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Headteacher Richard Gilpin

NEWSLETTER – Term 4 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the end of Term 4 newsletter. Another busy term is complete, just in time for some long-awaited spring sunshine. I hope that you can enjoy a peaceful half term Easter break and I look forward to seeing our students, ready to learn, on Monday, 8th April.

Kind regards,

R Gilpin
Headteacher

Y11 MOCK EXAMS

Year 11 have completed their final set of mock exams and received their results on mock results day, Friday 22nd March. We have been delighted with how hard students have worked and how they conducted themselves. Well done, Year 11.

Mr Raistrick and Mrs Pitt.

Y11 REVISION WORKSHOP

Year 11 have taken part in a revision workshop run by MADE education. The workshop built on skills we have taught in school and gave students some top tips on mind mapping, flashcards, and effective revision habits. Students gave fantastic feedback, and the trainer said our year 11 students were the best he's worked with in over 100 workshops. Mr Raistrick.



KEY MESSAGES

Punctuality

Please can I remind parents of the importance of punctuality at school. All parents/carers have a responsibility to ensure their children arrive at school before the bell at 8.30 am. School gates will open at approximately 8.20 am, with all students expected on site by 8.30 am. School gates will close at 8.30. We will continue to use our 'roll-call' system for our morning registration. This means that all students will be expected to be standing at their allocated place in their tutor room at the 8.35 am bell ready to answer their name on the register. Any student who is not present for roll-call and does not have a valid reason for being late will be issued with lunchtime detention on the day they are late.

Access to the school site for Students

Once our school gates close at 8.30, the only access to and from the site is via the main front gate on Albert Road which has an intercom directly to reception. Disabled parking bays are reserved for Blue Badge Holders only.

Summer Uniform

For Terms 5 and 6 students can wear summer uniform to school. Pittville logo polo shirts or a shirt and tie may be worn. Please note the polo shirts permitted are the Pittville logo shirts only.

RSHE – DROP DOWN DAY

On Wednesday, 20th March, all students at Pittville School attended a series of talks and workshops on the theme of sex and relationships education.

This was an opportunity for students to receive age-appropriate education on a series of different issues, including puberty, safety and grooming and contraceptive choices.

I encourage you to speak with your child about their experience of the day and what they learnt. As a school, we were incredibly impressed with the excellent behaviour and maturity exhibited by students, especially as these topics can be challenging.

Please enjoy these photographs of the art workshop that Year 9 students attended. They used textile media to create their own pieces on the theme of consent.





CEP UPDATE

On Friday, 1st March, a few of our students attended a Chelt4Change event at Cheltenham Ladies College's Health and Fitness Centre. One of our students, Nemindi Manthrivithana, has written about the event. Mrs Davies.

Experts Dish Out Insights on Health and Safety

A group of Y10 and 11 Pittville pupils studying Health and Social Care and striving to pursue careers in the medical field, had the extraordinary opportunity to be part of the ground-breaking Q&A session organised by CEP-Cheltenham Education Partnership, during which a panel of distinguished experts from various fields in healthcare shed light on pressing issues surrounding health security, safety protocols, and medical innovations.

Hosted by Cheltenham Ladies College, this session brought together prominent figures including Prof Dame Jenny Harries, Prof Mark Pietroni, Dr Trevor Howe, Dr Liam Stanbury, Nick Oxlade, and Kirsty David.

Prof Dame Jenny Harries, the Head of UK Health Security Agency, and former Deputy Chief Medical Officer for England, emphasized the importance of proactive measures in ensuring public health and safety. She highlighted the role of data-driven decision-making and collaboration between healthcare agencies in mitigating health risks and tackling emerging threats.

Prof Mark Pietroni, Director for Safety at Gloucestershire Hospitals, delved into the intricacies of hospital safety protocols, emphasizing the need for continuous improvement and adaptation to evolving challenges. He stressed the significance of a robust safety culture within healthcare institutions to safeguard both patients and healthcare workers.

Dr Trevor Howe, Janssen Fellow and Head of Translational Genomics at Johnson & Johnson Innovation, provided insights into cutting-edge genomic research and its potential applications in personalized medicine and disease prevention. Dr Howe's expertise shed light on the promising advancements that genomics offers in revolutionizing healthcare practices.

