

29th November 2024



Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

I do hope that this correspondence home finds you well.

A range of trips and visits take place every year, such as residentials and field study visits for example. I know that year 7 thoroughly enjoyed and benefited from the residential held last week. This week drama students enjoyed visiting Bristol Old Vic to watch their production of Treasure Island, following the school's own outstanding production of (extracts from) Treasure Island, which was held last Friday at St Mary de Crypt Church in Gloucester. On Wednesday, Mr Rice took a group of 16 year 9 computer science students to the Empower Cyber Event, held at Cheltenham Racecourse. Yesterday the annual Year 9 Cologne Market trip departed for Germany; they arrived this morning in a sunny Cologne. Trips and visits enrich our student's education experience, forging lasting memories and developing personal qualities and skills, which will serve them well on their onward educational and life journeys.

As year 13 in class assessments draw to a close, year 11 will shortly commence their mock exams, with MFL GCSE oral exams having already begun this week for our language students. I do hope the year 11 mock exams go well and offer all students in that important year group a real experience of what they will face in the summer, with their exam outcomes giving them a strong foundation upon which to forge ahead with their studies in the new year. Year 9, also have in class tests next week (as do year 7), which will help inform their thinking as they consider their GCSE options for next year. I do hope that the Year 9 option evening held in school on Tuesday evening was useful to both parents/carers and to the students, helping them to make informed decisions about their GCSE curriculum choices.

Thank you to the school's SEN team for hosting parents/ carers in school for informal meetings on Monday afternoon of this week. The school's support for students identified as having special education needs is very strong indeed, with all teachers working to ensure that identified needs are well supported in lessons, with the SEN team, led by SENDco Mrs Prout ensuring additional support is put in place as needed.

Congratulations indeed, to all those students who have researched and published articles in the latest edition of The Scrypt Magazine - 'For students, by students'. Overseen by Mr Cobb, the articles clearly show a very high standard of writing, of research and of journalism in general. Particularly well researched, were articles on Shakespeare by William Scantlebury, and the 'Exclusive behind the scenes at Cheltenham Town (football club)', by Max Yates and Oscar Dickson. However, very well done indeed to all our student journalists.



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The Crypt School
Educating students since 1539

Our three School Parliaments - wellbeing, teaching and learning and enrichment - have all now met, with student representatives feeding back to senior staff and members of the sixth form student executive team their thoughts on how school could further improve our offer in each of those important areas. Ofsted noted in March, the valued and important role students play in developing school provision, and forums such as the School Parliaments enable such dialogue to take place. Shortly all students will also be surveyed with regard to many different features of school life, again with the strong view to ensure continued improvement in what we offer to our student body at school. Parent survey outcomes are also greatly valued, and I know that year 11 parents/carers will soon be asked to complete a survey as to their experience of Crypt School life, as their own child comes towards the end of their secondary schooling, before moving on into their chosen post-16 pathway.

Musical enrichment has featured strongly this week, with a piano masterclass for years 8, 9 and 10 today and our Young Voices group enjoying a trip to sing at Gloucester Cathedral on Thursday. Alongside of that, sport has continued to feature in many of our student's weekly calendars, with a range of fixtures in rugby, netball, basketball and football taking place across this week. Perhaps the two highlights of the week were the Year 9 rugby team beating Cirencester Deer Park in the quarter final of the EDF trophy completion - congratulations indeed to them and their coach, Mr Hart - and to our 1st XI boy's football team, who played Millfield School at home on Wednesday. Although they lost, they played exceptionally well against incredibly well resourced opposition.

Thank you to Safran Engineering Services for attending school on Thursday to lead a STEM Challenge Day for 60 of our Year 9 students, coordinated by our head of physics, Mrs John. I know that all students enjoyed and benefited greatly from that day.

