

6th December 2024



Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

I do hope that this correspondence home finds you well.

Thank you to the CSPTA, and other parental supporters of their work, for organising the Christmas Fair in school last Friday evening. That fair was wonderfully well attended and will have raised considerable sums of money for our school. My thanks also to Hazel Wasley, other school staff and to many students who also supported that event. This year the CSPTA has already made a number of financial contributions to the school, through which all students benefit: their generous contribution to the renovation of the main school hall was on show last Friday, when the hall was open for the fair; four new basketball posts have been purchased that will shortly be placed for student use on the main playing area, creating two new basketball courts, to go alongside the two existing ones; music has benefited from the purchase of new music stands, keyboards, headphones and a bass guitar amplifier, and the School office has also benefited.

The canteen has excelled this week, providing a splendid Christmas lunch to many students and staff over three days. The atmosphere in the dining hall was very jolly, with Christmas music being played, and students joining in and singing some of the better known ones, whilst senior staff helped serve their food, alongside the canteen team. My thanks to Aspens, our catering company, for enabling these lunches to go ahead, alongside serving other food to students across those three days.

Year 12 students, many of whom will already be 17, with others soon to be, benefited from attending our annual Safer Driving Workshop held in school on Wednesday of this week. Although hard hitting, and at times difficult to be part of, that workshop is crucial in developing their appreciation of the dangers that driving cars can bring, especially if they do so recklessly. Sadly, young drivers are still the most likely to have accidents, with injuries and fatalities the highest amongst the under 25 driving cohort. As they move to begin driving, I urge all of our young drivers to drive safely and to think about the messages conveyed in the Safer Driving Workshop. **Please note: any students who drive onto school site, do so only with the express permission of the school, and need to seek that permission from the Sixth Form Office.**

I hope that the psychology/sociology trip on Thursday to the University of Gloucestershire went well for those involved, and my thanks to Mrs Scott-Johnson for organising and leading that trip. On Thursday, GCSE drama students enjoyed learning from a visiting actor, who led the students through a very practical session, focussed on helping them to develop their acting skills. My thanks to Mr Julian Smith for giving up his time to visit us at Crypt, and to Mrs Crozier for organising that experience.



Headmaster: N C Dyer BA (Hons) MA NPQH
Telephone: 01452 530291
Email: enquiries@crypt.gloucs.sch.uk
www.cryptschool.org

Registered Office:
Podsmead Road, Gloucester GL2 5AE
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The Crypt School
Educating students since 1539

Years 7 and 9 have been undertaking their Mid-Year tests in class this week, and I do hope that those have proceeded well. Next week, year 11 will begin their December mock exams in the hall - again, my best wishes to all of year 11 as they embark on these important mock examinations. Deadline for Sixth Form applications, via the website, is the 24th of January, 2025. I also hope that the year 12 parent/carers consultation evening, held virtually on Thursday, was useful to parents/carers in gaining a view as to the progress of their child, as they move towards the end of two terms of academic study in the sixth form.

Thank you to Ms Leask for organising an opportunity for many students to test their potential rowing abilities, with a visit from the British Rowing Olympic Talent ID Testing Team. Sporting fixtures have continued, with rugby teams playing against Cokethorpe School on Wednesday, girls' football and netball matches and house competitions taking place across the week, as well as boys' football and basketball matches.

I am sorry to announce that Mrs Sharmila Door (art) is leaving Crypt at the end of term, to take up a new post at another local school. After a career outside education, Mrs Door trained at Crypt as an art teacher, before being employed here in September 2022 to teach art, as well as food technology and to act as one of our form tutors. I know that Mrs Door will be sorely missed by all of her colleagues and students; however, we wish her every success and happiness in her new role. Replacing Mrs Door will be Mr Matthew Peak, who was head of art for many years at a leading independent school in Wales, having trained in Scotland and who also worked as a print maker before entering the teaching profession. We look forward to welcoming Mr Peak into school at the start of next term.

Today witnessed our annual Christmas jumper day in school, with lots of students and staff taking part, wearing jumpers of various tastes, with the best (and worst!) bringing a smile to everyone's faces and a sense of the near arrival of Christmas into school. Many thanks to all, as this day also enabled the school to raise, at the point of writing, just over £500 in aid of the John Hopkins Trust. Well done to all and especially to year 13 student executive member Kai Potter for his leadership in organising this charity fundraising day.

Looking forward, we now have just two weeks left of this term before the Christmas break, and lots of academic work, assessments and other events, such as next Thursday's Gabrielli Roar Choir performance at St Mary Redcliffe in Bristol, the annual Christmas Carol Service at St Barnabas on the 17th and a drama trip to see Warhorse on the 12th in Oxford taking place. Much to look forward to in the next two weeks, and important learning to undertake before we break up on the 20th of December.

