



Headmaster's Letter

19th June 2026

Dear parents/carers and students,

Keys for a cause - raises £6,435 (with a further £1,440 gift aid)

I am delighted to announce, that our 24 hour 'pianothon', live streamed on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week, involving some 40 of our students, succeeded in raising nearly £8,000 towards a much needed grand piano for the school and our wonderful music department. Our target was to raise £25,000 to pay for a grand piano, and for other musical instruments to support the work of the music department and in doing so, help enrich the lives of our students. With the support and generosity of many parents/carers, former students, staff and others, and with a very generous donation from an Old Cryptian, who left the school in the mid 1980s, we have reached our target and can now proceed with the purchase of that grand piano and other musical instruments as well. The piano, a Yamaha Grand, will be arriving in school in due course, and will certainly be ready for use next term.

A huge well done to all those students who played the piano across those two days; to their families and others who kindly and generously donated to this campaign and to Mr Slemensek who organised the whole endeavour. This shows what we can achieve together.

A new Creative and Performing Arts Centre for the school and community

This afternoon, at St Mary de Crypt Church and Schoolroom, where the school was founded in



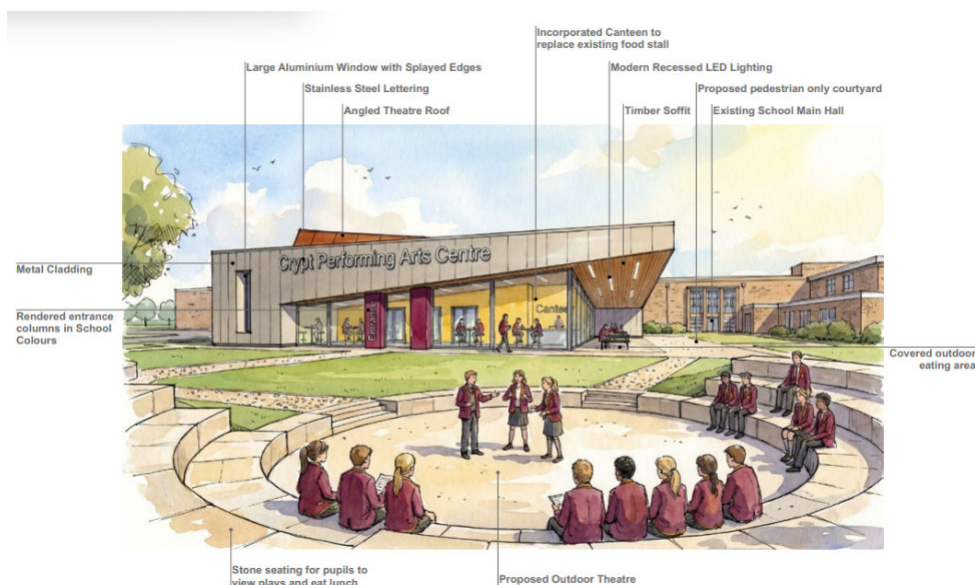
"We are an outstanding co-educational grammar school which places the child at the heart of all that we do..."



1539, we launched an ambitious fundraising campaign to bring a new creative and performing arts centre to the Crypt School campus. Thank you to all who attended that event, and to the Chair of our Campaign Board, Old Cryptian and BBC journalist Steve Knibbs for his leadership and support of our vision and plans.

As many parents/carers and students will know, the facilities and spaces that we have at Crypt to nurture and develop creativity, musicality, performance and the skills and qualities associated with the creative and performing arts are limited, cramped and in poor state. We aim to change that through a campaign to raise funds to build here at Crypt a brand new

creative and performing arts centre, that will inspire both current and future generations of Cryptians, enabling them to flourish in their learning and to develop the skills of the future; human ones, such as creativity, communication, collaboration, resilience, adaptability and emotional intelligence. Being given opportunities to be involved in the creative and performing arts are among the most powerful ways we can develop these and other key skills and qualities in our young people. Through music, drama and performance, young people discover confidence; they learn to work together; they learn to lead; they learn to listen; they learn to express ideas, to solve problems and to understand the experiences of others. These are the qualities that strengthen businesses, communities and society itself. This is our vision for the future - an education steeped still in knowledge, but one augmented through a genuine commitment to the creative and performing arts for everyone.



I believe we can turn our vision into a lived reality here at Crypt, and we have already received a number of highly impactful donations to this project. Yet we will need your help to turn our vision into a lived reality here at Crypt. More details to follow next term on how you can help.