Our new Cultural Calendar, which highlights many significant religious and other cultural occasions and events across the year, the most significant of which we intend to highlight and celebrate in school, has been created by our Inclusion Lead, Mr Antonious and which can be viewed on the school website (calendar - inclusion): do take a look - other events can be added. With that sense of cultural events firmly in mind, we look forward to the annual CSPTA Christmas Fair, held at school from 6pm this evening - please do come along. Thank you to the CSPTA Committee, and to those many other parents/carers who have supported the work that has gone into organising this fair. My thanks also to Mrs Wasley and other school staff and students who have also worked hard to support this event, which raises considerable sums of money for the school. It was also great to see the Christmas tree in the Crush Hall - now an annual ritual at The Crypt.

It was great to see so many of our students involved today in the mock United Nations Conference organised by sixth formers and supported by Mrs Plummer, our head of sociology and psychology, and training manager and Ms Ormston, teacher of history and politics. The UNO plays a key role in many parts of the world, dealing with complex and often intractable

issues and challenges, whilst also offering a forum for discourse over the many challenges that confront global leaders today.

Next week, we look forward to the school Christmas lunch in the dining hall - my thanks to our canteen team for offering this to all students.

With continued best wishes,



Nicholas Dyer
Headmaster

School Dates

5th December – Year 12 Parent/Carer Evening (Virtual)

6th December – Christmas Jumper Day and Cake Sale

10th December – CSPTA, 6pm, S-Block

11th December – St Mary Redcliffe Bristol Carol Concert

12th December – Theatre Trip, War Horse, Oxford

17th December – Christmas Carol Service, St Barnabas 6.30pm

20th December – **12.30pm End of Term**

6th January – Start of Term Week 2

14th January – CSPTA Meeting (6pm, Sports Block)

16th January – Year 13 Parents Evening

22nd January – Year 9 Showcase Concert 6pm – 7.30pm

3rd February – Year 11 Information Evening

5th February – Music Theatre Showcase 6pm – 8pm

6th February – Year 10 Parents Evening Virtual



Christmas Jumper Day and Cake Sale

Students are invited to wear a Christmas jumper/top **with their school uniform** on Friday 6th December. Donations can be made on ParentPay and this money will go to the James Hopkins Trust. A local charity that provides nursing respite care for Gloucestershire's life-limited and life threatened young children

www.jameshopkinstrust.org.uk

We are also holding a cake sale that day. Any cake donations will be very welcome and can be left with reception.

Teacher Taster Day

Are you interested in a career in teaching? Find out if it's the career for you at our Teacher Taster Day -

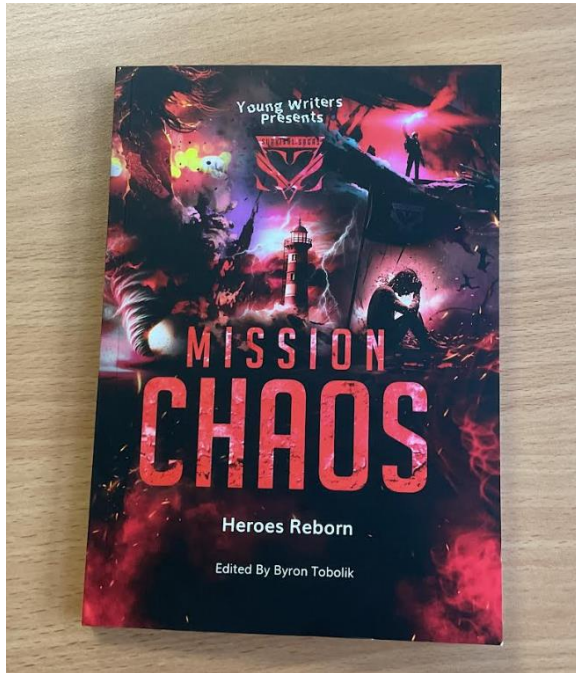
- Thursday 13th February 2025, 9:15am to 2:45pm

Come along and join us to:

- Talk to experts, current teachers and trainees.
- Discover the teacher training options available in the county.
- Talk to teachers about real life in the classroom
- Hear the advice & experience of current trainees

Whether you're ready to apply to do a PGCE or starting to explore options, make the most of this opportunity to find out more about teaching in person. If you have a friend or relative considering a teaching career please let them know. To book a place, email Sharon Bailey at sbailey@crypt.gloucs.sch.uk

Young Writers Competition Winners



Thirteen of our students' mini sagas have been published in Young Writers' 'Mission Chaos' survival saga collection. We have a free copy in school which all students are welcome to read in our library. Congratulations to those students and to all who applied!

