

3rd October 2025

Dear parents/carers and students,



I hope that this letter home finds you all well.

Sporting fixtures, Sports Award Evening and notifications

All our sports fixtures are announced in advance on the SOCS app that parents/carers can download and access. Any cancellations of fixtures will be communicated on this app, and often parents/carers are also emailed if cancellations occur as well, such as the case this week for a late cancellation by another school of a U13 girls' football fixture I believe. With sports in mind, it has been a busy week for our sports players, with fixtures for years 9, 10 and 12 in netball, year 12 boys' rugby team and tomorrow sees our first set of Saturday rugby fixtures for year 8 and above - good luck to our teams tomorrow. Tonight the annual Sports Award Evening takes place in the School Hall from 6 pm-8pm with awards being given for effort, achievement and participation across the wide range of sports that our students engage with across the academic year. Ms Leask, Director of Sport, will provide a termly roundup of all sports news at the end of each term in this newsletter.

CSPTA

It was great to see so many parents/carers attend the first CSPTA meeting held at school on Tuesday evening at 6.30pm. Thank you to all who attended and to the committee, chaired by Mike Byfield. The purpose of the CSPTA is to bring parents/carers, teachers and other friends of the school together in the interest of supporting the school in its work and providing resources to the school, and its pupils that the school would not otherwise be able to afford. Last night, the CSPTA kindly approved bids for the PE department for netball post protectors, and football shirts for both our girls and boys teams. If you are interested in attending meetings, and giving some of your time to support the activities of the CSPTA, then please find details of their future meetings on <https://cryptschool.org/our-parents/parent-teacher-association/>

Bikeability week

Many year 8 students took part in the bikeability scheme this week, designed to help support student safety when cycling on busy roads. The scheme has been running at Crypt for many years now and encourages both a safety conscious approach to cycling on roads, but also acts to encourage young people to enjoy cycling safely and in doing so reaping the many health benefits that come with such activity.

Year 12 Geography Field Trip

Students enjoy studying geography partly due to the opportunity to take part in field studies, which form a particularly important part of their GCSE and A Level studies. This week our A Level geographers enjoyed a trip out to Northleach, to study the growth and development of a Cotswolds market town.



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

The Crypt School
Educating students since 1539

Charity challenge - Run the World

A reminder that the just giving page for our ambitious charity challenge - to run the world in October - is now open, with our aim to raise £26,000 for charity Talk Well (<https://www.letstalkwell.org.uk>) which is a local Gloucester-based mental health charity. Donations are greatly appreciated.

https://www.justgiving.com/page/thecryptschool?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL

Staff Training

Teachers enjoyed a training evening after school on Thursday, focused on teaching practice linked to our outstanding lesson guidance, the use of AI, and the integration into reports home of our new Crypt Learner characteristics. Reports home will comment on the progress students are making to acquire and master the Crypt Learner characteristics, which we believe will support each student to make strong progress in their academic work at school.

Staffing update

I would like to thank Natalie Baker, who has been teaching in the food technology department since the start of term, for her work in supporting students in years 7-9 and in years 10 and 11 who study GCSE Food Technology. Natalie leaves school today and we wish her every success in the future. Joining Crypt on Monday to teach Food Technology for the rest of the academic year, is Mrs Jennie Vine, a very experienced DT and food technology teacher who we have been fortunate to have been able to recruit at this stage in the school term.

