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Headteacher Richard Gilpin

NEWSLETTER – Term 2 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are at the end of another busy term, and I hope this newsletter finds you well and prepared for the Christmas break. On behalf of the entire Pittville School community, I would like to wish you all a safe and happy festive season. I look forward to all that Term 3 brings when we return on Monday, 8th January 2024.

Kind regards,

R Gilpin
Headteacher

CEP UPDATE

It has been another busy term for CEP events, and it is great to see so many Pittville students engaging with the opportunities available.

On Monday, 20th November a group of students attended a 'Spill The Tea' event at All Saints' Academy. Nemindi Manthrivithana, 10Ab1 reports:

"Headline: Unveiling the Visionary: Abbie Foster, Founder of Elent, Inspires with Innovation

At the heart of innovation and technology, a beacon of inspiration emerged as we had the privilege of meeting Abbie Foster, the brilliant mind behind Elent, a company that is reshaping the landscape of the tech industry. In an exclusive interview, Miss Foster shared her insights, dreams, and the journey that led to the creation of Elent.

Abbie Foster, a visionary entrepreneur, founded Elent with a mission to help eradicate inequalities in our society by making financial education accessible to all from an early age. Its aim is to eliminate societal inequality using finance education to empower the next generation while striving to influence the rise in young people's engagement in finance. During the workshop, Miss Foster emphasized the importance young people's understanding of finance. She believes that financial education should be accessible to young people.

Miss Foster also emphasized the significance of financial inclusion. "We aim to democratize finance, making sophisticated financial tools accessible to everyone," she

explained. Elent Finance's initiatives focus on creating financial solutions that cater to a diverse range of users, empowering individuals to take control of their financial destinies.

Beyond her commitment to financial education, Abbie Foster is an advocate for ethical financial practices and transparency. Elent Finance's operations are guided by principles that prioritize integrity and accountability, setting a standard for responsible financial services in the digital age.

As we concluded our workshop with Abbie Foster, it became clear that Elent Finance is not merely a company; it is a catalyst for change in the financial world. With Miss Foster at the helm, Elent is poised to continue its journey of redefining financial landscapes, setting new standards for innovation, accessibility, and ethical practices in the ever-evolving world."



On Monday 11th December, we hosted a joint CEP and Civic Society event here at Pittville School. In R16 a creative writing workshop was enjoyed by several students and in the library a '*What is democracy?*' meeting took place. Nemindi shares her thoughts:

"Exploring the Foundations of Democracy: A Recap of the Civic Society Meeting.

Last Monday's Civic Society meeting was nothing short of enlightening as students gathered to delve into the intricacies of democracy. The session aimed to broaden our understanding of this foundational concept and explore the several types of democracy that shape societies around the world.

The meeting commenced with a warm welcome from our Civic Society advisor, who emphasized the importance of civic engagement and the role it plays in shaping the future of our community and beyond. The focus of the gathering was to unravel the

complex tapestry of democracy and understand how it manifests in different forms across the globe.

One of the key takeaways from the meeting was the exploration of the distinct types of democracy. The speaker delved into representative democracy, where citizens elect representatives to make decisions on their behalf. This form of democracy, common in many modern nations, ensures that the voice of the people is heard through elected officials who represent their interests.

Furthermore, the meeting shed light on participatory democracy, emphasizing the active involvement of citizens in decision-making at all levels. This model encourages community engagement and collaboration, fostering a sense of responsibility and ownership among the population. The engaging presentation was followed by an interactive Q&A session where students had the opportunity to pose questions and share their thoughts. The discussions ranged from the historical evolution of democracy to its practical applications in different countries.

As we left the meeting, there was a palpable sense of awareness and curiosity among attendees. The Civic Society succeeded in fostering a deeper understanding of democracy and its diverse manifestations. It was a reminder that democracy is not just a political system but a living, evolving concept that requires the active participation of informed and engaged citizens.

In conclusion, Monday's Civic Society meeting was a valuable journey into the heart of democracy. The insights gained will undoubtedly contribute to our growth as informed and responsible citizens, empowering us to play an active role in shaping the democratic landscape of our community and beyond. We look forward to future meetings that promise to unravel more layers of civic knowledge and inspire us to be agents of positive change."