Dr Liam Stanbury, a General Practitioner specializing in child health, sports medicine, and psychiatry, shared his perspectives on the holistic approach to healthcare, emphasizing the importance of addressing both physical and mental well-being. Dr Stanbury highlighted the crucial role of primary care physicians in promoting preventive healthcare and supporting patients through comprehensive treatment plans.

Nick Oxlade, Strategic Lead Partnerships & Projects at the School of Health, and a Registered Adult Nurse, discussed the significance of interdisciplinary collaboration in addressing complex health challenges. He emphasized the importance of integrating nursing perspectives into healthcare policies and practices to ensure patient-centred care and optimal outcomes.

Kirsty David, Social Care Practice Placement Lead at the School of Health and a Registered Midwife, underscored the importance of addressing social determinants of health and promoting equity in healthcare delivery. She emphasized the need for collaborative efforts between healthcare professionals and social service providers to address the underlying factors impacting health outcomes.

The Q&A session provided a platform for in-depth discussions and knowledge-sharing among experts from diverse backgrounds in healthcare. By exchanging insights and perspectives, the panellists reinforced the importance of collective action and innovation in advancing health security, safety, and quality of care. As the world continues to navigate its way through unprecedented health challenges, the insights gleaned from sessions like this serve as valuable guides in shaping future healthcare policies, practices, and interventions.

WORLD BOOK DAY – By Nemindi

Pittville School celebrated World Book Day with a vibrant event that displayed the rich tapestry of languages and cultures within its community. The festivities unfolded with an array of readings and dramatisations in a diverse selection of languages including Sinhala, Bulgarian, Ukrainian, Romanian, Nepalese, Hindi, Punjabi, Gujarati, Polish, Farsi, Bengali, Arabic, Turkish, Spanish, and Māori.

Each performance brought to life beloved literary works, transporting the audience on a journey across continents and cultures. Through this multicultural celebration, students

and staff alike had the opportunity to immerse themselves in the beauty of storytelling from around the globe. It was a testament to the power of literature to bridge divides and foster understanding, as well as a reminder of the importance of embracing diversity in all forms. Pittville School's World Book Day celebration served as a shining example of unity through the universal language of literature.

YEAR 10 SUMMER RESIDENTIAL

The University of Gloucestershire is gearing up to host its eagerly anticipated Year 10 summer residential program, promising an enriching experience for young minds. Set against the picturesque backdrop of the university campus, this annual event offers students a taste of university life and an opportunity to explore various academic disciplines.

From engaging workshops to interactive seminars, participants will delve into subjects ranging from science and technology to arts and humanities, gaining valuable insights and skills along the way. Beyond the classroom, students will have the chance to socialise with peers and connect with the university faculty. With a focus on personal development and academic exploration, the Year 10 summer residential at Gloucestershire University aims to inspire and empower the next generation of scholars and leaders. It is a journey of discovery and growth that promises to leave a lasting impact on all who attend.

BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK

It has been an exciting term for science at Pittville as we celebrated British Science Week. We kicked off British Science Week with assemblies all about fuel. From burning bags of methane, explosive bottle rockets flying across the hall, and even combusting tubes in reluctant teacher hands. Students were excited and thrilled as we saw how the Science of fuels literally drives our world forward.

Over 70 year 9 students went to the Birmingham Thinktank Museum for the day, and whilst there experienced a journey into the atom in the planetarium or a shocking talk about energy transfers in the real world. The next day 120 year 8 students went to Cotswold Wildlife Park to see results of evolution in the animals present, from lions to naked mole rats. The engaging talks from the keepers really brought adaptations to life. However, the highlight of the day may have been the baby goats and tag in the playground.

We also hosted 60 year 4 pupils from Dunalley School for a practical lesson on changing state. Our year 10s lent a hand by being classroom assistants, helping the year 4s with setting up the experiment, plotting a graph, and even how to wear goggles. The year 10s showed impeccable maturity and I was very proud at how helpful and engaging they were with the primary school students.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable week, and my thanks goes out to the staff, students, and technicians in supporting it.

Mr Duffy-Turner – Curriculum Lead, Science

Y10 TRIP TO BATH

On Monday, 18th March a group of Y10 MFL students attended a language workshop event in Bath. Elsie Darley, 10Ab1, has written an article about the trip. Ms Allan and Miss Luis.

