

Albert Road, Cheltenham, GL52 3JD

telephone 01242 524787

email achieve@pittville.gloucs.sch.uk

website www.pittville.gloucs.sch.uk

Headteacher Richard Gilpin

NEWSLETTER – Term 3 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Although this term has been short, just five weeks, it has been no less busy than usual. I am proud to share with you the activities that have taken place this term. With spring just around the corner, I hope this half term break allows time for you all to enjoy some brighter days.

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 to them. On 10th January Miss Dove and Mrs Davies accompanied Year 10 students to an event at All Saints' Academy. The event included a talk and a Q&A session on Content Creation and making a living online with guest speaker, Phil Carr, AKA 'PhilC84' on Tiktok.

Nemindi, Year 10, writes, In an exclusive session that left no stone unturned, our very own social media sensation, Phil Carr, recently spilled the tea on the ins and outs of content creation and how to turn it into a fully-fledged career. Phil, known for his charismatic online presence, shared invaluable insights during the session. He emphasised the importance of authenticity in content creation, urging aspiring creators to stay true to themselves and find their unique voice in the crowded digital landscape.

The discussion delved into the diverse avenues available for content creators. From brand partnerships and sponsored content to affiliate marketing, Phil highlighted the various streams that can help creators turn their hobby into a sustainable source of income. One key takeaway from the session was the emphasis on community building. Phil stressed the significance of engaging with followers, creating a loyal audience, and understanding the pulse of social media trends. "Your audience is your strength," he remarked, underscoring the idea that genuine connections with followers can elevate a creator's profile.

Moreover, the session touched upon the evolving nature of social media platforms and the importance of adaptability. Phil shared his own journey of navigating through algorithm changes and emerging trends, encouraging creators to stay informed and embrace new opportunities. For those looking to kickstart their journey in content creation, Phil offered practical tips on optimizing content for different platforms, understanding analytics, and maintaining a consistent posting schedule. "Consistency is key, but so is quality," he advised, urging creators to strike the right balance. In a world where the digital realm is becoming increasingly influential, Phill's session served as a guiding light for students aspiring to carve a niche for themselves in the dynamic field of social media and content creation. The tea was spilt, and the wisdom imparted is sure to inspire a new wave of creators within our school community.

Following this successful event, Mrs Godding accompanied Year 9 and 10 students to an event at Bournside School. This was a debate where the students had to speak with a strict 5-minute timer, and then they had to field questions from the audience. The debate topic was 'This house believes that cutting tax to corporations is the best way to ensure economic growth in Britain', and we were chosen as the opposition. The team had to research this complex topic, write a speech, and then debate with other schools, responding to questions that were challenging and spontaneous. Dean Close, Balcarras and Bournside were also debating.

As always, the students represented the school incredibly well and made us very proud as they debated against teams of sixth form students.

Speakers were Khadija Ahmad, Isobel Davies and Nemindi Manthrivithana. They wrote and put together the speech. Barkhiya Tariq fielded the questions and Leah Capewell assisted with speech preparations and practice sessions.



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

FOOD PREPARATION AND NUTRITION

Over in the tech block our Year 11 students have been busy trialling dishes for their final practical exam and have attended high skill practical workshops after school in preparation for their exam. To achieve grade 7 + dishes, students should show complex skills during their 3-hour practical. They have been learning how to fillet fish and how to make an enriched bread dough to make homemade croissants. Miss Fry and Ms Trubshaw are looking forward to seeing students put these skills into practice in their final practical exam this term.



Great work, well done.

Miss Fry and Ms Trubshaw.

CHELTENHAM BOROUGH HOMES WORK EXPERIENCE - THRIVE

Following the success of previous groups, four more students recently completed work experience skills training with Cheltenham Borough Homes. Congratulations on completing the course. Mr Watkins.



ARMY INTERVENTION

On 31st January some students took part in team building intervention sessions with the army in the school gym. The boys worked well together, demonstrating communication and listening skills to accomplish the tasks together. Well done, boys. Mr Kavanagh.





PROJECT TO MARKET DAY – STEAM EVENT

Some of our Year 11 engineering students visited Mira Showers in January to find out more information about early careers and apprenticeship opportunities. The students took part in build a shower workshops, group presentations and demonstrations of products.

