

7th November 2025

Dear parents/carers and students,



I hope that this letter home finds you all well and that students enjoyed a good half term break.

Staff Training (INSET) Day

On Monday, all staff received up-to-date safeguarding and child protection training delivered by the local authority. Our most important responsibility as a school community is to keep our young people safe whilst they are at school, and the training was an important occasion for school staff to be updated on their responsibilities toward safeguarding young people. It is clear that many challenges exist today that can impact on children and young people, and which form part of our wider safeguarding work in school. It is important that our young people at Crypt feel safe, and that they know support is available to them at school if they ever felt they needed to access it - whether that was because of a safeguarding concern, or any other wellbeing or related issue.

Year 10 GCSE Music Trip Gloucester Guildhall

Our year 10 musicians enjoyed a visit to the Guildhall in Gloucester on Wednesday. Led by Mr Whittaker, they had a great experience practising with the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra and enjoying their day in that very grand setting.

Anti-bullying Assembly

The school's supportive, kind and respectful culture helps ensure that all students feel safe at school, feel included and supported and can grow into the young person they wish to be. Bullying in any form has no place at the school, and our student surveys and discussions always show that bullying is not a feature of life at school but if it does happen students say that it is dealt with very quickly by school staff. To further strengthen that safe, values-based school culture, which seeks to make bullying in any form unacceptable at school, an assembly - led by three of our anti-bullying student ambassadors and Mrs Hargraves - was held on Thursday, with the students speaking about the importance of being kind to others, and of the need to uphold our shared school values. The assembly worked very well, I felt, to reinforce our anti-bullying agenda and to further strengthen our shared school culture and values.

Sixth form Open Evening

On Thursday, hundreds of prospective sixth form students and their parents attended our open evening. Always popular with both internal and external year 11 students, our sixth form offers a challenging academically focussed A level curriculum, combined with a varied enrichment programme, opportunities for personal growth and development, and a strong programme of careers guidance and support. The sixth form centre recently benefited from a £300,000 investment, enhancing both the social and study facilities available to year 12 and 13 students.



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The Crypt School: a company limited by guarantee.
Registered in England and Wales: Company No: 7489196

The Crypt School
Educating students since 1539

The supportive ethos of the wider school is replicated in the sixth form and is combined with a culture in which students are expected to take on greater responsibility for their own learning, their future aspirations and the welfare of others lower down in the school. Our school-based sixth form of nearly 350 students, provides a welcoming space for all who attend; I do hope that our current year 11 students will want to remain at Crypt to continue their educational journeys with us here after they have completed their GCSE courses and exams. Sixth form applications are due in late January 2026 - see the school website for more details about the school's outstanding sixth form and the opportunities it offers.

Sporting fixtures

Futures resumed this week, after the half term break, with Crypt teams playing matches in netball (girls years 7-11 and senior), football (boys year 8, girls year 7), and rugby (boys year 7, 9, 10 and senior). In the senior boy's rugby against Chosen Hill on Wednesday, a number of year 11 players represented the senior team in a competitive match which saw Crypt win by 27 to 15 points.

Remembrance at Crypt

Every year, the school community comes together on, or close to the 11th of November, to remember all those whose lives were lost, or were transformed by the wars and conflicts of the twentieth and twenty first centuries, and especially to remember the 136 Cryptians who lost their lives in the two world wars of the twentieth century. The names of all Old Cryptians who died in World War One and World War Two, are displayed on two memorial plaques housed in the Crush Hall, and which will be the focus of our school remembrance service next Tuesday - the 11th of November. This year, we shall be holding two services, so all members of the school can attend, with the wreath laying taking place in the second service at 11.00am - the time when the guns fell silent on the western front in 1918. Poppies are on sale in school, and I urge all students to support the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal, 2025 through both buying and then wearing a Poppy next Tuesday.

