

NEWSLETTER – Term 1 part 2 2024/25

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this end of term newsletter finds you well and that the half-term break was restful and rewarding for you. Welcome to Term 2 where the hard work and dedication to study up continues until Christmas.

Kind regards,

R Gilpin
Headteacher

Y10 TRIP – CHELTENHAM LADIES COLLEGE

Mrs Codling and several Year 10 and 11 students visited Cheltenham Ladies College on 14th October for a joint MFL and Textiles trip. Throughout the day students had to complete market research in Spanish, design a pair of jeans, write and present a marketing campaign in Spanish and design a billboard and social media strategy (all in Spanish).

The whole process was judged and out of 21 teams, the team with Abi, Patricia and Edie came 3rd. Leah also got a special prize for engagement and participation.

Some feedback from the organisers:

'Firstly, they were excellent ambassadors for your school, joining in with the CLC girls so well. I know this was a bit daunting at first, but they really shone (I hope Leah got her individual prize). In terms of feedback from the students, so many of them said that the best thing about the day was meeting new people and working with them, so I think this is really great learning and preparation for uni and the world of work.'

One of the students, Edie, shares her thoughts on the visit below.

'I'm Edie. On Monday 14th we visited Cheltenham Ladies College to do some work on Spanish/Textiles, as I chose them both for my GCSEs.

The students were very welcoming and accommodating, as were the staff. I think it was a very nice idea that they had us sit with a few people from our school, and a few girls from Cheltenham Ladies College, as it can help to expand our socialising skills and get to hear everyone's ideas on styles of jeans. It was also nice to get to hear everyone's different ideas, and lovely to get to know new people, as they were all very kind, optimistic and helpful. The staff were very friendly, and continued to come over and offer any ideas or to help us with specific words in the language which we chose.

I enjoyed learning about the different styles of jeans in Spanish, and putting together sentences and translating them, which everyone contributed to.

For our presentations we had to write a PowerPoint about our new style of jeans in the language we chose, and as half my group chose Spanish and the other half chose French, we read the paragraph in those two different languages. Everyone read out a few sentences, so we all contributed and helped each other if someone struggled with pronunciation. The judges were very helpful and very positive.

Overall, I really enjoyed visiting this school. I think it was very generous of them to give us the opportunity to visit and to learn and to meet new people.'

Thank you, Edie.

Mrs Codling.

THRIVE - CBH

Following previous successful programmes, Term 1 saw a fresh batch of students take part in the Thrive initiative with Cheltenham Borough Homes.

To mark the end of their term the boys visited a construction centre and took the opportunity to practice soldering pipes, before taking a tour round some new construction classrooms. The group will commence work experience, with Cheltenham Borough Homes, for four Thursdays in November, spending the entire day with the CBH team. Keep up the good work boys, Mr Watkins.



LITERATURE FESTIVAL

In October, Isabel, a Year 9 student, took part in the CEP Voicebox Young Poets' event at Cheltenham Literature Festival.

Isabel shares her experience:

'On Friday, 11th of October, I went to Cheltenham Literature Festival and performed a poem that I had written about anxiety. I was one of five students from different schools performing as part of the Cheltenham Education Partnership.

After all of the students had presented their poems, we watched a live performance and then had conversations, advice and heard inspiring insights from the Coventry Poet Laureate, John Bernard, and the multi-slam-winning spoken word artist, Emma Taylor. Both poets performed some of their emotionally charged poems and told us all about who or what influenced them to start writing poetry.

At the end the audience could ask them any question about their life and heroes! It was an extremely inspiring session in the vibrant and colourful Voice Box tent.

Written by Isabel'

Thank you, Isabel.



CEP

Some of our Year 10 students took part in a CEP Young Designers Workshop. Working alongside 5 other schools, Lily, Abbie, Abi, Lucy, Paulina, and Hazel created mood boards and planning for the next session where they will be constructing fashion garments based on nature vs man. Mrs Davies

One of our Y10 textile students, Lucy, writes:

'On Thursday, 3rd October, we six Textiles GCSE students went to Balcarras school where we began our workshops for our Young Designers course. This is part of an organisation called CEP-Cheltenham Education Partnership. Our project is called Upcycled Wearable Art.

Over the next ten months, we will be attending four workshops that will run at various schools. We have been chosen, which is a privilege, to represent Pittville school, as we come up with our designs based on Nature Vs Man, which is the key theme to work towards an amazing outcome. In July we will have the chance to show off our work (in teams of three) in a fashion show which is happening at The Wilson Museum. In our session on Thursday, we created our mood boards for inspirations and began our designs, along with various other activities. We are delighted and honoured to be a part of this amazing experience and we look forward to creating our designs!