We accept applications for national competitions regularly. We are currently accepting applications for the Young Writers 'Fight or Flight' 100-word saga competition. Students should review the posters in the English department or speak with their English teacher to find out more!

Staff Appreciation

We invite parents/carers and students (old and new!) to share a message of gratitude or appreciation to any member of our teaching or support staff.

The Staff Wellbeing Committee will then send a card to that staff member with your message on your behalf by the end of this term!

Thank you for taking the time to pass on your gratitude - these comments will be really appreciated by staff and share some positivity!

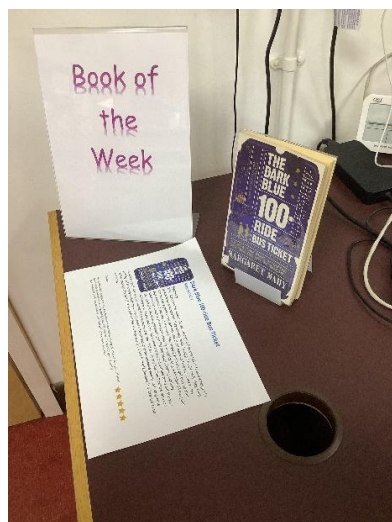
Fill in this google form by **Tuesday 17th December**: <https://forms.gle/ep6xUcSFNq1v9emK8>

Library

As the winter is upon us, this is the ideal time for students to catch up with their reading. There is nothing quite like relaxing at home nice warm and cosy reading a book, losing yourself perhaps in a magical world or travelling to a wonderful destination and experiencing adventures.

In the library we have displays offering lots of genres for the students to enjoy.

Our Book of the Week is *The Dark Blue 100 Ride Bus Ticket* by Margaret Mahy –



When Carlo and his mother, Jessica, accept a free bus ticket from a strange old woman in the supermarket, they are only being polite. Secretly they think she must be slightly batty, with her talk about hundred free bus rides to the supermarket at the end of the world. How absurd! And yet, right outside their supermarket, which is of the most ordinary, everyday kind, a Number 13 bus pulls up ...dark blue and with gold stars, just like the ticket. Feeling suddenly adventurous, Jessica and Carlo take their seats ...and nothing turns out the way you would expect. Because the wonderful supermarket is real - but so are the horrible Dowlers, who are plotting and scheming to destroy it. What begins with fun, and laughter

becomes violent and dangerous, and the courage of a pair of resourceful children will be needed if the horrible, howling Dowlers are to be defeated.



We have a display of Malorie Blackman – the Nought and Crosses series, which is very popular, with details on the author and summary of the series.

Along with John Grisham and his series Theodore Boone which is about a young boy who dreams of becoming a lawyer like his parents and gets into all kinds of trouble.

We also have our Fast Fiction corner, which is full of stories ideal for students who just want a quick read.

This is proving very popular for students who are not confident with reading. It encourages them to try different genres to find something they enjoy and then venture onto more detailed and complex fiction. Ideal also for just a dip into something different.

Our librarians are always helping to keep the library in alphabetical order for the students to be able to find the authors they are looking for. I would like to say thank you for all your hard work. We are making the library more festive next week – they are looking forward to helping put the Christmas tree and decorations up on Monday.

Monday will also see the launch of our Christmas Quiz which is open to all students. They will be able to collect a copy of the quiz from the library.

