



4th October 2024

Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

I do hope this correspondence home finds you all well.

The whole school photograph, yesterday, was blessed with both excellent sunshine and outstanding behaviour from all our 1101 students. It was great to see the whole school coming together at 9.30 am yesterday, looking exceptionally smart and I think enjoying both belonging to and being proud of their membership of their school. Families can purchase copies of the whole school photograph in due course, if they so wish. School will display a copy in the main corridor, alongside of many others, which stretch all the way back to 1906, where my rough count suggests there were about 100 pupils in the school at that point.

Academic work and enrichment opportunities have been centre stage at school this week. Students in year 7 sat their CAT Tests on Tuesday, which are carried out at this time of year to provide school and teachers with more information on each student's academic potential, through which school uses to help monitor and track their progress. The Senior Maths Challenge, sat by many students from across the older year groups, was also held on Tuesday, and we await those results, which are normally very good indeed, such is the depth of talent we are fortunate to have in mathematics. Many students attended the first of our Inspiring Futures Talk on Monday, with this one being on the range of career opportunities now available in the ever growing area of sport. Thank you to Richard Whincup from Hartpury University for coming into school to give that talk. I note many academic clubs and societies are now operating across the week, such as the Debating Club, which held its first debate on Tuesday, the Model United Nations group, who meet every Monday, and our new Music Theory Club, which is held each Thursday. Of course, many other activities take place at lunchtimes, and after-school and I hope everyone has something to get involved with, that will enrich their academic lives further across this year.

The Scholarships at USA Universities Talk on Thursday was well attended, as senior students think about higher education opportunities outside of the UK. Indeed, we have already supported some senior students to progress to study abroad in previous years, such as our former head girl, who is currently studying medicine in America. On that note, the Oxbridge and other early course application deadlines for university entry are approaching; all applications must be submitted to UCAS by the 14th of October: please can all relevant students ensure their forms are with school well before that UCAS deadline.

It has been an exceptionally busy week of sporting fixtures, with Crypt teams competing against Stroud High School (netball) and Westonbirt and Holmleigh Park School (rugby). I hope the matches went well for those involved.



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The Crypt School
Educating students since 1539

Tomorrow, school has a large block set of rugby fixtures against King Edward VI School, Stratford. Thank you to all my colleagues in the PE and games department for giving those opportunities to so many of our students to participate in.

The year 8 residential left school on Monday, returning on Wednesday. I believe those who attended (some 108) had a really great experience, despite the wet and cold weather. Thank you to those staff who gave up their time to support that residential trip, and in particular to Mr Hart for organising and leading that trip.

I hope our new year 7 pastoral evening, held in school last night, was a useful opportunity for those who attended to catch up with tutors and other staff with regards to how their child has settled in at Crypt over the last month. It appears that Year 7 have made a really strong start to their Crypt school journeys, and my thanks to Mr Bowen (Head of Year 7) and his tutor team, as well as other colleagues who have enabled that to be the case.

The Sixth Form Student Executive Team raised nearly £1000 for charity in their "Pie a Teacher" event held last Friday. Three senior members of staff who missed out on Friday didn't get away with it however: they were thoroughly caked with pies on Monday read on to see the photos!

With continued best wishes,



Nicholas Dyer
Headmaster

School Dates

7th October – Year 12 Geography Trip

8th October – CSPTA Meeting 6pm Sports Block all welcome.

8th – 11th October – Y8 Bikeability

8th October – Y7 Cheltenham Literature Festival

9th October – Y7 Cheltenham Literature Festival

9th October – Y11/Y13 Apprenticeship Workshop

11th October – Gabrieli Choral Workshop with Charles Béquignon-MacDougall

11th October – Y7 & Y12 whole year group photograph

15th October – School early closure 1.10pm if your child needs to stay in school, please notify us <https://forms.gle/gYKfy9t9QUxNKwTc7>

16th October – School open event for prospective students and parents/carers

17th October – Harry Potter Quiz Evening

24th October – Autumn Concert 7pm Sport's Hall

25th October – Non uniform day and end of term

6th November – Sixth Form Open Evening 5.30pm

Practice Lockdown

On Thursday 10th October at 9am the school will be running a practice of our full lockdown procedure. Staff and pupils have already been made aware of this very important drill. Expectations have been made clear about what everyone's responsibilities are if a lockdown were to happen. Pupils have been informed that they must not make any contact during the practice, and indeed, if it were for real. Pupils will get a further briefing during a form period early next week.

The practice will allow the school to check for any areas that we can improve on so that we can maintain a safe environment for all. A reminder will be sent to you all again next week.

European Language Week



Last week, as part of our European Language week celebrations, the whole school participated in a range of activities to celebrate and promote languages.

We kicked this off with a whole school virtual escape room during Mrs Quinn's assembly, which was won by 10WEH. There was another quiz in tutor time later in the week, in which students had to decipher information about different

European languages and demographics to complete a crossword. On Thursday (the official European Day of Languages) the canteen once again offered a special European Menu with traditional foods from France, Germany, Spain and Italy. The canteen staff looked amazing in their fancy dress, and students ordered in either German, French or Spanish for house points. Henley also won this competition! We hope all students enjoyed the week and learnt something new!

