

NEWSLETTER – Term 1 2023

Part 1

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this first newsletter of the school year finds you well and that the summer break was a welcome opportunity 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 each 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 throughout 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

EXAM RESULTS

We are delighted to report improved results at Pittville this year. This year English results have risen to 69% of students achieving a grade 4 and above and 63% achieving a grade 4 and above in maths. Over a third of students achieved a grade 5 or above in both English and maths.

The proportion of students achieving the top grades has also increased with almost a fifth of all grades being grades 9-7. There was significant improvement in the number of students achieving 5 GCSE grades including English and maths at grades 4 and 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 with 85 grades at grade 8 or 9.

Congratulations to Ceitidh MacLeod who achieved 9 grade 9s and Henry Young who achieved 7 grade 9s.

Many congratulations to all our students; we are delighted for all those students who have worked so hard to achieve the results they need in order to embark upon the next stage of their education.

A huge thank-you to all our staff who have worked tirelessly to support our students to achieve their potential.



WELCOME

We would like to extend a warm welcome to the following members of staff joining us this term: Miss Bailey; Mrs Chavva; Mrs Hibbert; Miss Luis; Mrs Morgan; Mrs Platt; Ms Rajesh; Ms Shore and Mr Zhao. We look forward to getting you know as the year progresses.

ATTENDANCE

Thank you for an excellent start to the year with regards to attendance. Our students have returned, and attendance is high. 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.

WEBSITE LAUNCH

You may have noticed already that we have undergone some changes over the summer. We have a new website and some new logos. To reflect the ethos of our school our new logo contains our core values of ambition, respect, honesty, and kindness.



Please look at our new website and let us know what you think.

As always, your feedback is appreciated.

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. We are aware that some parents/carers are experiencing difficulties with uniform supplies. We understand this is a busy time of year for our suppliers and ask that you continue to keep us informed.

Can I take this opportunity to remind you that students use black ink pens, and this is therefore an essential part of their basic equipment. If you need any clarification on the uniform, PE kit or equipment requirements please visit our website, 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.

YEAR 7 – MEET YOUR TUTOR EVENING

Meet Your Tutor Evening is an ideal opportunity for year 7 parents/carers to meet their child's tutor, ask questions and assess how their child is adapting to secondary school. This will take place on Thursday, 5th October. Appointments will be available to book soon. Please look out for more information on Edulink. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on this evening.

OPEN WEEK

During the week commencing Monday 25th September we will be conducting tours of the school with prospective students, parents, and carers. Mr Gilpin really looks forward to this week and it is always a joy to share the excellent teaching and learning that happens here at Pittville. If you are aware of someone who might be interested in taking a tour please ask them to contact us to make an appointment. Tours are available at 9am, 11.30am and 2.15pm.

In addition to the daytime tours there is an open evening, on Wednesday 27th September between 6pm and 8pm. No appointments are necessary for the open evening. 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. Head teacher talks will be delivered at 6.15pm in the main hall and again at 7.15pm. It is expected to be a busy evening and we look forward to sharing our wonderful school and how we work.

DISCOS

We value the support we receive from FOPS, Friends of Pittville School, and one of the many fundraising opportunities that FOPS organises is the Year 7 and Year 8 disco. Y7 is scheduled to take place on Thursday 12TH October at 7pm and Y8 on Thursday 9th November at 7pm. Look out for regular articles and future events from FOPS in the newsletters.

FOPS

Greetings from the Friends of Pittville School!

We hope you had a wonderful summer break and are ready to kick off the new academic year. Here's an update on what's in store for the upcoming half-term:

- **Monthly Tuck Shop:** On the 29th of September we will have our monthly tuck shop available after school at both the Cakebridge Road and Albert Road entrances.
- **Uniform sale at Yr7 Progress evening:** Need any spare uniform and PE kit? Come and see us for any extra items on 5th October.
- **Year 7 Disco:** Get ready to dance on the 12th of October at the Year 7 disco.
- **FoPS Meeting:** Join us on the 18th of October at The Plough for the first FoPS meeting of the academic year at 7pm.
- **Year 8 Disco:** Mark your calendar for the 9th of November, when we'll host the Year 8 disco.

We're always on the lookout for additional volunteers, whether you can spare a little or a lot of your time. If you're interested in helping out, please use this [google form](#) to let us know.

How else can you support us?

There are numerous ways you can show your support for us, even if you have limited spare time:

- **Join [The School Lottery](#):** Participate for a chance to win the top prize of £25,000, with over 70% of your entry amount contributing to FOPs.
- **Feel Good Donations:** If you'd like to contribute to FOPs without the hassle of dedicating your time, consider using [GoodHub](#) (formerly InvestMyCommunity). You can set up one-time or recurring donations, and we can claim gift aid on your contributions. Even as little as £2 per month can make a significant difference.
- **Employer Matching:** If your organisation offers fund matching, please get in touch with us!
- **Clothes Recycling:** Have clothes to recycle? Drop them into our green clothes recycling bins located in the top car park by the netball courts. These items are collected, weighed, and recycled, and we receive a donation based on the weight.
- **Uniform Donations:** If you have outgrown uniforms, consider donating them back to us for resale.
- **Easyfundraising for Online Shopping:** Shop online? Sign up for [Easyfundraising](#) to earn cashback on your purchases, with the proceeds benefiting us.
- **Coming Soon - ParentPay Donations:** Stay tuned for the upcoming option to donate to FOPs through ParentPay.

Your support in any of these ways is greatly appreciated!

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

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

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 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 12 th October	Year 7 disco
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