With continued best wishes,

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

Nicholas Dyer
Headmaster

School Dates

- 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 Lunch

Over three days, the canteen team served an impressive 500 Christmas lunches!

A huge thank-you to our incredible canteen team, who went above and beyond to make the event special. Their festive costumes, beautifully decorated tables and Christmas

music added extra sparkle to the occasion. The senior leadership team and Mr Windsor were all on hand and made great waiters.

Finally, congratulations to the winners of the Christmas Lunch Joke Competition. Winners chosen by the canteen staff and a selection box prize from Mr Dyer and the canteen staff.

Tuesday Jennifer 8WEH and Alvin 8WEH

Wednesday Matilda 7RR and Edie 7DW

Thursday Laura 10WEH and Benjamin 10DW

Crypt Christmas Tree

Thank you to [Pound Farm Shop and Plant Centre](#) who generously donate a Christmas tree to the school each year. Decorated by the student executive team and topped with a unique Crypt Christmas decoration!



Library

We have a wide selection of Upper School and Sixth Form books in our library on the balcony. The area is a very welcoming space, and it is used by upper school and sixth form students to study.

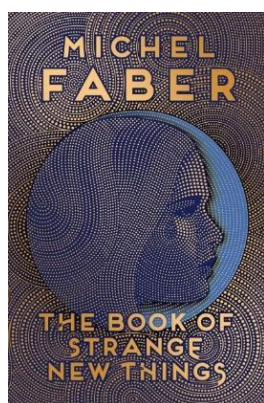
Here are some new fiction titles which can be found on the balcony.



Billy Merrell - Vanilla

Written in verse, two teenage boys who have been dating since they were twelve find their relationship strained as they both begin to want different things from life as they get older.

Can be found in the upper school section



Michel Faber – The Book of Strange New Things

'I am with you always, even unto the end of the world ...' Peter Leigh is a missionary called to go on the journey of a lifetime. Leaving behind his beloved wife, Bea, Peter sets out on a quest to take the word of God to the farthest corners of the galaxy. His mission will challenge everything - his faith, his endurance and the love that can hold two people together, even when they are worlds apart.

Can be found in the Sixth form section



Victoria Aveyard - The Red Queen

In a society split into ruling and serving class by blood colour, a poor Red girl finds herself in the world of the ruling Silvers where she discovers she has magical abilities thought only the Silvers possessed.

Series - Red queen (1)

We have a wide variety of genres in the library for all students to come and have a browse and hopefully take something to read for pleasure.

In our junior library we have our Christmas Quiz running now until 16th December. The quiz is available in the library, all entries received merits. All correct entries are put into a draw to win a book and a seasonal treat. The student librarians were in the library getting festive on Monday putting all the decorations up around the library including the tree. Brilliant job, well done everyone. We will be having our annual Christmas party on 18th December, which they are all looking forward to.

Exploring the Future – Help Required

As part of our structured careers programme, we are seeking some help from individuals who would be willing to provide a short (3 or 4 minute) recording about their career path or about the job they are currently doing. This will form part of a Community Hour in January 2025 that students will take part in. We want our students to hear from people who have jobs in a variety of different roles.

This could be the journey you have taken to get to where you are today, or it could be focused on one aspect of your job that you particularly enjoy. If any parent is willing to get involved, please contact Chris Germaine, Careers Leader (cgermaine@crypt.gloucs.sch.uk), who will be willing to go into more detail and arrange the next steps. Thank you.

Cheerleading

Our junior and senior cheerleading teams have received their training kits and are becoming a force to be reckoned with! Their routines are coming together nicely, and we've been so impressed with their hard work!



Cross Country

On Sunday we had several students representing Gloucester in the County Cross Country finals at Newent School. Competitive runs came from Nadia, Ethan N, Ollie T, all of whom are bottom of their age group. I am pleased to announce that the following students achieved a top 10 place and therefore qualify for the Southwest champs taking place in Newquay in February.

Enrico junior boy, Andrew C inter boy and Kimberly junior girl. We also have Harrison who pulled out due to injury being considered for the team. Having 3 maybe 4 students qualify for the South West is an outstanding achievement and one race now away from the Nationals. Well done to everyone this season for their efforts in cross country.

CSPTA

Thank you for all the support given to the Christmas Fair. We look forward to sharing the total amount raised with you soon!