Public Exams

Public examinations ended this week, for both year 11 and year 13: I do hope each student managed to do their very best across the examination period, and they can all now look forward to a summer away from school, from education, before moving on into their future lives: for year 11, sixth form here at Crypt, and for year 13 university, apprenticeships, training, gap years or employment by example.

My thanks go to the school examination and invigilation team, led by examination officer Louise Coughlin, who all worked very hard to ensure that the exams ran smoothly and that those who took those public exams did so in an environment which enabled each students to do their very best.

Student Personal Development

This week our year 10 geography students enjoyed a day out carrying out field work studies in the Forest of Dean, whilst other students embarked on their surf tour to Cornwall. Many of our drama students spend Tuesday evening at Bristol Hippodrome enjoying a live performance of Matilda, while on later on tonight, following the launch of the Creative and Performing Arts campaign, a group of about 20 drama students, led by sixth formers and Mrs Crozier are staging an abridged version of Alice in Wonderland at St Mary de Crypt.

For many, cricket and athletics have dominated their week, with school being very well represented at the District Athletics on Tuesday, held at the Prince of Wales stadium in Cheltenham, with our students performing very well indeed. Well done also to our young tennis players who beat the team from Cheltenham Ladies' College yesterday.

Student news - Congratulations to year 13 student James Arminio

I am absolutely delighted to share the news of James Arminio's remarkable success over the past weekend. Competing for the Great Britain U20 athletics team at the Mannheim International Gala in Germany, James secured two gold medals: one in the 200m with a time of 21.05s, and another as part of the mixed relay team, finishing in 42.87s. These victories are a truly fantastic achievement, made even more impressive by the fact that James flew out to Germany on Friday evening immediately after sitting his A Level Mathematics paper. He now awaits news of his potential selection for the GB U20 squad to compete at the World Championships in Oregon this coming



Finally, it was a great pleasure to welcome into school on Thursday evening our new Year 7 cohort of 159 students and their parents/carers for their first official visit to school as new Cryptians!

With my continued best wishes,



Nicholas Dyer
Headmaster

Dates For Your Diary

22nd June	Hamilton Live Stream 3.40pm
22nd June	Summer School 8.35am
23rd June	Summer School 8.35am
26th June	Y11 Prom Hatherley Manor - from 7pm
26th June	Y12 Team Building Day
29th June	Founders' Day Gloucester Cathedral 7.15pm
30th June	CSPTA Committee Meeting S1 6.30pm
1st July	Y7 and 8 Showcase Concert 6pm
2nd July	Y13 Leavers Meal 7-9pm
4th July	Cabaret Night 6.45pm
6th July	Post 18 University and Employment Workshops 6 - 7:30pm
8th July	Girls into Electronics University of Bath
8th July	Term 6 Ends 3.15pm

Founders' Day Service

A reminder that our annual Founders' Day Service will take place at Gloucester Cathedral on Monday 29 June. Years 7–10 and Year 12 should attend this important event. Students should arrive by 6.30pm for registration, with the service beginning promptly at 7.15pm.

If your child has a good reason why they are unable to attend, please notify the school no later than Monday 22 June using the following form: <https://forms.gle/yZP9DCBHhGjVYyLVA> We look forward to welcoming parents, carers and friends of the school to join us for this special occasion.

Parents and carers will be admitted from 6.50pm, with unreserved seating available throughout the Cathedral. A retiring collection will be held in support of the Teenage Cancer Trust.

Year 10 Geography Field Trip to the Forest of Dean

Last week, year 10 geographers appreciated the improvement in the weather so that they could complete their second day of GCSE field work. Students visited Blackpool Brook to collect data about the characteristics of the river at Wenchford Picnic Site. Each group was tasked with organising their time so that they could successfully collect data on the width, depth and velocity of the river as well as the size and angularity of pebbles. This data will be used in lessons to produce various graphs and then be analysed as part of the overall investigation. Additionally, students were shown how to record vegetation data using quadrats along a transect and measuring gradients using a clinometer.

It was a pleasure to spend these two days with these hard working year 10 students. They demonstrated excellent skills in collaboration and team work whilst also being reflective about the accuracy and reliability of the data they were collecting. Many students produced detailed sketches whilst others found time to create a 'race track' in the river and then hold a 'fastest leaf' competition!

The geography department would like to thank the year 10 students for their excellent behaviour as well as Mr Higgs and Mrs Hayes for their support in ensuring that we had two very successful days.



Junior Kangaroo

Last week saw the follow on round for the Junior maths challenge, the Junior kangaroo. This year we had a record 19 entries (eleven was our previous best) thanks in part to many of the year 7s who took advantage of free webinars to prepare. The results are now through.

