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**website** [www.pittville.gloucs.sch.uk](http://www.pittville.gloucs.sch.uk)

**Headteacher** Richard Gilpin

## **NEWSLETTER – Term 3 2024/25**

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the end of Term 3 newsletter which includes articles on the many events and activities that have taken place this term. In Term 4 we are planning to move towards a weekly bulletin-style newsletter. This will be a compact edition, probably issued on a Friday, and, hopefully, will reduce the need for some messages that are currently sent to you on a daily basis, via Edulink.

I hope this half-term break allows you all to enjoy some brighter days.

Kind regards,

R Gilpin  
Headteacher

### **Changes to our newsletter**

From next term we have decided to send out a weekly newsletter/bulletin. We have so much to share with you that our half-termly newsletter is simply getting too long. Look out for our first bulletin on Friday, 28th February.

## **EXAM RESULTS**

### **Celebrating fantastic official exam results**

Each year, the Department for Education publishes official GCSE statistics for all schools in the country. As you know from our first newsletter of the year, we were delighted with how well students did in their exams. We would like to share some highlights below:

- Students make better progress at Pittville than in most other schools. Our students' progress in their GCSEs is in the top 30% of all schools
- Students at Pittville achieved in the top 20% of all students in the country in their GCSEs in science and in Vocational ICT
- Our students' progress in GCSE science is in the top 30% of all schools

- Our students' progress in French and Spanish is in the top 6% of all schools

We are incredibly proud of all our students' hard-work and the tireless dedication of our staff. We are excited to see how well our future Year 11 students do in the years to come.

Mr A. Raistrick,  
Deputy Headteacher

### Attendance update

We continue to work hard at improving attendance at Pittville. Whilst we understand that students will occasionally pick up bugs we want to ensure that students attend school as regularly as is possible. We aim is to get to a point where our whole school attendance figure is at 95% for the whole school. Therefore, we are introducing some new initiatives.

#### **'Strive for Five' campaign**

We would like to celebrate those students who achieve 5 days attendance in a week by giving them the opportunity to win a £10 Amazon voucher. Starting on Friday, 28th February we will hold our first live 'Strive for Five' draw where 3 students who have been in school for 5 days that week will be picked at random to receive their vouchers.

#### **Is my child too ill for school? NHS advice**

We understand that children become ill sometimes but it is possible to send your child to school when they are simply 'not on top form'. We believe doing so fosters resilience and a determination to battle on in children –two great qualities in life. Click on the link below to see the advice from the NHS website.

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

#### **Medical appointments during the school day**

We appreciate that, at times, medical appointments have to take place during the school day. However we would ask that, whenever possible, dental and GP appointments are made outside of school hours. We ask that parents provide a copy of the appointment letter when informing us of forthcoming appointments. Where appointments do take place during the school day we ask that students return to school afterwards unless there is a good reason for not doing so.

#### **Students who are unwell during the school day**

May we remind you that that students will be allowed to leave school when unwell only if they are to be collected by a parent or carer. If students cannot be collected, they will have to remain in school. Students will not be allowed to walk home unaccompanied.

## Late arrivals

Parents of all students in ALL year groups should report an absence either by calling, 01242 524787 and pressing option 1 or via Edulink.

Please do not text or email individual members of staff. Please use the phone number above.

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.

## Requests for holidays during term time

Please note any requests for holiday should be directed to the head teacher. We do not authorise holidays as a matter of course during term time.

### Policies at Pittville

It may be useful for parents to familiarise themselves with the following school policies:

Behaviour

<https://www.pittville.gloucs.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Behaviour-Policy.pdf>

Attendance

<https://www.pittville.gloucs.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Attendance-and-Punctuality-Policy-3.pdf>

RSHE

<https://www.pittville.gloucs.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Relationship-and-Sex-Education-Policy-2024.pdf>

RSHE Curriculum Map

<https://www.pittville.gloucs.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Pittville-RSHE-curriculum-map.pdf>

Safeguarding

<https://www.pittville.gloucs.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Child-Protection-and-Safeguarding-Policy-2024.pdf>

### RSHE – DROP DOWN DAYS

I am delighted to share with you the exciting learning experiences our students have engaged in during the recent RSHE drop-down days. These dedicated days allow our students to explore important life skills, broaden their horizons, and engage with real-world issues in meaningful ways. Below is a summary of what each year group has been up to across the past two half-terms.

#### Half Term Two – Learning About Families

- **Year 7** embarked on an enriching trip to Holy Trinity Church in Cheltenham, where they attended a mock wedding ceremony between Mrs Wood and Mr Smith. This immersive experience provided students with a deep understanding of the significance of marriage and wedding traditions.