Well done to all the students. Mr Jones and Mr Nicholls.



RSHE – DROP DOWN DAY

This term's RSHE theme has been Online Safety, with each year group exploring various aspects of our digital lives and how to stay safe online.

Year 7 have been studying the important topic of online safety, thinking about ways that the people we interact with on the internet may not always have the right intentions. On Drop Down Day, they explored with their tutors "The Children's Code" for safer internet use, and identified ways that groomers could use the internet to put children at risk.

Year 8 had the wonderful opportunity to visit the Science Museum in London, which was a long but exciting day. Students were able to explore the advent of technology and communication methods like the telephone and internet, reflecting on ways that the internet has brought humans closer and transformed our lives in the modern world. They were also able to visit the new "Technicians" gallery where they were able to test out careers relating to technology and STEM. The Science Museum staff and members of the public praised Pittville students for their admirable behaviour, which just goes to show what a credit to our school Year 8 are.

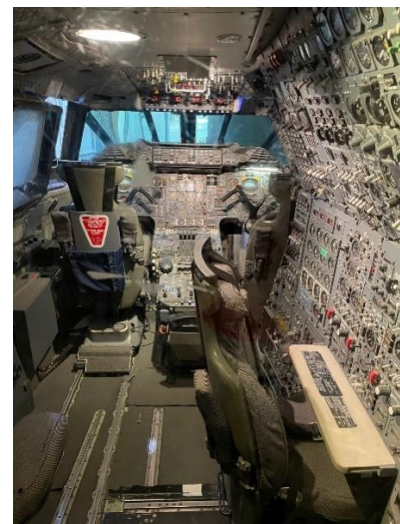
Year 9 have been considering how their digital footprint could have an impact on their future lives, and on Drop Down Day also explored sexting, and pressures around mobile phone use. We explored the legal and personal ramifications related to the creation or possession of indecent images of children under the age of 18, and emphasised why this behaviour is damaging and should not be normalised. There was a lot of mature and productive discussion on the day between students and their tutors.

Our Key Stage Three students who were on site during Drop Down Day were also treated to a performance from Breaking the Chain. This play has been designed to educate children of secondary age about the dangers of carrying a knife. Please do talk to your children about how they experienced the performance, which was described as powerful and thought provoking by those who saw it.

Year 10 were invited to attend a trip to the Aerospace Museum in Bristol on Drop Down Day and had a really enjoyable day learning about the history of aerospace technology in Bristol. The students were full of smiles whilst seeing, boarding and learning about Concorde, and about the role that Filton played in the First and Second World Wars. To link to our theme of online safety, students attended a workshop called 'The Concorde Killed My Fish?' This workshop was designed to get students to consider sources of information critically and create a presentation about the Concorde to try and persuade others to agree with them. Things were very well debated and got quite heated on the day (in a scholarly way, of course!) so please do ask you child which team they were on and what they argued about. In a world where identifying fact from fiction becomes harder every day, it is so important for our students to learn and practice critical thinking skills.

Year 11 discussed the important theme of sexual harassment and thought about how the internet and technology has contributed directly to more unwanted sexual attention for everyone in the modern world. Key Stage Four students who remained on site also watched a performance from alt-rock singer Zaid, who delivered a presentation on his own mental health journey and the importance of reaching out to others for help. Feedback from this session has been positive and has opened up some really healthy conversations as a result. We do hope Year 10 and Year 11 enjoyed it and shared that with you.

Our staff have continued to work tirelessly to deliver high-quality and age-appropriate Relationships, Sex and Health Education through our new Connected Programme, and we are delighted to have been able to put on another varied and interesting Drop Down Day for students. We are already anticipating and preparing for the next one on the theme of Sexual Health on the 20th March 2024.





READING FOR PLEASURE

Reading for Pleasure has Proven Mental Health Benefits

In assemblies this term, students have been learning about the benefits of reading for pleasure, and in particular the positive impact on their mental health. Did you know that children and young people who read are three times more likely to have good mental health than those who don't? Reading is also associated with better sleep patterns, higher self-esteem, relaxation, stress reduction, higher resilience, and happiness in general. In fact, non-readers are 28% more likely to experience feelings of depression.