In the incredibly well-researched book "The Lost Generations: Old Cryptians killed during the Great War and Second World War" by Simon and Sarah Birch and Ray Pocock, the following two entries stand out to me as being both immensely sad and poignant, as we move towards Remembrance Day:

The first known OC killed in action in the Great War was 2nd Lieutenant Francis Ballinger of the 4th battalion, the king's regiment. He was killed in action on the 22nd of May 1915. Francis had joined the school in 1901 moving to study at Cambridge in September 1912. In 1915 the King's 4th Battalion was assigned to the 9th Indian Infantry Brigade of the Lahore Division of the Indian Corps, who went into action at the Battle of Aubers on the 9th of May: it was during this action, that Francis died aged just 22— he has no known grave.

The last OC killed in action was 2nd Lieutenant Richard Hayes of the Wiltshire regiment. He was born in 1888, and lived in Barnwood. Richard or Dick Hayes, was killed on the 4th of November 1918, although his parents only found out about his death on the 12th of November, one day after the armistice of the 11th. He now lies buried in a small cemetery in France; he was just 20 years old.

With my continued best wishes,



Nicholas Dyer
Headmaster

School Dates

14 November	Non uniform day – Children in Need
17–18 November	Y7–11 Flu Immunisations
20–23 November	Cologne Trip
25 November	SENDCo afternoon 2.30pm–4pm
25 November	CSPTA Meeting S1 6.30pm
28 November	School production Oliver! 7pm
29 November	School production Oliver! 2pm & 7pm
2 December	Y7 Christmas Lunch
3 December	Y8 & 11 Christmas Lunch
4 December	Y9 & 10 Christmas Lunch
4 December	Y9 GCSE Option Evening 5.40pm–8pm
5 December	Christmas Fair 6–8pm
10 December	Y13 Business trip Birmingham
11 December	Christmas Jumper Day
11 December	Sixth Form Christmas Lunch
15 December	CSPTA Meeting S1 6.30pm
18 December	Christmas Carol Service St Barnabas 6.30pm
19 December	Term ends 12.30pm

Remembrance Day Service – Tuesday 11th November

We will hold our annual Remembrance Day Service on Tuesday 11th November to honour and remember all those who have served and sacrificed in times of conflict. This important occasion brings our school community together in reflection and respect.

Poppies are now on sale in school and can be purchased from Reception. They will also be available to buy during form time on Monday. All donations go to support the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

We encourage students, staff, and visitors to wear their poppies as we remember those who gave so much for others.

“At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them.”

OLIVER! – Live on Stage! 🎵



Join us for this timeless musical adventure filled with heart, humour, and unforgettable songs including “Consider Yourself,” “Food, Glorious Food,” and “Where Is Love?”

Showtimes:

Friday 28 November – 7:00 PM

Saturday 29 November – 2:00 PM & 7:00 PM

Pre and post-show bar also selling refreshments including ice-creams Tickets available now on Eventbrite!

Please share the link with friends and family

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/oliver-tickets-1832910818599...>

Please note: Oliver! contains themes of violence, crime, and grief that may be distressing for younger viewers. Recommended for ages 8+ (parental discretion advised).

Christmas Lunch 2025 – Book Now on ParentPay

We’re delighted to invite students to enjoy our festive Christmas lunch this December! To secure a place, parents and carers are asked to make a £3.50 payment via ParentPay. Please note that this payment is non-refundable, and students entitled to Free School Meals must still book a meal through ParentPay to ensure their Christmas lunch is reserved.

Payment deadline: Sunday 23rd November.

Unfortunately, it will not be possible to pay or book after this date.



Christmas Lunch Dates:

- Year 7: Tuesday 2nd December
- Years 8 & 11: Wednesday 3rd December

- Years 9 & 10: Thursday 4th December
- Sixth Form: Thursday 11th December

Festive Menu:

- Main: Roast Turkey and Stuffing
or Roasted Vegetable, Cranberry and Cheese Puff Pastry Wreath
- Sides: Roast Potatoes, Christmas Vegetable Medley, Sticky Chipolata and Gravy
- Dessert: Rudolph's Nose Cookie or Cinnamon Popcorn

For those not wishing to have the Christmas lunch, grab-and-go items will still be available as usual.