With my continued best wishes,



Nicholas Dyer
Headmaster

School Dates

3 rd October	Sports Award Evening
7 th October-10 th October	Y8 Bikeability
7 th October	Y7 Pastoral Evening 6pm
9 th October	Harry Potter Book Day Quiz 4pm
10 th October	Young Minds wear a yellow accessory
13 th October	Autumn Concert 7pm
14th October	Whole school early closure 1.15pm

15 th October	Open event prospective students
16 th October	Bingo SARA Fundraiser 5.30pm
17 th October	Run the world event
20 th – 22 nd October	Y7 Residential
22 nd October	Careers Convention
24 th October	Non uniform and cake sale for SARA
24 th October	End of Term

Parent Trustee vacancy

The School's Board of Trustees has a vacancy for a Parent Trustee and would very much welcome interest from parents or carers who are willing to take on this voluntary role. Nominations, which should be made using the form on the [Governors](#) section of the website, should be submitted to Mrs Nicola Donlon (via clerk@crypt.gloucs.sch.uk or as hard copy) by **Friday 10 October 2025**. In the event of more than one nomination being received, a ballot of the School's parent body will be held. More information about the role can be found on the [website](#).

School Open Event

Our **School Open Evening** will take place on **Wednesday 15th October, from 5.00pm to 8.00pm**.

Many of our students are kindly giving their time to help during the evening, whether by guiding visitors, assisting in departments, or supporting activities. This is always a very busy and important event for the school, and we are grateful for their involvement.

Students who are helping will have two options:

- They may stay in school after lessons finish. The canteen will be open after school so that students can purchase food. Please note: Y7-11 students who remain on site will not be allowed to leave and return.
- Alternatively, students may go home after school and return by **5.00pm** ready to help.

Parents/carers of those students involved will be sent a letter asking for consent for their child to participate via ParentPay. Thank you for your support in making this evening a success, whether that is through arranging transport or allowing your child to give up their time to represent the school.

Cereal Foodbank Donation



Thank you for your cereal donations for Gloucester Foodbank. We have over 70 boxes on the crush hall table. They are being collected on Monday afternoon so there is still time to bring a box or two into school. It would be fantastic to make it to 100 boxes!

Drama department

We have a professional actor visiting the school who will be running an open workshop/ Q&A session with students.

This is on **Monday October 13th, 1.30-2.05pm in the Drama Studio.**

This event is open to all students in all year groups, no ticket required, students simply need to turn up! Any questions, please email Mrs Crozier.

Cheerleading team

Try outs for our competition cheerleading team will be taking place on Wednesday October 15th, 1.30-2.05pm in the Sports Hall.

The competition team is open to all students in years 7-10 and year 12, no experience necessary.

Please note that the competition team trains after school from 3.20-4.20pm on Wednesdays, every Wednesday during term time. Students that are successful in making the team will be expected to attend every week (unless off school with illness), as well as attending a local showcase and National Competition (held in the midlands/ South West TBC) across two weekends in June/ July (more details to come).

There is some cost associated (competition entry/ training T-shirt for new cheerleaders), and we aim to fundraise to cover the cost of the competition uniforms.

Any questions, please email Mrs Crozier.

Charity Bingo Night Raising Funds for Severn Area Rescue Association

Ladies and Gentlemen - It's Bingo Time!

Where? - The Crypt School

When? - 5:30pm on Thursday, 16th of October

What? - Bingo, a raffle and a night of fun and laughter

How much? - Free entry and just £8 for 5 games of Bingo

Whether you're a bingo bandit or it's your first time, you're invited to join us for

The Crypt School's first ever charity bingo night! Bring your friends, your wallet and your bingo A-Game for this one-off special!

Sign up now using the form below and pay in cash on the night!

Eyes down people - the fun is about to begin!!

<https://docs.google.com/.../1FAIpQLSeLrfACvxm.../viewform...>

Everyone watches women's sport – Direct of Sport Miss Leask

It has been a summer to remember for Women's sport. First the Lionesses brought it home for the second time and now England's Red roses are women's world cup champions.

I was lucky enough to attend the final at the Alliance stadium on Saturday 27th September where history was made. 81,885 spectators at Twickenham, a record crowd for a women's rugby match and a Rugby World Cup match. A weekend to remember for women in sport, however did you know the Red Roses only received full time contracts in 2019, making them the first women's rugby team in the world to go fully professional. Other nations have semi-professional teams and some countries had to fundraise to make it to the Women's rugby world cup.



