

28th February 2025



Dear parents/carers and students,

I hope this newsletter home finds you all well, and enjoying the advent of Spring. Indeed, as I drive into school each day, the cherry blossoms along some of the roads in Tuffley are beginning to emerge, and snowdrops, daffodils and crocuses have already pushed their way towards the sunnier skies. Spring, as I said to students in my assembly on Monday, heralds new beginnings; a time perhaps of hope and optimism, of new life and heralds the end of winter, pointing the way towards Summer. I hope the advent of Spring brings a sense of joy and happiness to all.

Although subject to the sighting of the crescent moon, this evening marks the start of Ramadan - a month of fasting, reflection, prayer and charitable giving - and which ends on the 30th, or 31st of March this year. During Ramadan, it is common for those observing to have a meal - known as a suhoor - just before dawn - and another - known as iftar - just after sunset. Of course, at the end of the month, celebrations are held as family, neighbours and friends get together for Eid al-Fitr, the festival which marks the breaking of the fast and the end of Ramadan. Here at Crypt, on the 13th of March, and organised by Mr Antonious, we look forward to hosting our own iftar at school, supported by many of our families who will provide food for all attending to enjoy.

Year 13 mock exams finish today and students will receive detailed feedback in lessons over the next week or so, as teachers complete the marking, with results being shared with students on the 14th March, in the main hall in a results day style event. The most important part of the mock feedback is, I think, for students to reflect on areas where they can improve further, as well as celebrating their successes. With six weeks left until the Easter break, and a short time thereafter until the A Levels begin, I once again urge and encourage all of our year 13 students to commit themselves fully to their studies and take advantage of the support on offer at school, beyond their normal lessons.

As year 13 mocks finish, year 11 ones begin, and next week year 11 will have their final mock exams before their GCSEs begin early in term 5. I do hope these exams go well for all involved. However, GCSE exams have already started in some subjects, such as in drama, where our GCSE drama students performed their practical work to an external examiner on Thursday, under the guidance of head of drama Mr Roberts; on Wednesday, the Food Technology students in year 11, undertook their three hour practical examination, under the guidance of Mr Antonious. I do hope those practical exams went well for all involved.



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The Crypt School
Educating students since 1539

Several activities took place across the week, with many students involved. Winning Houses (thus far in the year) were treated to an afternoon trip to the local bowling venue in Gloucester under the supervision of our head of houses, Mr Hart, whilst many students enjoyed involvement in sports games and fixtures. These included basketball, cricket, football, netball and our involvement in a swimming gala. Today, our U16 girls are involved in the quarter final of the netball nation's cup - what an achievement to get that far and I hope their tournament goes well for all involved.

Today, members of the Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme held a cake sale in school, to raise funds for their summer expedition, which this year will be in Scotland. Undertaking the Gold award is a significant challenge, but also a wonderful opportunity for young people to further develop skills and personal qualities, give back to their community and enjoy undertaking a challenging expedition. My thanks to Mr Antonious, Mr Howell and others who lead the scheme in school, a scheme that over 300 students are now involved in across the three awards - bronze, silver and gold.

My thanks to the CSPTA for hosting a quiz in the hall later tonight, which I hope will be an enjoyable event for all, and which I know will also raise much needed funds for the school.

On Wednesday evening, a group of colleagues and friends of the school, met for a wonderful dinner at school as part of a project that we are currently engaged with, which aims to create a vision around bringing to the school site a new creative and performing arts centre. The new creative and performing arts centre will be a space where talent can be nurtured and enabled to flourish; a space which enables intellectual curiosity to be celebrated; it will be a place for debate, and a place to be entertained and nourished within - a place of joy, of hope and of optimism. A space for our students and our staff to flourish within and, as importantly, a space to be shared with our Podsmead community, and with our wider city. It is an ambitious vision and project, but I was both delighted and encouraged after listening to both colleagues' and our project friends' views about our emerging vision and really believe that we can now achieve our ambitious plan. My thanks to all who attended that event, and who are currently working on the project, and in particular Crypt parents Alistair Lomax, Polly Symondson and Tom Yates.