Let's make it a joyful and delicious celebration for all — don't forget to book by Sunday 23rd November!

The Crypt School PTA Christmas Fair – Friday 5th December 6–8pm



Join us for an evening of festive fun at our **PTA Christmas Fair**, taking place on **Friday 5th December from 6–8pm**. It promises to be a wonderful community event with stalls, games, and plenty of seasonal cheer.

The PTA are kindly asking for **donations for the tombola stall** — these could include bottles of wine or soft drinks, toiletries, small toys, ornaments, chocolates, sweets, other food items, or unwanted gifts. We just ask that all donations are **unused and within their use-by date**. Items can be handed in at **Reception**.

If you'd like to **run a stall** or **donate a prize for the raffle**, please get in touch with the PTA at cspta@cryptschool.org.

Thank you for your ongoing support — we look forward to seeing you there!

Languages at Crypt

The last term was very exciting in the language department as we learned a lot about the different cultures and traditions of the language the pupil study.

Year 8 German:

With our year 8 German groups we have learned about the tradition and culture of first day at a German Grundschule (infant school). The children in Germany have a special ceremony for their first day at school called Einschulung and their parents make them a 'Schultüte' filled with sweets and presents to make the first day at school sweeter and easier. Our year 8 students enjoyed making their own Schultüte and learning about this tradition in our culture lesson.



Year 9 German:

Our year 9 students learned all about the traditional Oktoberfest in München and had great fun creating their own Oktoberfest at the Crypt School within their lesson. We learned about the traditional clothing, why the Germans celebrate this tradition, who they celebrate the tradition and how many 'Steins' a waitress or waiter can carry at once (29 of 2kg each). All the students enjoyed singing and trying some 'Apfelschorle' and 'Pretzeln' at the end of the lesson.

Year 8 & Year 9 French:

Our year 8 and year 9 French Students were given a mystery to solve. Who stole the Mona Lisa back in the early 1900s? Using decoders and their inquisitive skills, they solved this conundrum while using target language. The students loved learning about the art and history of France and demonstrated great independent learning skills as well as being great detectives.



Year 8 Spanish:

In Year 8 Spanish, we learned about the Mexican tradition of El Día de Los Muertos, a festival about honouring our ancestors

who have passed away. Students watched a video about the festival, learned some key vocabulary in Spanish and made their own Day of the Dead masks.

Library Newsletter

Welcome back to the library after the autumn break. I have had lots of students returning and borrowing book over the first few days of this term which is so encouraging to see.

On Friday 24th October the winner of our Halloween quiz was announced. Congratulations to Aadya 9WEH on winning the quiz receiving a Halloween drinking cup filled with sweets.

All entries received merits for taking part in the quiz.

To celebrate Non-Fiction November, we have a display of a variety of books available to borrow.



National Non-Fiction November is the Federation of Children's Book Groups annual celebration of all things factual - 2025 is the 15th anniversary. The month offers the perfect opportunity to investigate the amazing variety of information books offer children and young people. It is a time to value and recognise the importance all thing factual.

Why non-fiction reading is important?

Research by the National Literacy Trust has shown has that more than half (56%) of children and young people said that they read non-fiction. It was also found that children and young people who read non-fiction are more engaged with environmental issues.

Overall, the National Literacy Trust found that more children and young people who read non-fiction were motivated to read for educational purposes, to satisfy curiosities, to foster social connections and to support their mental wellbeing.

Those who read non-fiction are more likely to want to take care of the environment compared with those who don't read non-fiction (68% vs 49%).

Over the next couple of weeks, I will be running a non-fiction quiz for the students. It is a perfect opportunity for them to research and hopefully win a prize. All entries receive merits for their efforts.