Only the top 5% nationwide qualify from the maths challenge, so well done to Jaenah in year 8, Clara, Dylan, Sophie L and Amrita in year 7.

Of those who do qualify only half get an award, so well done to Jakub B, JohnHenry, Joseph K, Trevis and Fliss S in year 7 and Mithul, Arjun S and Finlay W in year 8 who achieved bronze awards. In the top quartile with a silver award were Samuel B, Jaanvi, Oscar P, and George S in year 8 and best in year 7 Ethan P.

Best in school with a gold award (top 8%) Was Elliot C in year 8.

Here's one of the problems they faced, solution next week:

Julia has four different coloured pencils and wants to use some or all of them to colour the map of four regions shown in the diagram. She wants to ensure that two regions that share a common border are shaded in different colours. In how many different ways can she colour the map?

A 12

B 18

C 24

D 36

E 48



Drama trip: Matilda the Musical in Bristol

This week 64 students from years 7-10 & 12 enjoyed travelling to Bristol Hippodrome to see the renowned musical 'Matilda', produced by the RSC with lyrics and music composed by Tim Minchin.

A large number of the cast were child actors, who would be around a similar age to our year 7's, and everyone that went can agree that the performances were phenomenal!

A huge thanks to Mrs Banda, Mrs Prout, Mrs Green, Miss Gee & Mr Borley for supporting Mrs Crozier with the trip.



Next drama trip: Annie at The Everyman

Our next drama trip will be to see Annie (the musical) at The Everyman in Cheltenham on Tuesday October 6th 2026. A letter and payment link has been put on Parent Pay for every student in years 7-12. Please ensure you read the letter carefully as there are specific details about coach travel from school and collection from The Everyman.

To clarify, students that would like to attend must travel with us from school (we can't have some meet us there and others get the coach) as it gets too logistically complicated.

Any questions please email Mrs Crozier (acrozier@crypt.gloucs.sch.uk)

School show auditions: Reminder

A reminder to all interested students that auditions for our whole school show (Animal Farm in November) are taking place on Tuesday next week, 23rd June (1.25pm in the drama studio). Scripts and audition requirements have been emailed to students directly and shared via Daily News this week.

Library News

We have some events happening in the library over the next couple of weeks.

The George Orwell Quiz is going well. The students can pick up a quiz from the library or use the attachment on the Daily News to have a go. Everyone who takes part will receive merits, and all correct entries go into a draw for a prize: a book token and sweet treats.

Our last quiz this year will be The Hunger Games, which remembers Reaping Day – 4th July. This was very popular last year, lots of students are reading the series, which is always nice to see.

Next week we are having a book sale in the library at lunchtime. The money raised will go towards new stock for our library.

Recommendations for new titles are always welcome.

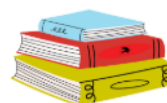
A couple of weeks ago I went on a book buy using some of the CSPTA funds the library was given. A purchased a variety of fiction and non-fiction titles which are now on our shelves and proving to be very popular. Thank you CSPTA.

BOOK SALE
IN THE
LIBRARY

10p per book or fill a carrier bag for £100 (please bring your own carrier bag)

THURSDAY 25th and FRIDAY 26th JUNE

FROM 11.5



Sports Day Ice Lollies Fundraiser for Youth Mental Health

Our Student Executive Team members, Edgar and Liv, who hold responsibility for fundraising, selected Let's Talk Well as the first charity to support this year. Let's Talk Well is a fantastic local charity that provides free counselling and emotional wellbeing support for young people aged 9–25, helping them access vital services when they need them most.

Edgar and Liv organised the sale of ice lollies during our recent Sports Day. The event was a huge success raising an impressive £647.96. Thank you everyone for your generosity.

Edgar and Liv had the opportunity to meet with Laura Mayhew Manistre from Let's Talk Well to officially hand over the donation. They enjoyed learning more about the charity's work and hearing how the money raised will help provide support and counselling services for young people in the local community.



Music Newsletter

Keys For Cause

A huge congratulations to all our players who offered their expertise in piano playing during the last two days. We have received over £6000 towards our new piano and would like to thank everyone who has supported the event and the efforts of all our players.

This is the first time a livestream of this scale has taken place at the school and really pleased with the results. The livestream is now available to watch back on the school Facebook page and donations are still welcome towards our target.

<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/campaign/keys-for-a-cause-the-crypt-school>



Founders' Day

Our Cantores Cryptienses Choir and Symphony Orchestra are adding the extra details to their Founders' Day music. Crown Imperial is sounding majestic and Greater Love Hath No Man is filling the music room with joy and energy.