England's opponents Canada are not fully professional and crowdfunded their way to try and win the Women's rugby world cup. Some of their squad included two firefighters, an engineer and a school coach. In March 2025, Rugby Canada officially launched the Mission: Win Rugby World Cup 2025 fundraising campaign with the goal of raising \$1,000,000 to send the best-ever prepared Canadian team to the World Cup.

What does the impact of England winning the world cup now mean for women's rugby? English Premiership Women's Rugby clubs are not currently fully professional; the league is on a 10-year path to full professionalism, with a strategy in place to achieve this by making more players full-time professionals. The most important thing in my opinion is we need to get behind the players and PWR clubs and support women's rugby.

Did you know Gloucester-Hartpury are 3 times PWR champions and play at both Hartpury and Kingsholm. The squad features Red Roses captain Zoe Aldcroft as well as other England players such as Mo Hunt who played for Drybook in her youth.



If you have a favourite player make sure to give them a follow on social media to further grow women's rugby. Here are some women's rugby stars who are changing the game and you should check them out:

Sadia Kabeya:



The player of the match in the world cup final, Kabeya collaborated with Gilbert to develop a satin inner layer to replicate the satin headwear worn to help protect hair from friction, rubbing and drying.

Kabeya has an article on the BBC which states: England back row Sadia Kabeya tells BBC Sport "being a black girl in rugby who has curly hair" led her to create a satin scrum cap to "knock down a barrier for people joining the sport".

Ilona Maher: (photo of me meeting Ilona Maher!)

A big name in women's rugby, as well as being an incredible player she is famous for her body positivity that's attracted millions of followers on social media. The US athlete uses TikTok and Instagram to talk about body positivity and being a high-profile woman in sport. Maher joined Bristol Bears for a small part of the 2024/25 season and she made a considerable impact, helping to attract a club-record crowd for a women's game when she made her debut against Gloucester-Hartpury at Ashton Gate. In the fortnight since the announcement of Maher joining Bristol had seen the followers of their women's team on Instagram almost triple to over 60,000 and moved their New Year encounter with Gloucester-Hartpury to Ashton Gate Stadium because of unprecedented demand.



Ellie Kildune:

One of the biggest names in rugby at the moment Kildune made her debut for England at the age of 18 and is known for her lightning pace and electric step. Kildune has been diagnosed with ADHD and in an article with the BBC notes "I definitely think it's a superpower - I've got the ability to focus on many things at once, but also hyper focus on the things that matter. And that's definitely what has made me the player and person I am."



Asia Hogan-Rochester:



I noticed the Canadian winger always wears glitter while she plays, which I thought was pretty iconic! On her website it notes 'Asia brings her full self to the pitch every time, unapologetically and in full sparkle. Whether it's glitter on her face or her hair laid and styled to perfection, she proves that power and femininity can coexist—and dominate—on the world stage'.

Women's rugby want to grow the game and this is their mission:

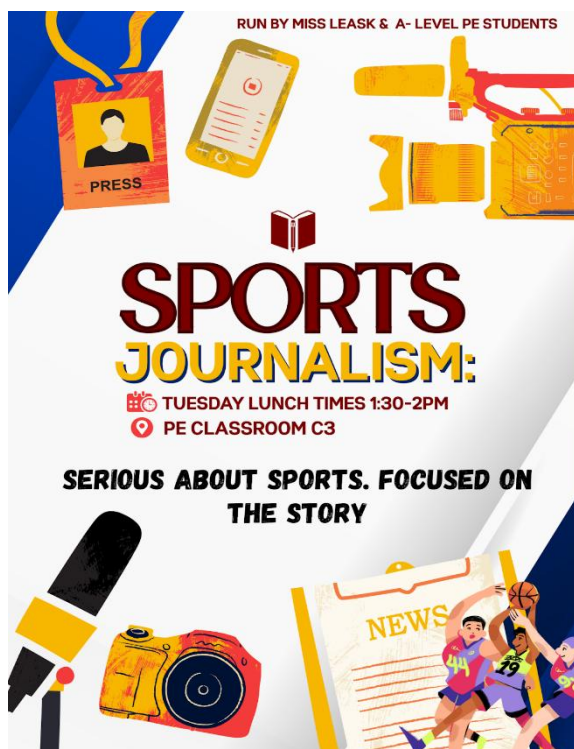
- 37,000+ women and girls reached by Impact '25 in Year 3
- 500+ clubs, schools, and universities supported in Year 3
- 35% increase in registered age grade girls since the start of Impact '25
- 3,385 new female coaches and match officials engaged in training thanks to Impact '25
- 77% of targeted funding delivered outside London & South East