So, with a fantastic library space at Pittville, and several public libraries in the vicinity, why not encourage your child to pick up a book this half term instead of a mobile phone or other electronic device? Reading for just 10 minutes a day can make all the difference.

Here are our top picks linked to this topic:

Why should you READ?!



Reading for Pleasure

'Reading is like a holiday in your head' *Matilda* by Roald Dahl

A study found that reading books significantly reduces feelings of loneliness for people aged 18-64.

Reading for pleasure is associated with better sleep patterns.

Non-readers are 28% more likely to report feelings of depression.

60% of children and young people say that reading helps them to relax.

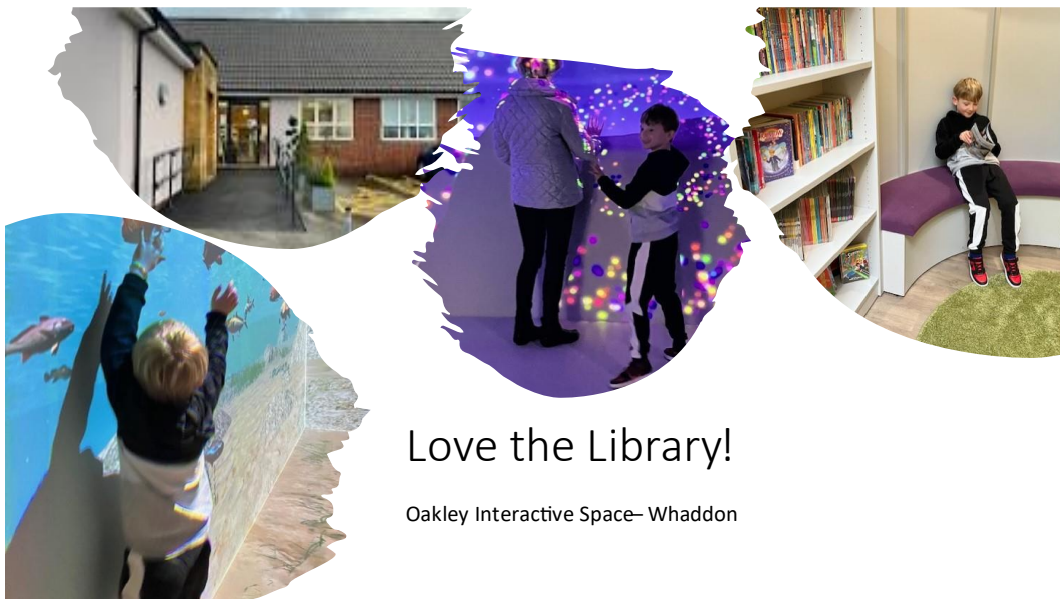
Nearly half of children say reading makes them feel happy.

3 in 10 say reading made them feel more confident (29.8%) or helped them deal with problems (27.3%).

Studies have shown that those who read for pleasure have higher levels of self esteem and a greater ability to cope with difficult situations.

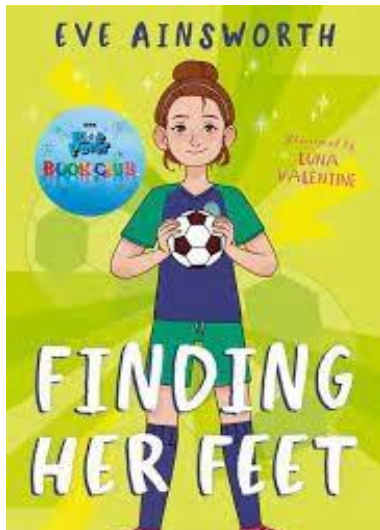
Reading for just 10 minutes a day can help you to relax and unwind; boost your mood; provide an escape from the pressures of life; and reduce stress levels.

Children and young people who like to read are three times more likely to have better mental health than those who don't.