Great work all, well done and thank you to Nemindi, Mrs Davies.

NASAL FLU VACCINES

Thank you for your support with the recent whole-school vaccination programme. The NHS team that visited the school reported that all students behaved in a polite and positive manner throughout the three days. Thank you to all our students for demonstrating our values of respect, honesty, and kindness. Mr Gilpin.

Y11 PHOTOGRAPHS

Year 11 students are due to have their photographs taken on Tuesday, 9th January, 2024. We look forward to seeing our Year 11 cohort looking smart for their final year school photograph at Pittville. Mr Watkins.

VACANCIES

We are currently seeking to recruit several staff to join our team here at Pittville. If you have any questions or have an interest in any of the following positions, please email jobs@pittville.gloucs.sch.uk

Site Assistant – 37 hours per week on a rotated shift pattern covering 7am – 7pm. Permanent

DT Technician – 21 hours term time only. Permanent

Receptionist – 37 hours term time only. Permanent

Invigilators – various hours. Zero hours contacts

SCHOOL CATERING

The results of a recent student survey told us that our students really enjoy the food at school which we are very pleased to hear.

Our new menus (with prices) and menu cycle for next term are now on our school website and ParentPay.

Please talk to your child(ren) and review any daily limits you have requested. If you wish to change any daily limits, please contact the catering team by calling the school on 01242 524787 and choosing option 6.

COOKING WORKSHOPS

Over in Food Tech some Y7 students took part in the first after-school cooking workshops for 2023/24. Students made mincemeat puff pastry Christmas trees and decorated them with glaze icing. The results looked amazing.



Well done to Ella-Louise Bradbury, Amelia Thom and Theo Jallow, who worked so confidently. Miss Fry predicts future bake-off contestants!

Congratulations to all our Year 7 students that took part.

Look out for more cooking workshops near Easter and in the summer term.

MFL LANGUAGE CHAMPIONS

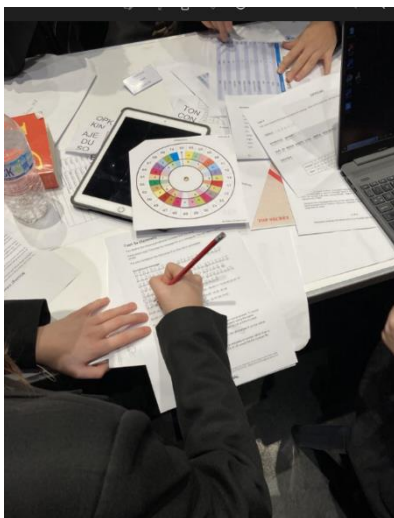
On Monday, 20th November 2023 a group of Year 10 GCSE Language students went to a secret location in Bristol to take part in a GCHQ career in languages event.

As I am sure you are aware, GCHQ plays a part in the fight against terrorism, drug trafficking, and other forms of serious crime, as well as providing support to military operations across the world. Working with the UK's international partners, they help inform UK policy on a range of security topics. They employ a large team of language analysts covering a wide range of languages to help them. GCHQ set a theme for the day based on one of the above areas and students were set a number of tasks using their languages to uncover details about an international crime. Miss Codling.

Damien and Daisy report:

"GCHQ The Word is not Enough – Language Champions!"

Recently, we were selected to participate in an MFL trip. We went to Bristol Grammar School, and GCHQ set us special challenges and tasks throughout the day to test and further our language abilities. The majority of the tasks were decoding sentences and phrases into English. We had to use French, Spanish, German and Russian. One of the best things about the trip was the language taster we did at the beginning of the day. Our group split into 3 groups to do either Korean, Arabic, or Mandarin Chinese. One of us did the Arabic taster, which was really interesting, and the other did the Chinese taster session and learned basic numbers and introductions. We learned some basic phrases and numbers for the task we did later. It was really informative. After the taster we met back up with our group to get started on the main task, which was to get information about a crime with our language skills. We enjoyed meeting with other groups to discuss our ideas but also working on the task as a team. At the end of the day, we did a presentation about the task using information about France we had prepared before the trip. Over the day we were also given points depending on how well we did our tasks, and at the end it was revealed that our group had won. We were each given a £10 amazon voucher and a certificate. Overall, it was an incredibly fun and informative day, and everyone thoroughly enjoyed their time there."