What is the Crypt school doing?

We have a rugby skills club currently in term 1 for KS3 students, in term 2 our competitive rugby club will be starting. We have entered tournaments for U12, U14 and U16 girls as well as competing in the first girls U14 EDF cup this year and for the first time, we have entered the prestigious Rosslyn Park 7s for our U16s.

We also have an opportunity for girls who don't have any experience in rugby. On Thursday 16th October 13:00-15:00, Cheltenham Tigers rugby club invited us to join a non contact rugby festival for

students who have never competed before. If you are in Y7-9 and would like to take part please can you let me (Miss Leask) know by either emailing or signing up on the girls noticeboard.



My main motivation for writing this piece was my passion for women in sport. However, I also wanted to launch a new sports journalism club. If you are interested in sporting news and stories or would like to do match reports for the Crypt teams then please come to our journalism club!

#HelloYellow Young Minds



#HelloYellow

M&S | YOUNGMINDS

Wear yellow accessories to school on Friday 10th October! Staff and students are invited to wear yellow accessories - eg socks, scarves, earrings, hats... to raise awareness for Young Minds and mental health support.

Students must wear normal school uniform - blazers and ties, alongside yellow accessories.

No donations required to wear yellow - this is to raise awareness.

Music Newsletter

The Autumn Concert is less than two weeks away! Letters have been sent out to all participants and would appreciate your responses back by the end of the day please. Members from across the school community are invited to attend our celebration of talented soloists and ensembles on Monday 13th October, with tickets available on ParentPay.



We have had an astonishing increase in orchestra players, who are making excellent progress with our concert pieces led by Mr Whittaker, including Bizet's March from Carmen, Gershwin's Themes from Rhapsody in Blue and Rossini's William Tell Overture.

The Young Voices Big Sing project has welcomed a wealth of singing talent from across Year 7 and 8, led by Mrs Banda. Their chosen song Shadowland from The Lion King is sounding majestic and glorious with a 70-strong blend of harmonies. Our Vox Floreat singers are also looking forward to making their debut at our Autumn Concert.

Mr Storer welcomed around 20 players to the Year 7 Brass Trailblazers, many of whom had never played a brass instrument before. Within the half hour session, he led the group to play their first piece One Man Blues, with a strong sense of pitch and clarity. A really impressive group who will make their first formal performance later in the year.



Library Newsletter

We have had different events happening over the past couple of weeks which the students have enjoyed taking part.

The winner of the Percy Jackson quiz was Isabel 9JC who got all 12 questions correct along with 8 more students. They were put into a draw and Isabel was the winner of the prize of a Percy Jackson book and £5.00 book voucher. All the other students scoring 12 received a free book of their choice.

Last week the school was celebrating foreign languages. On Friday in the library, we had a name that colour in different languages game. Lots of enthusiasm and eagerness to try and connect the colours with the countries during lunchtime was enjoyed.

The winners were a group of year 7 girls who received a small chocolate treat. Congratulations to Ruby, Phoebe, Jaiya, Isabella, Sherlin. Neha and Lily 7RR.



Well done to everyone who took part. All students taking part received merits for their entries.

