to assist and advise you every step of the way.

All hosts receive payments of £600 per month to thank you for your help and to cover any additional household expenses. These payments are tax free, and hosting will not impact your council tax.

For more information or if you have any questions, please contact us via HFUTeam@gloucestershire.gov.uk



Register your interest today:

Visit <https://apply-to-offer-homes-for-ukraine.service.gov.uk>
or scan the QR code to express your interest in becoming a
Homes for Ukraine champion!

HFUTeam@gloucestershire.gov.uk
www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/ukrainian-support



Gloucestershire
COUNTY COUNCIL