By Lucy'



The CEP events continued with The Great Debate which provided an opportunity for our students to showcase their public speaking skills. The Pittville team, Isobel, Khadija, Nemindi and Isabel, all argued confidently and expertly against Dean Close school, and

even though they did not win they certainly made us proud. Mrs Davies reports that Pittville had the youngest team member! Well done to the team.

Isabel writes, 'On Tuesday, 8th October we went to debate at Bournside school! This was the first debate of The Great Debate programme organised by CEP The other teams were from Bournside, Balcarras, Cheltenham Ladies College, Cheltenham College, and Dean Close Schools. We each read our speech for the question "The government is not doing enough to support green energy" arguing in favour of the statement and Nemindi asked the questions. Unfortunately, we lost against Dean Close School, but it was a very enjoyable afternoon! We had the youngest debater- Isabel from Year 9, where as most teams were from 6th Form. '



DDD1

Drop-Down Day One: Human Connection

For those of you new to the school, still getting to grips with all our terminology, we held our first RSHE Drop Down Day on Friday, 4th October, when all students came off timetable to attend different workshops on a bespoke, age appropriate RSHE theme. We had another successful day in school with a variety of highlights, including: **Year 7** Drama Workshop on the theme of "anti-bullying" and a Year 7 talk from the School's Beat Officer about Cyberbullying.



Year 8 Performance of “crashing”, a play about child criminal exploitation.



Year 9 team building workshop where students had to work together to “protect the egg”, and a workshop on prejudice, discrimination, and discriminatory language.



Year 10 art workshop on the theme of "identity"



Year 11 Post-16 fair where students could find out more about the different options for education beyond Pittville. Students also spent the day preparing for their Mock Interview Day which will take place on 12th December 2024 (Drop Down Day 2).



Behaviour was exemplary on the day, with students in Year 8 being praised by the visiting performers as 'delightful' and 'the best behaved and respectful group' they had seen all year.

Please do discuss with your students their experiences and what they learnt on the day. We are already looking forward to the next Drop-Down day on December 12th

Mrs R Wood – Curriculum Leader for RSHE

BATTLEFIELDS CROSS MUSEUM & REMEMBRANCE OBSERVANCE

On Monday, 11th November we will be joining the nation in an act of remembrance for all those that made the ultimate sacrifice, and continue to sacrifice, for the freedom we have today. Staff and students will observe a two-minute silence at 11am on Armistice Day.

Earlier in the term, Mr Gilpin was invited by Cheltenham Civic Society to the opening ceremony of the WW1 Battlefield Crosses Museum at Cheltenham Cemetery, Bouncers Lane.

Mr Gilpin writes, 'It was a great honour to attend the opening of this fascinating exhibition and to recognise the part that Pittville students played in the project. I would encourage parents/carers and students to visit the exhibition at the cemetery.'

You can click on the link below to find out more about the project.

<https://cheltcivicsoc.org/campaigns/battlefield-crosses-museum/>



PITTVILLE PARLIAMENT TRIP

At the end of term Miss Dove, Miss Allen and Miss Daniel accompanied a number of students to London for a Pittville Parliament trip.

Miss Dove writes, 'On 22nd October, members of Pittville Parliament and Pittville Civic Society had the opportunity to visit the Houses of Parliament in London. Students embarked on a tour of the Palace of Westminster and both Houses and learned all about how democracy and lawmaking work in Britain

The students participated in a workshop on how to propose a petition to parliament and had the opportunity to present their own ideas about topics that were important to them. Students worked together to present brilliant ideas about expanding hospital infrastructure, improving cancer patient care, reforming public transport, recruiting more school nurses, and preventing the spread of misinformation on social media.

Students were also granted the special opportunity to view a live debate in the House of Commons on providing defence funding for Ukraine in the ongoing war.

As well as the Parliament visit, students also had the opportunity to take in some of the famous sites of London, walking along the Mall, and visiting Buckingham Palace and St James' Park.

The students' attitude, effort, and maturity throughout the day was exemplary and really represented the best of Pittville values. Overall, an enjoyable school trip.'





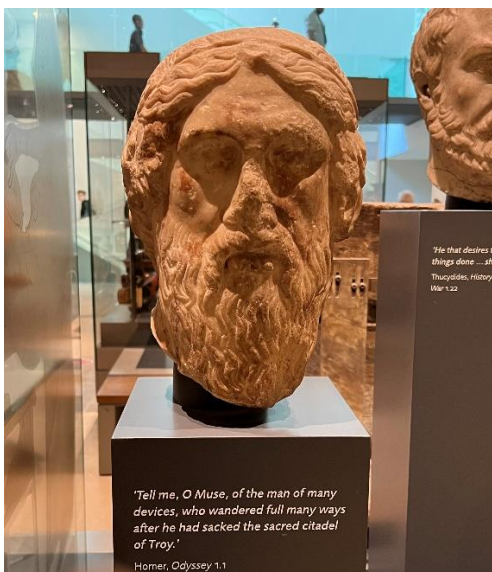
Y7 OXFORD TRIP

Year 7 Ashmolean Museum Trip

On Monday, 21st October, thirty Year 7 students enjoyed a day at the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, where they were given the opportunity to explore all the galleries before attending a lesson on life in Ancient Greece. The afternoon session gave students the chance to handle real artefacts from over two-and-a-half thousand years ago, including silver coins, arrow heads and even a marble griffin head!