October is Black History Month. We have a display of books and facts covering black history which the students can have a browse through and borrow.

The Summer Reading Challenge Over the summer the new year 7 students were given a challenge to complete over the summer holidays. The activities included - read a book with a purple cover, read somewhere unusual, write a fictional story and draw your favourite fictional character. Over 35 students took on the challenge, all of them have received merits for all their hard work.

It was difficult to choose a couple of winners. Congratulations to Maya 7JC and Bobby 7DW on being chosen as our winners. They both received a £10 book voucher.



Thursday 9th October

We are celebrating Harry Potter Book Day by holding a quiz after school on 9th October

Open to all year groups and staff

The quiz will be in the Canteen area with pizza available from 4.00pm to enjoy before the quiz begins

Fancy dress is optional

Science magic in the interval

A choice of pizzas and prices will be coming soon. You can bring your own food if preferred

Refreshments by the CSPTA will be available to purchase throughout the event

Teams of no more than 6

Starting at 4.15 till 6.30 (approx.)

To register to take part in the quiz please come to see Mrs Jordan in the library

Any questions please contact Mrs Jordan



The library is a hive of activity both break and lunchtimes with students coming in to borrow books, sit and read quietly or catch up with some work on their iPads.

The new librarians have just had their first meeting; I am looking forward to working with them this year. Hopefully having recommendations and ideas to continue making the library a calm and enjoyable place to be.

Finally, the Harry Potter Book Quiz is proving very popular. It takes place after school next Thursday 9th October. All students wishing to attend need to come and register with me in the library. They can order pizza on ParentPay at £2.00.

This was a great event last year, so I am really looking forward to seeing the costumes for the fancy dress competition – students do not have to dress up if they don't want to. Lots of fun, noise, chocolate freddos.

Student Success on the Tennis Court

We are delighted to share some fantastic news from the tennis world!

Last Sunday, Joanna, year 7, competed in the South & South West Tour at Kings Lawn Tennis Club and came away with a brilliant first-place victory in the U12 category.

Joanna showed great determination and skill throughout the tournament. In the semifinals, she overcame the No. 2 seed, before going on to claim the title by defeating the No. 1 seed in the final.

This is an outstanding achievement, and we are very proud of Joanna's hard work and sporting success. Please join us in congratulating her on this impressive accomplishment!

How You Can Help Your Child Set Up for Success in Exams

We wanted to let you know that over 24 parents from The Crypt School attended our webinar last night, along with 4200 others from across the country!

We really enjoyed sharing our advice with so many attendees from your school's community - and we're hoping to see many of the same faces again at our next session taking place in two weeks.

This upcoming webinar is one of the most important sessions we run. Focusing on **exam skills and preparation**, we'll be walking parents through some strategies they can use to help their child get ready for their assessments.

Live Parent Webinar: How You Can Help Your Child Set Up for Success in Exams
Tuesday 14th October 6:00-7:00pm (BST)

Promoting the session in your school newsletter or on your social media channels is a great way to let your parents know it's coming up. I've made this easy to do by including some text templates and social posts below for you to download!

- Click the button below to download some ready-to-post **Twitter and Facebook** promos - you'll also find a **flyer and page for your school newsletter**.
- If you'd like to notify your parents about the webinar **by email**, feel free to copy and paste the text below my email signature.
- If you'd like any other promotional material for the event just let us know and we'll be happy to help!

How You Can Help Your Child Set Up for Success in Exams

Tuesday 14th October 6:00-7:00pm (BST)

[Click here to register for free](#)

Personal Education Development lessons

We are delighted to welcome our new cohorts to Personal Education Development lessons in Term 1 and are incredibly lucky to yet again have a diverse and dedicated staff to lead these lessons. We hope your child has settled into lessons well.