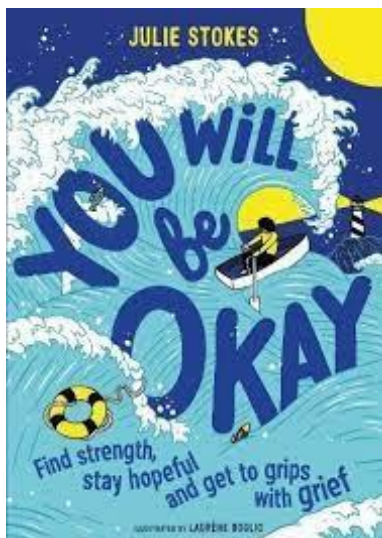
Love the Library!

Oakley Interactive Space- Whaddon



Lily always feels a little bit left out. Shy and anxious, she finds school really hard, particularly as most of the other girls all seem so confident. Most of the time, Lily wishes that she could just disappear.

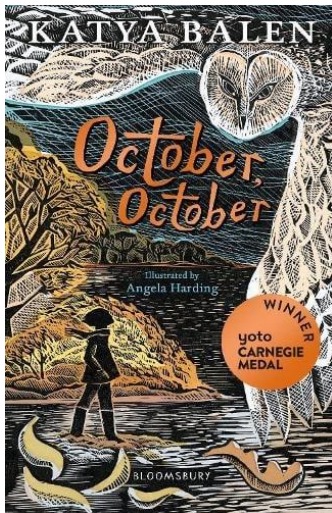
But during a game of football in PE, Lily's teacher spots her natural talent and invites Lily to join the local girls' team, where she starts to make friends with some of the other players. Finally, she thinks she's found a place where she fits in, but will a vicious argument with one of her teammates put all her progress in jeopardy?



This is a guide for those experiencing feelings of grief and loss, written by Julie Stokes, founder of childhood bereavement charity Winston's Wish (and the inspiration for Stokes House's name!)

The death of a loved one is a really traumatic time. *You Will Be Okay* helps you find strength, stay hopeful, and process your feelings in a healthy way.

There are practical exercises throughout the book, like going through and writing down the different types of memories you associate with the person you've lost; inspiring stories from people who have experienced the death of a loved one; and a brilliant list of resources for finding further support, should you need it.



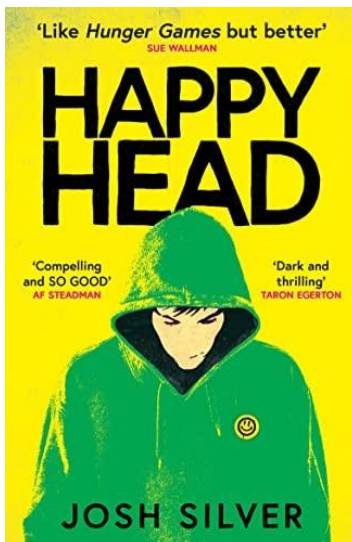
This won the Oscars for books – the Carnegie Medal – in 2022.

This is a great novel for anyone going through a tough time with their parents – maybe they've remarried, or split up, or your relationship with them has changed.

October and her dad live in the woods. They know the trees and the rocks and the lake and stars like best friends. They live in the woods and they are wild. And that's the way it is.

Until the year October turns eleven.

That's the year October rescues a baby owl. It's the year Dad falls out of the biggest tree in their woods. The year the woman who calls herself October's mother comes back. The year everything changes.



When Seb is offered a place on a radical retreat designed to solve the national crisis of teenage unhappiness, he is determined to change how people see him and make his parents proud. But as he finds himself drawn to the enigmatic Finn, Seb starts to question the true nature of the challenges they must undergo. The deeper into the programme the boys get, the more disturbing the assessments become, until it's clear there may be no escape...

The first in a thrilling, thought-provoking new series for fans of *They Both Die at the End* and *Squid Game*.

ALUMNI

It is always great to hear how our students have progressed since moving on from Pittville. Nazir arrived from Afghanistan unable to speak any English and studied at Pittville from 2016-2020. Nazir is now a first-year student at Oxford Brookes University completing a Business Studies Undergraduate course. Well done, Nazir.

SPORTS NEWS

On Saturday 3rd February Mr Orton and Mr Beadle attended an athletics event in Somerset. Jack Shingler, Year 7, competed in several events and to add to his recent awards of Cheltenham Schools District Cross Country Champion and Gloucestershire County Schools Cross-Country Champion, he now has the accolade of being the Southwest Schools Cross-Country Champion. Congratulations Jack! Mr Orton and Mr Beadle.