Students came away from the day with a broader understanding of Ancient Greek society which should enrich their experience and enjoyment of 'The Odyssey' this term.

We are grateful to staff and parents for supporting this trip. As there was considerable interest in it, we are exploring the possibility of repeating it later in the year.





Photos: A statue of Sophocles (students will learn more about this famous Greek playwright in Year 9); Greek vases; and a sculpture of Homer above the opening lines of 'The Odyssey'.

Mr Lowey, Curriculum Lead - English

OPEN EVENING

As reported in the last edition of the newsletter you may recall a mention regarding Open Week and Open Evening. Open Week was a great success with many tours and opportunities for prospective Pittville families to see the school 'in action'. In the two weeks following open week, over 110 families attended a tour during the school day. Mr Gilpin has significantly increased his steps this year.

Open Evening, on Thursday 26th September, also offered an opportunity for families to tour the school, talk to students and staff and sample the amazing Pittville atmosphere. The evening included two headteacher talks to a full school hall and every department offering an insight into Pittville School life.

Mr Gilpin, Mr Kavanagh, and some of our prefects also visited several primary schools in the area to deliver talks to Y5 and Y6 prospective parents /carers.

We look forward to welcoming, and meeting again, many of these students and families in the future. If you missed our open activities, please visit the website where a virtual tour is available. Mr Kavanagh

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:

4 th - 15 th November	Year 9 assessments
18 th - 28 th November	Year 11 mock exams
Wednesday 27 th November	Year 10 and Year 11 Careers Fair
Friday 29 th November	Inset – students do not attend.
Monday 2 nd December	Inset – students do not attend.
Tuesday 3 rd & Wednesday 4 th December	Year 11 MFL mock speaking exams
Thursday 5 th December	Year 11 dance exam
Tuesday 10 th December	RSHE DDD2
Wednesday 11 th – Friday 13 th December	School performance
Thursday 12 th December	Year 10 Progress Evening (online)
Monday 16 th December	Carol concert
Friday 20 th December	End of term 2 – students leave at 12.20pm

Term 3 begins Monday 6th January

STAY IN TOUCH

Follow us on:



Friends of Pittville:



Pittville performing arts





The
ROCK
Transforming Lives

Detached Project

Supporting young people in local community spaces

Find us in:

Cheltenham Town Centre
St Paul's/Pittville Park
The Moors

Follow us @therockchelt   

therock.uk.com

01242700700 07414217839

Registered Charity: 1190651

St. Peter's Church, Tewkesbury Road,

Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL51 9AH

The Rock is committed to safeguarding children and young people. All Rock youthwork team are subject to DBS checks

Scan Here



NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND





**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

For more info on the group's visit

therock-uk.com

Archery

Wednesdays 6pm-7:30pm

School Years 6-11

FRESH
Youth Club

Thursdays 6pm-7:30pm

School Years 7-11+

£1 a session

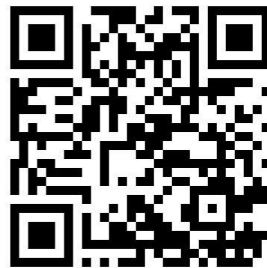
Parent consent & Session Sign up

therock.myclubhouse.co.uk

@therockcheltenham



St Peter's Church Tewksbury
RD GL51 9AH



01242 700700

Charity Number: 1190651

@therockchelt



The Rock is committed to safeguarding
children & young people, including DBS checks for
all youth team

FOOTBALL SESSIONS

Where: **Prestbury MUGA**
When: **Friday evening**
Time: **5 pm to 7 pm**
Ages: **12 – 18 years old**
Cost: **FREE**
Info: **will.mills@ctfccp.com**

To Register scan the link below





Family Support

Supporting Parents to Understand their Children's Mental Health

A mix of virtual and face-to-face workshops designed to support parents through every stage of their child's journey. Gain confidence and practical skills to navigate challenging moments with ease.

Coping mechanisms for young people

12:30 - 3:30pm

25 July | 25 September | 21 November

Mental health and the online world

9:30 - 12:30pm

28 August | 9 October | 4 December

Mental Health and substance misuse

5 September 9.30 - 12.30pm

6 November 12.30 - 3.30pm

Strategies to support young people

24 October 12.30 - 3.30pm

12 December 9.30 - 12.30pm



LOTTERY FUNDED



getinvolved@youngglos.org.uk

www.youngglos.org.uk

01452 501008

Charity No. 281797