Over the academic year, within Personal Education Development, lessons explore personal issues, relationships, and aspirations. Students cover key issues facing them and the lessons at The Crypt School stress the importance of discussing topics such as physical and mental wellbeing, consent, relationships, and sexual orientation. An equally important focus for our students is their academic life: how to use study skills productively – whilst understanding how to deal with the pressures these can bring. The Crypt School also focuses on student pathways towards the working world; and this enables every student to reflect on potential careers, the skills required and the routes towards achieving their goals. Our aim is to allow students to feel safe and to feel informed. We encourage all to work productively and creatively, to build strong and positive relationships with others, and to contribute to their community. Our goal is to enable our students to flourish by gaining better control over their lives and resilience whilst helping them value themselves as individuals in a pluralistic society. Lots of work has already begun in Term 1-

Year 7 is exploring new school anxieties. These include peer pressure, dealing with change in friendships and organisation skills. They will consider emotional management skills such as - meditation; self soothing; and being empathetic. Help in school will be signposted to the classes. Outside of school, further support could be found via

<https://www.familylives.org.uk/>

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/>

<https://www.nhs.uk/>

Year 8 is studying social media, its positives and its negatives, such as FOMO and cyberbullying. They are revisiting online safety. In addition, they will discuss factors that can affect wellbeing; they will revisit how to self-soothe and discuss the connection between mind and body. This will include the effects of sugar; the importance of sleep; and the benefits of physical exercise. Help in school will be signposted to the classes. Outside of school, further support could be found via

<https://www.familylives.org.uk/>

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/>

<https://www.nhs.uk/>

Year 9 is focusing on mental health - stress, anxiety, depression; before discussing body image, positive influences, eating disorders, and self-esteem. Help in school will be signposted to the classes. Outside of school, further support could be found via

<https://www.nhs.uk/mental-health/children-and-young-adults/>

<https://www.mindful.org/>

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/>

Year 10 is concentrating on GCSE preparation such as study & revision skills. Help in school will be signposted to the classes. Outside of school, further support could be found via

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/>

Year 11 is focusing on areas such as wellbeing, stress, depression and dealing with pressure. In addition, they will start to explore post 16 pathways via Career Pilot Pathway Planner. Help in school will be signposted to the classes. Outside of school, further support could be found via

<https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/>

<https://www.mind.org.uk/>

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/>

Year 12 is discussing making the most out of Sixth form life before moving on to exploring post 18 options- Uni, Apprenticeships, employment, gap year. Help in school will be signposted to the classes. Outside of school, further support could be found via

<https://www.unifrog.org/>

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>

<https://www.ucas.com/>

Year 13 is focused on post 18 options such as personal statements for UCAS and Apprenticeships applications. Help in school will be signposted to the classes. Outside of school, further support could be found via

<https://www.unifrog.org/>

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>

<https://www.ucas.com/>

Canteen Announcements

Breakfast is available in the canteen every day from 8-8.30am

**magic
breakfast**
fuel for learning

Why children's brains need breakfast

Think breakfast is just about filling tummies? Nope—it's brain fuel!

Just like athletes eat before a big game, children need quality fuel before a big day of learning.

Concentration, memory, creativity, quick thinking—all those amazing brain skills—run on glucose (that's the energy our body makes from food).

Here's the thing:

- Children burn through glucose faster than adults.
- Overnight, their energy stores get used up while they sleep.
- Without a refill in the morning, they can hit the dreaded brain fog—hello low mood, tiredness, and "I can't focus" moments.

That's why "break-fast" literally means breaking the overnight fast—and it's essential for kickstarting both body and brain.

?!?

Breakfast benefits for the brain:

- Boosts focus & attention
- Improves memory recall
- Powers problem solving & creativity
- Keeps mood steady
- Prevents mid-morning energy crashes



AUTHENTIC
Italian

Thursday 9th October

Spicy Sausage Ragu with
Pasta

Garlic Mushroom Spaghetti
Carbonara

Grab & Go

Bianca Pizza (White Base)
Cheese & Pesto Twists
Garlic Bread



Aspens
🌲🌲🌲🌲🌲