FOPS

After a very hectic December, the team has been in a bit of hibernation since the beginning of the year, but we will be back with our monthly tuck shops from Friday 23rd February!

The AGM has once again been postponed, we'd really like as many of you to come along and get involved so we are leaving it till later in the Spring, once hibernation is over! Keep an eye out for the new date in the coming months.

So, whilst we wait for 2024 to really get going, here's a reminder of some of the ways you can get involved and support Friends of Pittville School and for your children to benefit.

- Your School Lottery - weekly lottery, £1 per ticket, with a percentage into Pittville School
- Easyfundraising - do you buy ANYTHING online? If you do, sign up to Easyfundraising, get the app, or add the extension to your browser and when you go to a website, if applicable, you'll get a pop up to click to donate. It might be 50p they donate, or if like me, it's car insurance renewal time, one click donated £17.50 for me yesterday!
- GoodHub (was InvestMyCommunity) - fancy setting up a regular donation into FoPS? This could be anything from £1 a month to, well, whatever you want to give really GoodHub allows you to set up a monthly donation which if appropriate, they will collect GiftAid (25% boost) on our behalf.
- MatchFunding - do you work for an organisation that match funds charity donations? Maybe you'd consider using this for us?

We have recently set up an account with [Benevity.org](https://www.benevity.org), which allows organisations to match fund their employee donations. We currently have a regular donation from Microsoft set up which we are of course hugely grateful!

- ParentPay - possibly, THE easiest way to donate, next time you're topping up, why not add a donation into FoPS too? Minimum donation is £5 but you can always change this! Perfect for a one-off donation every now and then.

Thanks for all your support so far, this academic year!

If you'd like to contact us, you can do so through the following routes:

Instagram: [@friendsofpittvilleschool](https://www.instagram.com/friendsofpittvilleschool)

Facebook: [Pittville FOPS \(was PTFA\) message board](#)

Email: fops.pittville@gmail.com

Y10 TEXTILES TRIP

On 12th January Miss King and Mrs Kavanagh accompanied the Year 10 GCSE textiles group to the Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford. The trip provided a valuable opportunity for the students to gather first hand observational photography which they will use as the basis for their sustained coursework project. The students represented the school brilliantly, working in pairs to take some photographs of the fascinating collections.

MATILDA PERFORMANCE

On Thursday 1st February, Pittville drama and dance students were invited to perform at the 'No Child Left Behind' Award Ceremony at Cheltenham Town Hall. The students performed a medley of songs from last year's school production - *Matilda* - which was very well received by a full audience. The students should be proud of themselves for their fantastic acting, singing, and dancing, as always giving it 100% and they were, of course, praised for their excellent behaviour and conduct throughout the event.

Not only did they perform wonderfully, but they were also very dedicated in coming to rehearsals in their own time, which is admirable, so soon after this year's production - *A Christmas Carol*. Mrs Curran and Mrs Watkins.

Year 10 GCSE Drama students enjoyed a wonderful trip to Malvern Theatre to see *Blood Brothers*, which is a part of the GCSE drama course. The students loved the experience of seeing a live theatre production and they were a credit to our school, behaving maturely and receptively as part of a packed audience. We are very proud to take such fantastic students out in public. Mrs Dring and Mrs Curran.

STUDENT REMINDERS

Further to the message sent out earlier this week can we take this opportunity to remind parents/carers and students of the following: students are expected to attend in full school uniform and leggings are not permitted; any false nails / lashes will need to be removed before students return to school next term. If students are cycling to school, they need to be wearing a cycling helmet.

Can we please remind parents and carers that students are required to bring a water bottle to school each day. Students will not be permitted to leave a lesson to get water and plastic cups will not be provided.

Thank you for your understanding.

Y11 SCIENCE

On Friday 19th January, Rob Jansen from Severn Trent Water, came in during our Year 11 science lessons to talk to our students about the work Severn Trent carry out, and how they make our waste-water potable (safe to drink).