- **Year 8** were fortunate enough to welcome a celebrity author, who spoke about her book, which explores themes of nature, fantasy, and bereavement. This provided students with a valuable insight into storytelling and emotional well-being.
- **Year 9** focused on their future aspirations by learning more about career pathways and the options process, equipping them with essential knowledge for their upcoming choices.
- **Year 10** took part in crucial fire safety training led by expert firefighters. They were even given the opportunity to handle fire extinguishers, gaining practical experience in fire prevention and emergency response.
- **Year 11 Mock Interview Day** provided students with a realistic and valuable insight into the world of work. Each student was matched with an employer, underwent a formal interview, and received constructive feedback. Dressed in business attire, they were welcomed with a hot drink reception, mimicking a professional interview setting. Students also engaged in team-building activities to experience the dynamics of group interviews. The day concluded with a wonderful afternoon of well-being activities, including baking with Mr Raistrick and a Christmas shopping trip to Gloucester Quays.

### **Half Term Three – Technology and Online Safety**

- **Year 7** explored the world of careers through engaging activities which included interviewing school staff about their career journeys and participating in an exciting school-wide treasure hunt to learn about qualifications and career paths.
- **Year 8** enjoyed learning to play bridge, a strategic card game which they mastered by the end of the session. They also participated in an important session on the dangers of becoming a "money mule," raising awareness of this emerging crime.
- **Year 9** received a vital session on appropriate online behaviour and the risks of sexting. This session was delivered by Officer Laura, our dedicated school police officer. Students also learned about the growing issue of "sextortion" and how to seek help if they ever encounter such situations.
- **Year 10** visited Aerospace Bristol, where they explored the wonders of technology and STEM-related careers. A highlight of the trip was an interactive workshop in which students designed, built and tested their own mars rover robots!
- **Year 11** attended an informative session on the dangers of the online world, delivered by a leading industry expert. They also participated in an inspiring talk from "The Art of Brilliance" team, focusing on how to cultivate a positive mindset and find happiness in everyday life.

We are incredibly proud of our students for their enthusiasm and engagement during these sessions. These drop-down days are designed to equip students with invaluable knowledge and skills that will benefit them throughout their lives. We look forward to sharing more enriching experiences with them in the future.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

**Best regards,**

Mrs R Wood, Curriculum Leader RE and RSHE at Pittville School





## Launch of adolescent vaping web page

**A web page on adolescent vaping has launched on NHS Gloucestershire. Developed by public health, the page has been designed for Gloucestershire's young people, parents, carers and professionals to be a central resource of information on the risks of adolescent vaping, alongside signposting to support.**

**The page has been developed in response to the rise of adolescent vaping that has been seen both nationally and within Gloucestershire in recent years. Trying vaping appears to increase with age; the 2024 Pupil Wellbeing Survey found that 45% of year 12 pupils had ever tried vaping, followed by 29.4% of year 10 pupils. In comparison, under 5% of years 4, 5 and 6 pupils had tried vaping.**

**Visit [www.nhsglos.nhs.uk/your-health-services/healthy-communities/vaping](http://www.nhsglos.nhs.uk/your-health-services/healthy-communities/vaping) for more information. For any queries, please contact: [rachel.howard@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:rachel.howard@gloucestershire.gov.uk)**

### CEP HORIZONS CONFERENCE 2025

On Friday, 31<sup>st</sup> January, some year 10 students attended the first Cheltenham Education Partnership Horizon Council event at Balcarras School. One of the students, Alfie, writes:

“This event is to create a two-way dialogue between students and experts to facilitate meaningful future change.

The 2025 theme was tied with No Child Left Behind 2025 Year of Action. The experts who attended were Paul Baker (Mayor of Cheltenham), Victoria Atherstone (Cheltenham Borough Council Councillor – Safety & Communities, Ian Dobie (Cheltenham Borough Council Councillor – Environment & Sustainability, Clare Marchant (Vice Chancellor at University of Gloucestershire), Ali Mawle (Co-CEO at Cheltenham Festivals), Emma MacDonald (Superintendent at Gloucestershire Constabulary), Ben Edington- Thomas (Innovation Lead – Plexal) Lindsey Holland (Projects Executive Cheltenham Chamber), No Child Left Behind and Alexis Turner (Cheltenham Borough Council – Community Investment Team).