The Crypt School Parent Teacher Association

Parents, Teachers and Friends

cspta@cryptschool.org

Our next meeting to be held on
Tuesday 10th December 2024 at 6.00pm

Venue: Sports Classroom 1, Sports Block, The Crypt School

**This is a group open to all parents and
carers and all are welcome to attend
and support meetings/events**

Agenda

1. **Present**
2. **Apologies**
3. **Treasurer's Report**
4. **Bids**
Bid for Table Tennis Tables from Mr Hart
5. **School Report**
6. **Future Activities/Events/Fundraising & Marketing**
Christmas Fair Debrief and pupil stall funds
Quiz with Simon Lewis 28 February 2025
Foreign currency/printer cartridge
7. **School Clothing Sales**
8. **200 Club**

9. Date of next meeting –

Tue 14 th January	Tue 8 th April
Tue 11 th February	Tue 13 th May
Tue 11 th March	Tue 10 th June

10. AOB

Succession Planning – upcoming vacancies for Chair, Refreshments, Uniform
Parentkind renewal on 1/1/2025

Chairman: Claire Berry Vice Chairman: Claire Gooch
Secretary: Sharon Byfield Treasurer: Steve Scott
Web: <http://www.cryptschool.org/association-aims/> Email: cspta@cryptschool.org

The Crypt School Association, Podsmead Road, Gloucester GL2 5AE
The Crypt School Association is a registered charity dedicated to supporting the school, registration number 280200

Halal Food at School

Students at our Wellbeing Parliament recently asked about the Halal food suppliers. Mrs Hargraves (Deputy Head Safeguarding, Inclusion and Wellbeing) met with Lucy, our Catering Manager to discuss, and we are pleased to include our supplier's Halal certification and some answers to FAQs.

Where is your halal meat sourced from?

All our Halal meat is sourced and delivered from a company called Theo's Food Company. They are based near Walsall, and produce all our fresh marinated whole, sliced, minced meats and frozen chicken products.

Do you cook the meat whilst on the school premises?

All meat is cooked in our kitchens on the school grounds.

When the halal meat is stored, handled, prepared and cooked, is this separate from all other non- halal foods to avoid cross contamination?

The Halal meats come prepackaged from our supplier. The only meats we use on site that aren't Halal are pork shoulder joints, pepperoni and pork sausages. These are kept away from our Halal meats. We do not cross contaminate during the cooking process. For example, if we were cooking non Halal meat, this would not be mixed with a Halal product and cooked on the same tray. The tray used for the non Halal meat would not be reused until it has been fully cleaned and sterilized. This is the same for any display equipment, serving tongs, knives etc.

Is lard used in the kitchen?

Lard is not used. We use vegetable & rapeseed oil in our cooking.

All fresh chicken products are Halal. This also includes chicken burgers, chicken nuggets & chicken meatballs. All beef is Halal. Cheesecakes, fruit pots and vegetarian cold pasta pots and salad boxes are Halal. Chicken salad boxes are also Halal. Our cakes are made with lion stamped eggs. Traybakes such as flapjack, shortbread, cookies and our vegan bakes contain no eggs.



Class of 2024

If they are unable to make this event and would like to collect them at a different time, or would like to arrange for someone else to collect them on their behalf, they should email examsoffice@crypt.gloucs.sch.uk, ideally giving at least 2 working days notice of the collection. (please note that collection is only available termtime, during school opening hours, other than on 16th December)

Parent Trustee Election

Voting is now open in the election for a new Parent Trustee/Governor of the School. We are using an electronic ballot; the link to the voting form was emailed to all our parent contacts on 27th November. Please use this opportunity to support your preferred candidate and shape the governance of our School. **The deadline for submitting your vote is 5pm Tuesday 10 December 2024.**

Safran STEM Day

On Thursday 28th November, 60 Year 9 students were nominated by their science teachers to take part in a STEM workshop hosted by STEMworks and Safran. First, they learned about the products designed, tested and built by engineers at Safran, and how engineers can influence the world around them.

Next, the teams of four students completed a practice challenge. They made paper rockets that could be fired using compressed air. They investigated how the angle of release and the pressure of the compressed air affected the distance the rocket would travel, and they experimented with different design features.

The main challenge was then introduced; the teams were tasked with designing, building and testing a vehicle that could safely transport a cargo as far as possible across the Hall. They



were given a budget and had to purchase all the raw materials, with marks awarded for low overall cost. They also had to consider the sustainability of the materials chosen and their environmental impact. There were many innovative designs, which the teams presented to the whole group, before a final test where the

vehicles were fired from the compressed air cannon and their distance travelled was measured. Students learned a lot about design, manufacture and testing, as well as the importance of good teamwork.

The top four teams were separated by just four points! Well done to the overall winners, Ben, Billy, Jasper and Josh, whose score was highest across the categories of design, presentation and distance travelled.

Thank you to Rob and Femi for organising a brilliant day for us.

Safeguarding Awareness for Parents – England Football

Some parents or carers might be interested in this free online course from England football: [Safeguarding Awareness for Parents and Carers | England Football Learning](#)

The short safeguarding for parents' course is designed to help you to make an informed choice about the football setting you enrol your child in. It starts by explaining the importance of safeguarding in football and the child-centred approach the game takes. It will then guide you through questions you should ask to ensure the club or venue where your children play football has the correct safeguarding policies, people and practices in place. The course also highlights signs that should concern you – and how to report these concerns.