As part of the Science National Curriculum, our students need to know the methods used to produce potable water. This includes from freshwater sources such as rivers, lakes, and from wastewater, which is our sewage. Rob's hour-long session covered how our wastewater is treated to make it safe to drink; showing students first-hand what they are now learning about in lessons. The session also looked at what we can do as a community to make sure that our supplies of water aren't halted. Students took part in an interactive quiz which looked at what should and should not go down the drain and toilet and the problems caused when we aren't disposing of waste correctly. A great morning was had by all, and students thoroughly enjoyed seeing how the science we learn is applied in everyday life.

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 19 th February	Term 4 begins
Monday 26 th February – Friday 8 th March	Y11 Mock exams
Thursday 7 th March	Y7 Progress Evening (Online)
Wednesday 20 th March	RSHE Drop Down Day
Thursday 21 st March	Y11 exam preparation evening
Thursday 21 st March	Head of House tea
Friday 22 nd March	End of Term 4

STAY IN TOUCH

Follow us on:



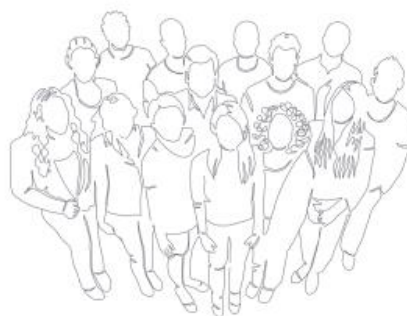
Friends of Pittville:



Pittville performing arts



Parents' Relationships Matter Gloucestershire Conference 2024 ▶▶▶



We are excited to announce that we will be hosting another
Parents' Relationships Matter Gloucestershire Conference in February 2024!

Spanning **four days**: from Monday 26th February to Thursday 29th February 2024.
Focussing on **three themes**: dads, new and expectant parents, and young people.

Each day features **two sessions**: a morning session tailored for professionals
and an afternoon session designed for parents.

Save-the-date on your calendars for this remarkable event, and stay tuned for
more details, which will be announced early in the new year!

Subscribe to our mailing list ([click here](#))



Day 1 - Mon 26 Feb

The morning session will be a face-to-face networking and marketplace event for practitioners at Kingsholm Stadium. The afternoon session will be a face-to-face activity session for parents at a local Children and Family Centre. We will be joined by speakers Ann James (Director of Children's Services) and Honor Rhodes OBE (Tavistock Relationships). *Please note that days 2, 3, and 4 will take place online via Zoom.*



This programme of work is being coordinated by Billson Consulting Ltd on behalf of Gloucestershire County Council. Billson Consulting Ltd will use any information you provide to keep you updated in respect of the programme and other relevant funded opportunities. For more information on how your information will be used, please refer to the privacy policy statement on the company website <https://www.billsonconsultingltd.com/>.



**The
ROCK**
Transforming Lives

Evening Groups Term Time

Space 51
Youth Club

Mondays 7pm-8:30pm

School Years 8-11+

TNT
Youth Club

Tuesdays 6pm-7:30pm

School Years 5-7

Archery

Wednesdays 6pm-7:30pm

School Years 6-11

Scout & Skate

Thursdays 6pm-7:30pm

School Years 6-11

For more info on the group's visit

therock.uk.com

Parent consent & Session Sign up
therock.myclubhouse.co.uk

@therockcheltenham



@therockchelt





THINGS TO DO IN CHELTENHAM

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

FIND HALF TERM FUN

AT THE TOUCH OF A BUTTON



EASY HALF TERM BUTTON

The Cheltenham Rocks website is full of half term fun for all the family!

There's so much happening we added a **Half Term** Button keeping everything in one handy place for you.

CLICK HERE

Our top picks are:

[TeenArt Taster sessions](#)

[Step Back in time at Holst Victorian House](#)

[Pancake Day Party](#)

HOLIDAY CLUBS ALL IN ONE

PLACE

We know how important holiday clubs are so we have gathered all of the local clubs running this half term to make things easy for you.

[Find the perfect club here](#)

FOLLOW US AND JOIN THE COMMUNITY!

[Join hundreds of local parents following us on Social Media](#)
[Just search Cheltenham Rocks and like our page!](#)



HOLIDAY CLUBS AROUND CHELTENHAM

www.cheltenhamrocks.co.uk