Drama Trip

On Monday our Year 10 Drama GCSE students had a fantastic time watching *Treasure Island* at The Redgrave Theatre in Bristol. We were invited by the Bristol Old Vic to watch this performance by the third-year drama school students, and year 10 were lucky enough to also enjoy a Q&A session with the actors afterwards!



Parent Trustee Election

As the School has received more than one nomination for the Parent Trustee vacancy, we are now holding an election by secret ballot. All parents and legal guardians are eligible to vote. Each parent/carer is entitled to **one** vote and must vote separately.

The vote is being held using an electronic voting form, which was circulated by email earlier this week. If you have not received the form or would prefer to vote in hard copy, please contact the School Office (office@crypt.gloucs.sch.uk or 01452 530291)

Please submit your vote by **5pm on Tuesday 10 December**. The count will take place on Wednesday 11th December and the result will be notified to all parents/carers within three school working days.

Gifts to Avoid This Christmas

The Child Accident Prevention Trust has published a list of toys to avoid including laser pointers and e-scooters. A top tip is to stick with the brands you know and trust - if you've never heard of the seller or the brand and the price is really tempting, it could be dangerous.

More information here:

[8 dangerous gifts that could be a nightmare this Christmas](#)

Inspired Entrepreneurship

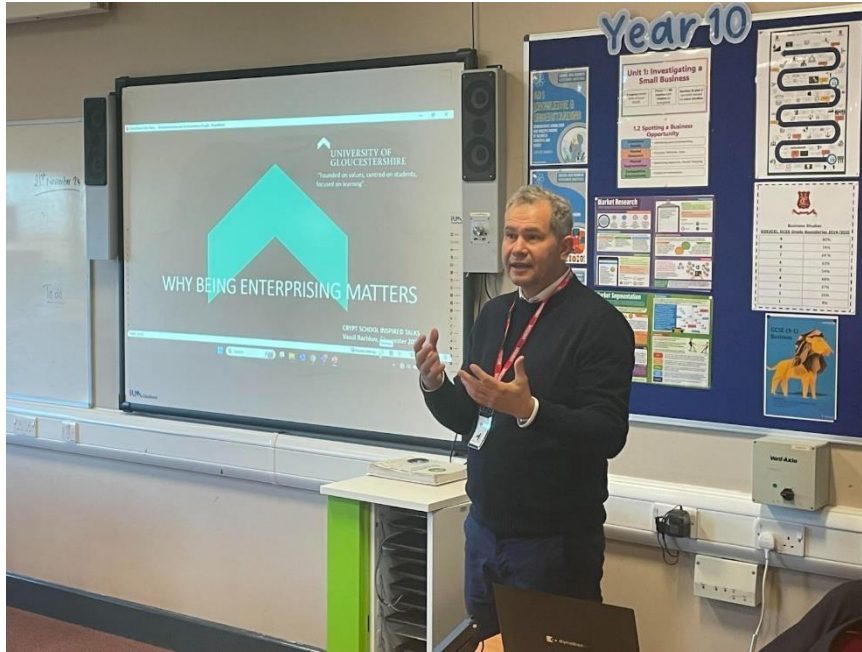
Last Thursday, our school was honored to host a captivating Inspired Lecture on Entrepreneurship by Vassil Rachkov, Course Leader for International Business Management and Senior Lecturer in Enterprise & Innovation at the University of Gloucestershire. Mr. Rachkov's insightful presentation delved into the multifaceted world of entrepreneurship, inspiring students to embrace their entrepreneurial spirit and contribute to both local and global economies.

Chris Germaine, Careers Leader and Business teacher commented, "It is heartening to hear that entrepreneurship is not simply about the money. The opportunity to solve social problems and push ones creative boundaries is important. Thank you to Vassil for coming into school to speak with our students."

The lecture highlighted the significant impact of entrepreneurship on economic growth, focusing on global challenges such as conflict, COVID-19, and Brexit. Mr. Rachkov emphasised how these challenges, while daunting, can also present unique opportunities for innovative solutions. By showcasing the success stories of renowned entrepreneurs such as Steve Jobs, Richard Branson, Oprah Winfrey, and Muhammad Yunus, he demonstrated the power of entrepreneurial thinking and action.