GCHQ trip

“On the 18th of March twelve year 10 students (6 for Spanish, 6 for French) attended a languages workshop run by GCHQ at Bath Royal High School. The day started with a talk telling us about education pathways and jobs in languages. The speakers told us about their experience working in languages, how they trained, and what their jobs consist of. They also encouraged us to learn rarer languages. Following this, we challenged ourselves in language taster sessions, which would support us in the main task. The taster sessions were for rarer languages: Korean, Mandarin and Arabic. Next, we were taught some different types of codes and how to crack them.

We then moved on to the main task in which we had to solve a series of codes and translations to find details of a drug delivery, which is something linguists at GCHQ do. In each challenge, we had to work as a team, and use our new, rare language and code-deciphering skills alongside our target language skills (French or Spanish). The challenges were all unique and challenged us in different ways. For example we had to listen to an audio transcript in our target language to find key clues and details about the drug delivery. As a team we also had to adapt, as two people had to leave and attempt other challenges, to free one of the presenters, who had been ‘captured’! This huge task mimicked the work linguists do at GCHQ and helped develop our language skills.

The week before the trip, we prepared maps of our countries with key communication systems, and cities. We used these in our final task, where we gave presentations in our target languages (Spanish or French) to a panel. We also incorporated details of the drug delivery from the main task, for example at which port the drugs entered Spain. Finally, we ended the day with making board games in our languages.

The whole day, we were challenged in Spanish/ French, and our language skills were furthered. We were encouraged to pursue and informed of different jobs in languages. It was a great experience.”

Well done all and thank you Elsie. Ms Allan and Miss Luis

WORLD BOOK DAY AT PITTVILLE

This year's World Book Day on Thursday 7th March saw some fantastic events both in and out of school. We ran a competition to see if students could match childhood photos of teachers with their favourite book, for the chance to win a prize of three new novels. The winner was George Tovey. On the day itself we repeated our successful 'Read On' event where students in KS3 were treated to a short story revealed over their five lessons.

In the Library, students were able to try 'Book Tasting' in our very own Book Cafe, and in the afternoon, some students were invited to a very special event where students and teacher read texts from their native languages.

Finally, on Tuesday, 19th, we took all of Year 7 to Waterstones Bookshop on the Promenade to use their World Book Day Vouchers. It was fantastic to see students browsing the array of titles and everyone left with their very own book to read over the Easter holidays.





JAPANESE VISITORS

On Thursday, 22nd February we hosted 38 Japanese students, aged 14-15 years, for the morning. The group consisted of 18 boys and 20 girls accompanied by staff from Cotswold Wind Academy.

Following a tour with some of our year 10 prefects, our year 7 students participated in a games workshop followed by a Japanese culture presentation. The presentation included a song that the visiting students had learned to perform in English.

The year 7 students and year 10 prefects thoroughly enjoyed the morning, and we look forward to welcoming students from the Academy in the future.







SIXTH FORM INTERVIEWS

Monday, 18th March saw many Y11 students completing a sixth form interview with a team from Balcarras. It was great to receive some feedback from Balcarras:

Mr Leatherbarrow, Head of Sixth Form, writes, "I just wanted to message to say how impressed my team and I all were with the students we met on Monday for their consultations. Each year we are really impressed by the calibre of the students we consult at Pittville, and you know how much we value the contribution those who enrol with us make to our Sixth Form community at Balcarras.

At the same time, my colleague and I cannot remember ever meeting with such strength in depth - nor so many - 52! The feedback shared by the team was unanimously positive - and I thought this ought to be passed back to you. For some of my team, consulting with Pittville Y11 for the first time, it really was a case of excellent first impressions. Miss Foster put together the programme perfectly to suit our teaching commitments at Balcarras too, and we are really grateful for that too.

Please do pass on to Heads of Houses, Y11 tutors and the students themselves, and wish them the best of luck in their coming exams from us. We are really excited at the prospect of working with a number of them in the future."

Well done Year 11, we look forward to interviews with Cleeve and Bournside, next term.

SPORTS NEWS

It has been another busy term for the PE department. Our Y9 boys football competed for a well-earned win, in difficult weather conditions, 3-2 against Cotswold School. Man of the Match being awarded to Douglas Prosser. Well done, Douglas and the team. Mr Kavanagh.

Once again, we have had a busy term with our netball fixtures. This has included four tournaments where our amazing students have represented Pittville extremely well and been an absolute credit to us.