SPORTS NEWS








Following a qualifying race at St Edwards School in November, Jack Shingler, 7Li1, recently took part in the county cross country championships at Newent School. We are proud to report that Jack won his event and has now been selected to represent the county, as part of a team of 10 Year 7 athletes in the Southwest Championships on 3rd February, 2024. Well done, Jack. Mr Beadle.

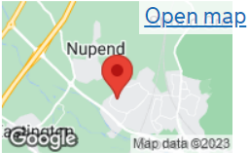


CAREERS NOTICES

What's coming up next half term:

Cleeve School Sixth Form Open Evening https://www.cleeveschool.net/Welcome-to-Cleeve-Sixth-Form/	Wednesday 10 th January
Balcarras Sixth Form Open Evening https://www.balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk/page/?title=Sixth+Form&pid=8	Thursday 18 th January
Ontic Apprenticeships Open Event https://ontic.wd3.myworkdayjobs.com/OnticCareers/job/Bishops-Cleeve-Gloucestershire/Routes-into-Engineering---Apprentices-2024_R2929	Wednesday 24 th January
Bournside Sixth Form Open Evening https://www.bournside.gloucs.sch.uk/sixth-form/sixth-form-open-evening/	Thursday 25 th January
Mira Showers Engineering Apprenticeship application closing date	Friday 9 th February

<p><u>Engineering Apprenticeship</u></p> <p>KOHLER MIRA LIMITED (Added 09 Oct 2023 - 3 positions available)</p> <p>You will learn and obtain experience in the fundamentals of either mechanical or electrical engineering or a combination of the two. Your Apprenticeship will last for a minimum of 3 years, during which time you will rotate around the wide range of engineering teams across our business.</p> <p>Distance: 0.5 miles ▶ Journey time Closing date: 09 Feb 2024 Possible start date: 02 Sep 2024</p> 	
<p>Babcock Engineering Apprenticeship – application deadline <u>Communications Engineering Apprenticeship</u></p> <p>Babcock International (Added 08 Nov 2023 - 1 position available)</p> <p>Join Babcock as a Communications Engineering Apprentice and enter the innovative world of IT and communication systems as you build the skills needed for an exciting future in communications engineering. On this 3-year apprenticeship programme, you'll get to work on all types of communication equipment, IT and computer networks, repairing and restoring vital communication systems and services for our customers.</p> <p>Distance: 5.7 miles ▶ Journey time Closing date: 15 Mar 2024 Possible start date: 01 Sep 2024</p> <p> disability  confident About disability confident</p> 	<p>Friday 15th March</p>
<p>Vodafone Engineering Apprenticeship – deadline https://careers.vodafone.com/uk/routes-into-vodafone/apprenticeships/ <u>Field Engineer Apprenticeship (Gloucester)</u></p> <p>VODAFONE LIMITED (Added 23 Oct 2023 - 2 positions available)</p> <p>Start your career at Vodafone Embrace new advancements. And we'll develop your skills. With hands-on education, real-world qualifications, and programmes covering an array of new and exciting business areas, apprenticeships aren't what they used to be. At Vodafone, they're so much more.</p> <p>Distance: 7.8 miles ▶ Journey time Closing date: 28 Feb 2024 Possible start date: 01 Sep 2024</p> <p> disability  confident About disability confident</p> 	<p>Wednesday 28th February</p>
<p>Schlumberger CAD Apprenticeship – application deadline</p>	<p>Friday 1st March</p>

<p><u>Apprentice Mechanical CAD</u> SCHLUMBERGER OILFIELD UK PLC (Added 02 Oct 2023 - 1 position available)</p> <p>The Mechanical CAD Designer is responsible for preparing and maintaining engineering or sustaining project design layouts, production drawings and other related documentation per ISO/ANSI and SLB standards, considering methods of manufacture, tolerance, geometric control and their effect on related parts or assemblies</p> <p>Distance: 14.7 miles ▶ Journey time Closing date: 01 Mar 2024 Possible start date: 09 Sep 2024</p> 	
<p>NHS Healthcare Science Event Location tbc. Open to Year 9 Students and parents/carers. Email gghn-tr.careers@nhs.net to register your interest</p>	<p>Saturday 9th March</p>

A CHRISTMAS CAROL – SCHOOL PRODUCTION

This year we took on the challenge of not only doing a modern adaptation of a classic, but also putting it on over three nights! Once again, the students of Pittville School rose to the challenge, and performed brilliantly each night.