Pittville students were tasked with the question, ‘How can we ensure that the voices of young people from diverse backgrounds are heard and listened to by decision makers?’ After all schools presented to the experts, we were split up to do a mixed school activity that was to re-discuss the questions that were mentioned earlier in the day. The questions we had to think about were, what can we do ourselves and how? What would we need help with? Who could we ask for help? And, What resources might we need?

At the end of the event, we were given a certificate.

Some of the main issues that were talked about were mental health, online safety, the future, sustainability, trusting adults and the police, artificial intelligence,

apprenticeships, T-levels, A-levels, going to university, being self-employed, anti-social behaviour and so much more!

Pittville wants to say that it was such a brilliant experience to be a part of and we hope to be invited again next year!"

Thank you, Alfie, and well done to all the students that represented our school.

## DANCE WORKSHOP

On Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February, Swindon Dance CATS (Centre for Advanced Training) came to visit GCSE students. Thomas Page, who trained at the Ballet Rambert, led the students in a contemporary workshop which challenged and pushed the students in their dance technique and performance skills.

The workshop gave the students an insight into careers in dance and performance, post 16. It was a wonderful opportunity for the students and one I hope they thoroughly enjoyed.

Mrs Watkins,  
Curriculum Leader - Dance





### UKMT INTERMEDIATE MATHS CHALLENGE 2025

On 29<sup>th</sup> January, 48 students from years 9 and 10 took on the intermediate maths challenge. A 60-minute, 25 multiple choice challenge. It encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought and fluency to make students think. Our students achieved some fantastic results. Below are some of the highlights:

- Gold - Sam Howard
- Silver - Dougie Kilby-Coulthard
- Silver - Isobel Davies
- Silver - Ishaan Jog
- Bronze - Khadija Ahmad
- Bronze - Jack Byers
- Bronze - Leah Capewell
- Bronze - Nethula Pathiraja
- Bronze - Fadi Djebli
- Bronze - Lewis Payne
- Bronze - Harley Stead
- Bronze - Ethan Clarke
- Bronze - Lydia Masters

Congratulations all, Mr Hill, Teacher - maths



## MFL VISIT TO COTSWOLD SCHOOL

On 23rd January, fifteen year 9 students attended a modern languages day at The Cotswold School. The day started with a motivational talk by David Binns, Chief Executive of Sanako. David focused on the importance of learning foreign languages and the huge benefits of having a language to offer when applying for jobs.

A second talk, by language analysts from GCHQ, described the work they do using their additional languages to combat terrorism, organised crime and cyber threats to the United Kingdom.

The students then took part in a fun taster session in a language they do not currently learn; Arabic, Korean or Punjabi. The students then had to work to foil a threat scenario in either French or Spanish.

The day ended with the competition we had all been waiting for: the grand finale of the languages Spelling Bee! Two Pittville students, Ellie and Poppy, had made it through tough competition to gain a place in the final, and had to spell at speed in either French or Spanish against students from other local schools. They did brilliantly, both coming a very respectful third place in their chosen language - well done! All in all, an interesting and inspiring day for everyone involved.

Ms Allen  
Teacher - MFL

### **Dropping students at school by car**

Please remember that 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 students should complete their journey to school on foot.

### **Dates for your diary:**

Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February	Term 4 begins
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> March	RSHE Drop Down Day 4
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	British Science Week
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	Y8 Science Trip
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> March	Y9 Science Trip
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	Y7 Progress Evening (Online)
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	Y11 Dance exam
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	Y11 Exam Preparation evening 6pm – 7.15pm
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> April	Y11 MFL speaking exams
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> April	Y10 Drama exam
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> April	End of term 4

STAY IN TOUCH

Follow us on:



Friends of Pittville:



Pittville performing arts





# February 2025 Newsletter

Thursday  
20th Feb

19:00 - 20:00

FREE



## FREE SESSION

### Supporting Healthy Screen Use

A range of steps that can help minimise the harms from screens

Monday  
3rd Feb

10:00 - 11:30

£24



### Supporting a Child with ADHD

Challenging the stereotypes and giving practical interventions. Clear explanation of the condition in all its forms and extremely useful advice.

Tuesday  
11th Feb

19:00 - 20:30

£24



### Facing Defiance

Specific strategy to help parents manage defiant and challenging behaviour, especially aimed at ADHD, ODD and PDA conditions, 5 to 12 years old.

Tuesday  
18th Feb

19:00 - 20:30

£24



### Cannabis & Ketamine Awareness

Get the facts and know the harms about these two drugs so you can hold an informed conversation with your teens.

Tuesday  
25th Feb

19:00 - 20:30

£24



### Understanding the Teenage Brain

A 'must see' for all parents and teachers of teens and pre-teens. Explains why teens think, feel and behave very differently from adults and how we can support them.