A key takeaway from the lecture was the development of entrepreneurial characteristics. Mr. Rachkov explained that everyone possesses the potential to be an entrepreneur in their own way, regardless of their career path. By fostering self-belief and confidence, individuals can unlock their creativity and problem-solving abilities.

Alex in Year 12 said, “The lecture was great. It was interesting to see how entrepreneurship affects everyone around us and how everyday people can have such a large effect on the world.”



Contrary to popular belief, Mr. Rachkov emphasised that money is not the primary driver of entrepreneurs. Instead, it is the allure of challenges and the desire to make a difference that fuels entrepreneurial passion. By understanding these underlying motivations, students can harness their entrepreneurial spirit and strive for innovation and success.

This inspiring lecture has ignited a spark within our students, encouraging them to think critically, embrace challenges, and pursue their entrepreneurial aspirations. We are grateful to Mr. Rachkov for sharing his invaluable insights and motivating our next generation of innovators.

Music

With the Christmas season fast approaching, our musical community have been incredibly busy in preparations for upcoming events.



Mr Hope, Assistant Director of Music at Gloucester Cathedral, provided an opportunity for members of our Young Voices to perform at the Cathedral alongside Archway School and resident choristers. His rehearsal on Monday outlined a glorious selection of music including Ralph Vaughan Williams' *The Call*, hymns by Hubert Parry finishing with an exciting display of *Go Down, Moses*.

Mr Whittaker led the Teenage Voices group on a small, guided tour of the Cathedral upon arrival where students were immersed in its vibrant history, learning of the Kings and composers laid to rest and the magnificent preservation of the medieval glass on the Great East Window during the Second World War.

For many students in our group, it was their first experience visiting and performing in the Cathedral and they demonstrated great confidence and ability. We are so grateful to Mr Hope and believe this will inspire many new singers to develop their talents.



On Friday, a selection of our piano students prepared for a masterclass with Clare Hammond, a masterful concert pianist who holds a double first in Music from the University of Cambridge and has performed at BBC Proms, Konzerthaus Berlin and Salle Bourgie in Montreal. She is recipient of the Royal Philharmonic Society's Young Artist Award in 2016 and an Edison Klassiek Award in 2024. We would like to thank Tristan Munarriz, Erika Millard, Edgar Rudkin-McLaren, Daniel Wales, Advait Vanamalai and Jayden Lin for preparing their piano pieces with great care and detail, providing a highly rewarding session with Clare.

Year 10 have been deep diving into the techniques of Samba Band, a celebratory musical style based on percussion from Brazil. Students learned how the group communicates polyrhythmic phrases and the use of call and response. Our Samba leader Jai Skerritt was on hand to deliver a workshop utilising these techniques with a Cryptian favourite Bananas.

The CSPTA Christmas Fair will be held on Friday evening, with a selection of independent stall holders selling unique gifts for the holidays. Members of our Jazz Band led by Mr Rushton have been practising a twist on traditional Christmas music, setting festive cheer with extended chords, rhythmic grooves and excellent solos.

Our musical community are preparing with great determination for our Carol Service and Gabrieli Roar concerts. Please keep an eye out for letters with information on our Carol Service at St. Barnabas Church on Tuesday 17th December. Tickets for Gabrieli can be found below.



GABRIELI ROAR

A GRAND GEORGIAN CHRISTMAS

Join Gabrieli Roar for '*A Grand Georgian Christmas*', a festive treat featuring the rich harmonies and spirited rhythms that once filled the village churches and parish halls of England. With over 4,000 young singers participating in eleven performances alongside Gabrieli's world-class musicians, audiences and singers alike are

sure to delight in this vibrant, rustic, and cheerful music of the Georgian period.

Tickets for the concert are now available on the link below:

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/gabrieli/t-gapekdn>