The entire process was a joy, from adapting the script to working with the entire cast and crew. There was a real sense of teamwork within the cast and when one member fell ill on the Wednesday, the pupils quickly pulled together, with a level of maturity and professionalism that ensured the show still went on.

We also had a huge amount of support from other students, with Ella-Mai Griffin doing the make-up each night. We are also incredibly grateful for the hard work and dedication that were given by Ellie-May Didcote and Dylan Sandey, without whom there wouldn't have been a show.

We were also so privileged to have full audiences each night, which was truly incredible. We are so very thankful for the huge amount of support from people that came to watch, and we have received so many encouraging and kind comments.

The next production will start in June when I will be doing a musical. I can't wait to see you all in the audience next Christmas. Ms Curran

FOPS

Festive wishes from the Friends of Pittville School!
Lots has been happening since half term!
Disco's are all done for 2023 now with the Yr8's showing us their moves back in November!

December has been extremely busy with supporting the amazing Pittville Performing Arts team with their 3-night event of 'A Christmas Carol' last week, with our custom-built bar, FOPS shop and Quad hut take-over! We had some great support on the hot chocolate stand from some of the teachers - particular thanks to Mrs Crowe and Mr Lowey. Thank you to all of the Pittville community for supporting an excellent fundraising effort.

We were honoured to be asked to provide a bar and refreshments for the Cheltenham Choral Society carol concert that was held at the school on 18th December alongside choirs from Beauregard Youth Choir and Prestbury St Mary's. Some familiar Pittville faces were spotted in the choirs and the sound from our bar (AKA the canteen) was delightful and festive!

We often talk about how we are raising money, but the whole reason for this is for school purchases and this term we were very pleased to help:

- Mrs Kavanagh and the Art department with the purchase of a new sublimation printer and set of inks.
- Mr Duffy-Turner and the Science department with the purchase of a set of Scientific digital logging equipment to help the learning experience for the students.

Join us for our (rescheduled) AGM on 17th January. More details available on that soon! Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas.

CHRISTINGLE AND CAROL SERVICE

You better watch out. You better not cry. You better not pout. I'm telling you why, Pittville Choir is coming to town.

Our fantastic chorus of brave and talented year 7's has helped restore an old standing Christmas Carolling tradition with Highbury Church. A tradition which sadly had stopped due to Covid.

Our choir, with only a few rehearsals to prepare, sang brilliantly. They looked dapper in their school uniform and for many it was their first performance. The Choir sang an unaccompanied rendition of Silent Night, which had so many beautiful, delicate moments. Moments which could rival any professional choir. At the end of the service, the choir once again flexed its abilities with an energetic Jingle Bell Rock to close the Christingle service. It was a beautiful evening with many enchanted moments along with the lighting of the Christingles.

I'm very proud of our Choir and very optimistic of our journey forward. Mr Grewar

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:

Tuesday 9 th January	Year 11 photographs
Thursday 18 th January	Year 9 Progress Evening (in person)
Monday 29 th January	Drop Down Day (RSHE) 3
Thursday 1 st February	Year 11 Progress Evening (in person)
Friday 9 th February	End of term 3
Monday 19 th February	Term 4 begins.

STAY IN TOUCH

Follow us on:



Friends of Pittville:



Pittville performing arts

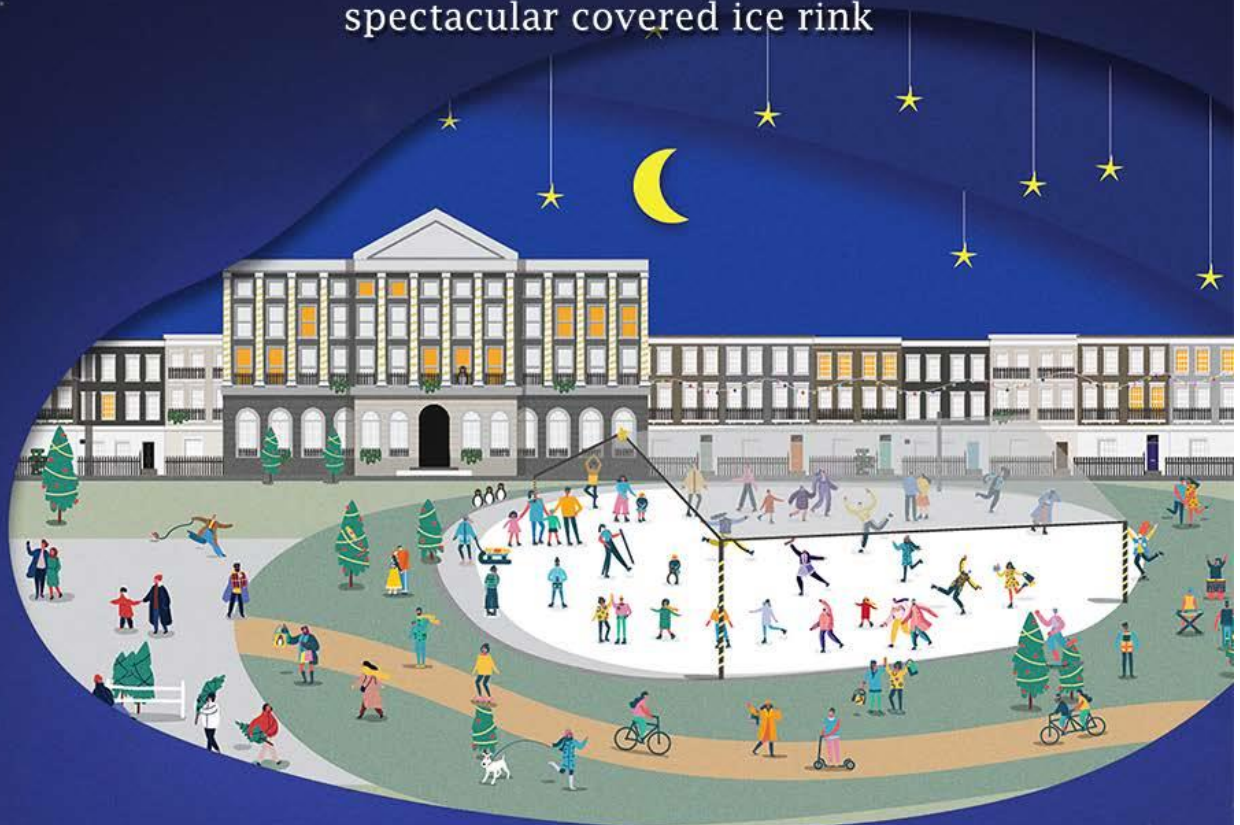


The Cheltenham **ICE RINK**

17 November 2023 - 1 January 2024

— Imperial Gardens —

Experience the magic of skating on Regency Cheltenham's
spectacular covered ice rink



To book tickets, please visit
[VISITCHELTENHAM.COM/ICE-SKATING](https://www.visitcheltenham.com/ice-skating)



DECEMBER 2023



THINGS TO DO IN CHELTENHAM

THE ULTIMATE GUIDE FOR FAMILIES TO FIND
THINGS TO DO IN THE LOCAL AREA

**FIND
FESTIVE
FUN**
AT THE TOUCH
OF A BUTTON



NEW CHRISTMAS BUTTON!

The [Cheltenham Rocks](#) website is full of festive fun for all the family! There's so much happening we added a Christmas Button keeping everything in one handy place for you.

[CLICK HERE](#)

Our top picks are:

[Father Christmas at Dinky Street](#)

[Cineworld Films at £5](#)

[Gingerbread decorating at Play Farm](#)

LOOKING FOR SANTA?

This year has so many events where you can see Father Christmas, visit him in his Grotto or even go bowling with him!

[Check out our guide for some of the best places you can find him in and around Cheltenham](#)

FOLLOW US AND JOIN THE COMMUNITY!

Join hundreds of local parents following us on Social Media. Just search Cheltenham Rocks and like our page!

www.cheltenhamrocks.co.uk



**PLACES TO SEE SANTA
AROUND CHELTENHAM**