Thank you for completing the Google Form responses. If you haven't done so, please let us know if your child is participating in the choir and orchestra as soon as possible.

Year 7 and 8 Showcase

Year 7 are sounding incredible in their preparations for the Giant Slayer cantata. Letters have been sent out if you can complete the form to confirm your child's attendance on Wednesday 1st July please.

Crypt Sport

This year has seen the exciting launch of our new touch rugby programme, which has already enjoyed remarkable success. In March, our Year 9 mixed team proudly reached the National Finals at Allianz Stadium, showcasing their talent on one of the sport's biggest stages.

The success has continued, with our Year 9/10 girls' team and Year 8 boys' team both qualifying for the National Finals in Oxford on Friday 26 June. Both teams dominated their South West regional tournaments, winning their respective groups without losing a single game, and now have the opportunity to compete against the very best teams in the country for the title of National Touch Rugby Champions.

We wish all of our players and teams the very best of luck as they take on this exciting challenge. It promises to be a fantastic day of rugby, and we are incredibly proud of everything they have achieved so far.

Silver Walking and Canoeing Qualifying

Silver Walking Qualifying

Over the half-term break, our Duke of Edinburgh Silver participants successfully completed their Walking Qualifying Expedition in the Brecon Beacons. Across three days, students navigated independently through challenging terrain while carrying all of their own equipment and camping overnight. The weather provided a mixture of sunshine, rain and strong winds, ensuring that students experienced a range of conditions that tested both their physical and mental resilience.

It was fantastic to see students consistently demonstrate the Crypt School values throughout the expedition. Resilience was evident as they tackled demanding routes and changing weather conditions. Respect was shown towards fellow team members, staff and the natural environment. Students displayed ambition through their determination to complete the expedition successfully, while integrity was reflected in the way they shared responsibilities and supported one another. Above all, a strong sense of community developed as teams worked together to overcome challenges and celebrate their achievements. We are incredibly proud of the maturity, teamwork and determination shown by all involved.

Silver Canoeing Qualifying

Students also took part in their Silver Canoeing Qualifying Expedition on the River Wye, travelling from Hereford Rowing Club towards Monmouth through the Ross-on-Wye area. Split across two expedition groups, students spent several days paddling, navigating and camping while managing the demands of a self-sufficient expedition. Conditions were largely favourable, with warm weather and sunshine making for an enjoyable experience, although periods of wind and changing river conditions required students to remain focused and adaptable throughout.



The expedition provided an excellent opportunity for students to put the Crypt School values into practice. Resilience was demonstrated through long days on the water and the perseverance required to complete each stage of the journey. Students showed respect for the river environment and other water users, while their ambition was clear in their commitment to developing their paddling and expedition skills. Integrity was evident in the responsible way students approached safety and decision-making, and the value of community shone through as teams supported and encouraged one another throughout the expedition. The students represented the school exceptionally well and should be congratulated on their successful completion of the qualifying expedition.





Do you want to learn new ways of managing difficult thoughts and feelings?

Who is it for?

Anyone aged 9-25 years who lives and/or goes to school, college or university, or is registered with a GP in Gloucestershire.

What is InTER-ACT?

It's three, 1-hour online sessions to help you learn new ways of managing difficult thoughts and feelings, so that you can do more of what matters to you.



What happens in the sessions?

Sessions are live on Zoom with videos, slides & anonymous polls, and you can join in or just watch.

Cameras and microphones are turned off so no one will ever see or hear you, if you don't want them to.

Where do sessions take place?

There are three, weekly live online sessions every Tuesday evening. Each session lasts one hour.

Early Bird at 6pm
Night Owl at 7:30pm

How do I book?

You will need an email address to register (it can be a parent/carer's).
If you don't have access to an email you can **contact us** for help.

Scan the QR code or go to:
www.letstalkwell.org.uk/interact



Summer Term Parent Support Series

elevate
education

Free Parent Webinars

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

**Scan the QR code
to register**



In the Summer Term, we'll cover:

- 1. Ask Me Anything (Live Q&A)**
- 28th April @6:00pm (BST)
- 2. How You Can Help Improve Your Child's Memory**
- 12th May @6:00pm (BST)
- 3. How to Help Your Child Alleviate Stress**
- 9th June @6:00pm (BST)
- 4. How to Get (And Keep!) Your Child Motivated**
- 23rd June @6:00pm (BST)
- 5. How You Can Set Your Child Up for Success**
- 7th July @6:00pm (BST)