How You Can Help Improve Your Child's Memory

Tuesday 18th November 6:00-7:00pm (GMT)

Here's what Elevate will be covering on the night:

- ✓ Understanding how your child's memory works
- ✓ Optimising your child's environment for memorisation
- ✓ 3 practical memory techniques to use with your child this term

[Click here to register for free](#)



elevate
education

Autumn Term Parent Support Series

Free Parent Webinars

Join us and Elevate Education for FREE 60-minute webinars designed to help you support your child's studies at home.

Click here to Register

In the Autumn Term, we'll cover:

1. **How to Get (And Keep!) Your Child Motivated**
- 16th September @6:00pm (BST)
2. **How You Can Help Your Child Manage Their Time**
- 30th September @6:00pm (BST)
3. **How You Can Help Your Child Set Up for Success in Exams**
- 14th October @6:00pm (BST)
4. **How You Can Help Improve Your Child's Memory**
- 18th November @6:00pm (GMT)
5. **How You Can Build Resilience in Your Child**
- 2nd December @6:00pm (GMT)
6. **How to Help Your Child Alleviate Stress**
- 16th December @6:00pm (GMT)

Gloucester Santa Fun Run 2025

It's that time of year again to spread the word regarding the #GlosSantaFunRun.

This year it's in Kings Square outside the old Debenhams building on Saturday 13th December from 10.30am-11.30am. Registration opens at 9.30am.

Order tickets here - [Glos Santa Fun Run #GlosSantaFunRun- 2025 Tickets, Sat, Dec 13, 2025 at 10:30 AM | Eventbrite](https://www.glosantafunrun.co.uk/2025-Tickets)

- Facebook Event if you're on Facebook - <https://fb.me/e/9erMw3JUo>
- Web site - <https://www.glossantafunrun.co.uk/>
- YouTube - <https://www.youtube.com/@GlosSantaFunRun>

Find out more [here](#)



ROTARY CLUB OF GLOUCESTER PRESENTS

**GLOUCESTER
SANTA
FUN
RUN**

13th December 2025

Run 5k or 1k

**Around historic Gloucester dressed as santa,
an elf or just join in the festive fun!**

Tickets now on sale

www.GlosSantaFunRun.co.uk

ALL profits to charity

**You can also register on the day from 9:30am
at Kings Square**

**We are looking for elves to help run the event please go to our
website if you would like to get involved**

Rotary 
Rotary Club of Gloucester

Cass Stephens 
CHARTERED INSURANCE BROKERS

**GLOUCESTER
BID** 



Gloucester City

HAF

holiday activities & food

GLOUCESTER CITY HAF PROVIDES FREE ACTIVITIES AND FOOD FOR SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN.

HAF takes place three times a year during school holidays in:

- Spring
- Summer
- Winter



Signposting

You can contact us for support and we can signpost you to organisations that can help you.



Food

Food is available during activities making sure your children have access to a healthy meal.



Activities

Free activities that can be booked online including:

- Family activities
- Children and young people activities
- Ticketed attractions



If you need help to sign up or book activities contact us:

gloshafconnector@gmail.com
07340709871

familyhubs.gloucestershire.gov.uk

 **Glos city HAF**

Free Winter Activities for Children, Young People & Families



The Holiday Activity and Food programme (HAF) returns this winter with lots of fun activities and delicious food available for children and families from **20 December to 4 January**.

HAF activities are available for children and young people who receive benefits-related free school meals. This winter we are also able to extend this offer to any child who may benefit from attending the programme, through our grant funded Holiday Activities Programme (HAP).

Bookings open from midday on 1 December. Make sure you're ready to book by checking your account now

familyhubs.gloucestershire.gov.uk

Use our handy checklist below to make sure that:

- All your children have an individual profile added to your account.
- Emergency contact details are filled in for each child profile
- Any additional needs or disability information is included for each child profile
- Your details reflect any recent changes (e.g. new address, phone contact details)

Setting up an account is easy:

Scan this QR Code with a phone camera for quick access



If you need any HAF related help then please contact us:

T: 07340 709 871

E: gloshafconnector@gmail.com