My continued best wishes.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Dyer'.

Nicholas Dyer
Headmaster

School Dates

6th March – Y9 Parent/Carer Evening Online
11th March – CSPTA 6pm S Block all welcome
12th March – Y12 European Youth Parliament Trip
12th March – Evensong Gloucester Cathedral
13th March – Community Iftar
13th March – Y12 Geography Trip to Swanage
14th March – Spanish Play
17th March – GCC Apprenticeship Roadshow Main Hall
21st March – Non uniform Day

UKMT Team Maths Challenge

On Thursday 13th February a team of students took part in the UK Mathematics Trust Team Maths Challenge held at Haberdashers' School in Monmouth. After several weeks of excellent attendance and enthusiasm at Maths Society, the team of four were chosen. Reuben (year 9) was the experienced member of the team having taken part in the same competition last year, and the 3 newcomers were Hugo and Lianna (year 8) and Jaanvi (year 7). They took part in four rounds of challenges; a group round where all four worked together, a 'crossnumber' where they were split into pairs to solve interlinked across and down clues, a shuttle challenge where, again in pairs, they had to answer questions in turn with the answer from pair A providing a crucial part of pair B's next question, and finally a relay where pairs answered questions in turn before racing across the hall to have their work checked.

The team worked excellently together and, in a highly competitive room of 15 teams placed 2nd. They were rewarded with silver certificates and a tangram puzzle each and should all be immensely proud of their achievements.

Young Writers Competition - The Beautiful Truth

Three of our students were successful in entering Young Writers' 'The Beautiful Truth' poetry competition last term. They have been published in their 'The Poet Within' collection, a copy of which is available in our school library. We hope to see our students continue to engage

with the various writing competitions we offer. The next one open to entries is a 100-word saga competition on the theme of 'Grim Tales'!

Here is a fantastic entry written by Year 7 student, Lily:

*When you left, brother, where did you go?
When you returned briefly, who were you?
Why did you change? 'Cause I miss you.
The real you.
The past is the past.
The future is the future.
You aren't you...
You are concealed deep within a persona.
In the back of your mind, I died.
And you didn't even cry.
Not a single tear.
Why did you lie?
Why didn't you cry?
I am not mad...
I'm sad.
I didn't even get a chance to say goodbye,
And now you are gone.*

Smallpeice Trust - STEM residential and virtual events

Every year, the Smallpeice Trust offers residential and virtual courses in different areas of STEM, with courses available for booking now for students in Years 8 to 12. They usually add more courses throughout this term.

Courses available to book now include 'Girls into Engineering' at Loughborough University for Y8/9 girls, 'Engineering Experience (Virtual)' for students in Y8/9, 'Explore Engineering' at Bath University for Year 10 students, 'Biomedical Engineering' at Southampton for Year 11 and 'Engineering our Environment' at Leeds for Year 12.

Find out more and apply for a place for your child here

<https://www.smallpeicetrust.org.uk/events>

(Click on Ignition for KS3 and Momentum for KS4 and 5)

Exploring Languages and Cultures, A Week of Learning and Tasting!

Languages Society

Languages Society continues to go from strength to strength with new Year 12 leaders and lots of younger students coming and participating in presentations every week. This week we enjoyed learning basic Russian greetings with one of our Teaching Assistants, Mrs Robbins. By the end of the session, students could have a short conversation with each other in Russian. We are looking forward to learning more soon!



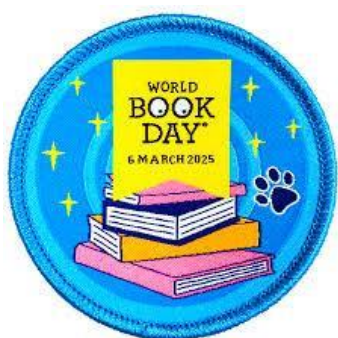
Year 12 Spanish

This week our Year 12 Spanish class prepared home-made Spanish dishes as part of their unit exploring the gastronomy of Spain. They researched, cooked and presented their recipes in Spanish and we all enjoyed sampling the dishes, which included: a selection of tapas, patatas bravas, pan espanol, tres leches cake, leche flan, guacamole and ensalada rusa.