[facefamilyadvice.co.uk](http://facefamilyadvice.co.uk)

[info@facefamilyadvice.co.uk](mailto:info@facefamilyadvice.co.uk)

Understanding Anger	10 FEB 7pm
Supporting Healthy Screen Use	11 FEB 10am
Facing Defiance	14 FEB 7pm
Raising Self-Esteem	27 JAN 7pm 25 FEB 10am
Supporting Healthy Sleep	28 JAN 7pm 24 FEB 10am
Supporting a Child with ADHD	3 FEB 10am 3 MAR 7pm
Improving Family Communication	3 FEB 7pm 4 MAR 10am
AUTISM: Improving Communication	4 FEB 10am 4 MAR 7pm
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	4 FEB 7pm 3 MAR 10am
Anxiety-Based School Avoidance	10 FEB 10am 10 MAR 7pm
What is ACT?	17 FEB 10am 17 MAR 7pm
Introduction to OCD	17 FEB 7pm 18 MAR 10am
Anxiety Explained	18 FEB 10am 18 MAR 7pm
Cannabis & Ketamine Awareness	18 FEB 7pm 17 MAR 10am
Decreasing Depression	24 FEB 7pm 25 MAR 10am
Understanding the Teenage Brain	25 FEB 7pm 24 MAR 10am





Charity number: 1141827

## Does your child have or do you know a child who has:

- Cerebral palsy?
  - Developmental coordination disorder (DCD - formerly dyspraxia)?
  - Milestone delay?
  - A genetic disorder?
- OR any movement difficulties?**



We can help through group or individual sessions

We have venues in Herefordshire, Shropshire, Worcestershire & Gloucestershire.  
We also offer sessions in schools or virtually!



We are currently offering 40 free sessions for under 3s!

**FREE ASSESSMENT**

**FREE REPORT**

**FIRST THREE SESSIONS FREE**

[www.meganbakerhouse.org.uk](http://www.meganbakerhouse.org.uk)

01531 633840

[sue@meganbakerhouse.org.uk](mailto:sue@meganbakerhouse.org.uk)

# Parent & Carer Workshops

Are you worried about your child's well-being?

Parenting is rewarding yet challenging, especially when concerns arise. You are not alone.



TIC+ run **FREE Workshops** that meet face-to-face or virtually via Zoom

**Discover** strategies to nurture resilience, guided by trained facilitators.

**Share** experiences, learn and grow in a safe space.

Visit the Parent Support pages on our website [www.ticplus.org.uk](http://www.ticplus.org.uk) or scan the QR code

**Who:** Tailored for Gloucestershire parents & carers of ages 11-18

**When:** Weekly sessions for 6 weeks, 1.5 hours each. Choose daytime or evening

**Where:** In person or online via Zoom

**BOOK NOW!**

## March - April 2025

DATE	DAY	TIME	LOCATION
11 Mar - 08 Apr	Tuesday	10:00am - 11:30am	Stroud
11 Mar - 08 Apr	Tuesday	6:30pm - 8:00pm	Zoom
12 Mar - 09 Apr	Wednesday	7:00pm - 8:30pm	Zoom
13 Mar - 10 Apr	Thursday	7:00pm - 8:30pm	Zoom





# Parent & Carer Workshops

March - April 2025

Are you worried about your child's mental health & wellbeing?

OUR FREE PARENT & CARERS WORKSHOPS ARE FOR PARENTS/CARERS OF YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 11-18 LIVING IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE WHO ARE STRUGGLING WITH THEIR MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING

**Who can attend?** Parents & Carers of young people aged 11-18 living in Gloucestershire.

**Where?** Sessions are delivered remotely via Zoom or face-to-face in venues across Gloucestershire.

**When?** Times vary. Please visit our website for the full timetable of dates.

### How do I book?

Head to [www.ticplus.org.uk/parents-carers/parent-carer-support-groups/](http://www.ticplus.org.uk/parents-carers/parent-carer-support-groups/)



Or you can book by scanning this QR code with your phone.

GROUPS ARE WEEKLY FOR SIX WEEKS AND LAST 1.5 HOURS - DAYTIME AND EVENING GROUPS AVAILABLE

11 March - 8 April  
10.00am - 11.30am  
Stroud

11 March - 8 April  
6.30pm - 8.00pm  
Zoom

12 March - 9 April  
7.00pm - 8.30pm  
Zoom

13 March - 10 April  
7.00pm - 8.30pm  
Zoom