Highlights are the Y9 netball match where we fought hard and really used our new set plays to enable us to beat Cleeve 19-12, with Molly George and Dhilon Smith being rightfully selected as players of the match by the opposition. This strong and committed team also beat Cotswold School with a smashing score of 8-18 – Mrs Crowe even made them switch out of their preferred positions so that the score line didn't become too embarrassing! They are starting to become a real unit, and this comes from their amazing commitment to training, outstanding efforts to perform and passion to improve. They finished at a very respectable 8th out of 12 teams in the District Tournament. We are so proud of them and their attitude – a real pleasure!

Our Y9s have got fantastic role models to look up to with our other highly committed and motivated team – the Y10s. These girls are probably the best attending group that we have had the pleasure of teaching and coaching at netball club and fixtures. They also cemented 8th position in their district tournament and have performed well.

Unfortunately, they have lost some very close games against some strong local schools. One being against Balcarras, where after a very even battle, the final score was 10-11 – well done to Lexie Wright for being awarded player of the match!

Our Y7 and 8 netball teams are growing in confidence and are beginning to settle in positions that suit their strengths. Y8 had a great win against Cleeve recently with the score resulting in 11-8 – where Daisy Finch received player of the match. Only yesterday, 21st March, Y7 fought hard against Chosen Hill to triumph a 3-2 win – well done to Jess Lyford for being nominated as player of the match.

We have come to the end of the netball season now and will be moving on to our summer sports. We are very excited to see what our talented students will do for us after the Easter break. All students are welcome to all clubs – it is a great way for the students to socialise and be part of our Pittville community, alongside keeping fit and healthy. Mrs Crowe and Mrs Bury-Brunsdon.

STUDENT RECORDS – UP-TO-DATE?

Have you moved house recently? Have you changed your telephone number? Keep us informed about any changes to ensure our student records are kept up-to-date and

minimise any delay in contacting you. You can complete any changes on edulink, or give us a call. As always, thank you for your continued support.

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 via edulink, 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 reception.

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.

Dropping students to school by car

Please remember; there is no onsite drop off or parking for parents/carers, parents/carers must not come onto site (unless with a planned appointment) or stop outside the school on Albert Road. Parents/carers should find a safe place to drop their children off and the students should complete their journey to school on foot.

Dates for your diary:

Monday 8 th April	Term 5 begins.
Monday 15 th April – Tuesday 16 th April	Y11 MFL speaking exams.
Thursday 25 th April	Y11 Art exams
	Y8 Progress evening (online)
Friday 26 th April	Y11 Art exams
Tuesday 30 th April – Wednesday 1 st May	Y11 Art exams
Thursday 2 nd May	RSHE Drop Down Day (not Y11)
Monday 6 th May	Bank Holiday – School Closed
Thursday 23 rd May – Friday 24 th May	DofE Silver expedition
Friday 24 th May	End of Term 5

STAY IN TOUCH

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Pittville performing arts



A Parent's Guide to Cyberbullying



Many young people who are victims of cyberbullying suffer in silence.

They feel they can't turn to parents or a trusted adult for support as they fear they may get in trouble or have their devices taken away from them. It can carry on all day, all evening and all weekend for the world to see, causing a lot of emotional stress to the victim and their family.



scan the QR code with your phone's camera for Parent Guides on how to help keep your children safe online



It can very quickly lead to the victim feeling trapped, scared and vulnerable to grooming and blackmail.



Online safety is when young people know who they can tell if they feel upset by something that has happened online.

Parents please contact your school to enquire attending their next e-safety workshop or have any concerns.

Working with Home Office 'PREVENT', The Police and Crime Commissioner and Children's Safeguarding Partnerships to help keep children safe online.

Skips Educational Email: info@skipsed.com Tel: +44 121 227 1941

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CODE YOUR OWN ESCAPE ROOM

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**A FREE 8 WEEK CODING CLUB
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Suitable for ages 7 - 14 years

Create unique puzzles and build your very own escape room to play and share with others

Explore cryptology, practice creating and solving coded information

Learn different puzzle-creating techniques and apply them to create secret messages

**Every Monday starting 8th April - 10th June
excluding May bank holidays (6th and 27th)**

**Oakley Resource Centre, Clyde Crescent
4pm - 5pm**



Follow the link to book on: <https://forms.office.com/e/xtqfjgaVS>