A Celebration of Reading: Exciting Library Events This Term

We are now one week into our new term and lots of activities have been taking place. Over the break year 7 were finishing their Readathon, which has proven very popular. The students were very enthusiastic when it was launched a few weeks ago, we finish today, so I am eagerly awaiting the final total the students have raised whilst reading for pleasure. The money raised provides books and storytellers to all of the UK's major children's hospitals and funds projects encouraging children to read for fun.



World Book Day is next Thursday. The whole school will be taking part. Year 7 and 8 are dressing up in characters from a popular book series. The tutor group competition will be judged by Mr Bowen and will receive a treat. I am looking forward to seeing characters walking around the school during the day. The year 7 and 8 students will receive a book token to collect a free book from a book shop. Year 7 will be receiving a free book – This Story is a Lie by Benjamin Dean with their book token. Quizzes are being run for Year 7 to 9, Year 10 and 11, Yr 12 and 13 plus staff. I am hoping the sixth form will be challenging the staff with a book cover quiz, hoping to beat them. It will be interesting to see how many students know their fiction. Prizes will be awarded on Monday 10th March. All students taking part will receive merits, first prize will be a £10 book token for each quiz. Runners up will receive a free book.

The word of the week is displayed on the notice board on the English corridor and in the library. It also goes on the Daily News announcements for all tutor groups. The students just

need to use the word in their work. This week Lily 7JC showed me the use of hamartia in her work and received merits plus a sweet treat.



One of our popular book series now is the Skandar series by A.F. Steadman. An excellent fantasy adventure that engages from the start, unicorns engaging with heroic deeds, close friendships, mysterious pasts and a fiendish villain. Book 5 is due for release this year.

Our students are always challenging themselves with reading different genres and new series of books. I regularly have enquiries for the next book in a series or by their favourite author. I do try my best to keep up to date with all new releases. We do have an Amazon Wish List which is up-dated regularly. This can be found on our school website. Donations are always greatly received.

Exam Success: Parent Webinar for Years 10-13

Elevate Education will be hosting their next parent webinar on **exam preparation** on March 11th.

By tuning into their webinar series, you'll learn **how you can help support your child at home by reinforcing the skills they're learning at school.**

Sign up for the session below to learn how you can maximise your child's marks in exams by helping them to prioritise the work that really matters over the next few weeks.

Tuesday 11th March 6:00-7:00pm (GMT)

[Click here to register for free](#)

Canteen Theme Day 13th March



13th March

Chicken & Bacon Pie
Cheese Potato & Leek Pie
Minced Beef & Onion Pie
Served with Roast Potatoes
& Seasonal Vegetables

Apple Pie with Custard



Could you be a Homes for Ukraine champion?

Join the many generous Gloucestershire people
who have opened their homes to those
fleeing the war in Ukraine.

We need people who have a spare room or two, an annexe, or even another property, to house a Ukrainian family and help them rebuild their lives.

Hundreds of Ukrainian guests have so far regained their independence and settled in Gloucestershire with the help of our champion hosts, and here's how you can help:

Sign up to express an interest in hosting. Find out more online or book an informal chat with the Gloucestershire Homes for Ukraine team.

The Homes for Ukraine team would then let you know about guests who match your household.

Meet the guests and get to know them before deciding whether to go ahead with hosting.

Hosting agreements are very flexible, and the Homes for Ukraine team are available to assist and advise you every step of the way.

All hosts receive payments of £600 per month to thank you for your help and to cover any additional household expenses. These payments are tax free, and hosting will not impact your council tax.

For more information or if you have any questions, please contact us via HFUTeam@gloucestershire.gov.uk



Register your interest today:

Visit <https://apply-to-offer-homes-for-ukraine.service.gov.uk>
or scan the QR code to express your interest in becoming a
Homes for Ukraine champion!