Personal Development

As a Grammar School we are clearly here to support students in gaining the best academic qualifications that they can achieve at both GCSE and A Level. However, we also recognise the importance of a student's personal development and therefore highly value and promote the activities that take place beyond the academic curriculum. Personal development covers activities that improve awareness and identity, develop talents and potential, build human cultural capital and facilitate employability, enhance the quality of life and contribute to the realisation of dreams and aspirations for students to flourish.

We have created a personal development journey for each year group and these can be found on the [school website](#). Please click on the links to show the wide range of the personal development opportunities available to students as they grow, develop and flourish in their journey from Years 7 to Year 13. Please be aware that this is a dynamic document and so some dates and activities may change, and others will be added to the list as we develop and continue to support students.

Students in Years 8, 10 and 12 will follow our EDGE programme where they Engage, Develop, Grow and Excel in the activities and skills they participate in as they move through the school. These will be recorded on unifrog and will be reflected upon by students in Term 5 and 6. We will then report home to parents towards the end of the academic year in their annual report. The EDGE initiative will be launched to students in assembly next week and we hope it will encourage all students to get involved in the rich life of clubs, activities and events in the school.

Summer Reading Challenge

Over the summer the new year 7's were given a reading challenge. We had nearly 50 students take part. All of them were very colourful and a joy to read. The challenges included reading a book outside, one with an orange cover, somewhere unusual. Along with drawing and labelling your favourite character from a well-known book plus write/make your own mini book.

All students received 5 merits for taking part. They were put into a draw to win a £10 book token. Our lucky winner was Gwen from 7JC.

Other students received a magnetic bookmark and a sweet treat for extra effort and very good presentation –

Photos and evidence – Sam, Rohan and Matilda from 7RR

A good story/mini book – Michael 7JC, Leah and Sophie 7RR

Picture of a character – Anthony 7RR, Nirusan and Izzy 7WEH and Eirwen 7JC

Well done to everyone for all their hard work.

We are having new stock in the library. This week we had the series by the popular author Robin Stevens. These two books are from The Ministry of Unladylike Activity. Robin Stevens is a very popular author with a lot of our students enjoying the Murder Most Unladylike Mystery series.

Donations Thank you so much Sabienne 7JC for her generous donation of a book she has read and wanted to pass onto other readers. We do really appreciate any donations to the library. We also received some Chess Books kindly donated by the Cotswold Chess Congress. These will be added to our library shelves and could be very useful for the members of the school's Chess club.

If anyone has any books suitable for year 7 to 13 which they no longer want, please think of the Crypt School to donate. All donations are very welcome.

The students are now enrolling to take part in the **Harry Potter Book Quiz** event which is on **17th October** after school. If anyone is interested, please come and see Mrs Jordan to become part of this very exciting event. Posters are around the school plus information is on the Daily News for tutor groups. The event is being supported by the CSPTA

- 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
- Pizza will be available to order. 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 - if you are on your own or in a couple or more, please come and see me, we can link you up to another small group.
- Starting at 4.30 till 6.30 (approx.)
- To register to take part in the quiz please come to see Mrs Jordan in the library

School Calendar

The school website has a calendar page that you can visit to view upcoming events. Occasionally we will need to move events; the calendar will be updated, and upcoming events are always publicised in the head's weekly letter. You can view the calendar

here <https://cryptschool.org/news-and-events/school-calendar/>

All sporting fixtures are on the main school calendar, but far more sports information can be found here at cryptsport.co.uk



The Crypt School Parent Teacher Association

Parents, Teachers and Friends

cspta@cryptschool.org

Our next meeting to be held on
Tuesday 8th October 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. Minutes of the Previous Meeting
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Matters Arising Including Wish List
6. School Report
7. Future Activities/Events/Fundraising & Marketing
 - Harry Potter quiz in school 17 October 2024
 - Christmas Fair 29 November 2024 – raffle and ticket distribution date in school, F1 and DoE stalls
 - Foreign currency/printer cartridge
 - Quiz with Simon Lewis update 28 February 2025
8. School Clothing Sales
9. 200 Club
10. Date of next meeting –

Tue 12 th November	Tue 11 th February	Tue 13 th May
Tue 10 th December	Tue 11 th March	Tue 10 th June
Tue 14 th January	Tue 8 th April	

11. AOB

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

Pie the Teacher

On Friday 27th, the student executive team ran a 'Pie the Teacher' event in support of Sunflowers Suicide Support charity based in Stonehouse. The charity offers a range of trauma-informed interventions, catering to the needs of children, young people and adults bereaved and affected by suicide. With a turn out of 35+ staff, many of our pupils enjoyed partaking in the event as well as donating to the charity, in total fundraising £880. Members of the senior leadership team also participated as you can see from the before and after photos of Mr Dyer, Mr Stanlake and Mr Biggs!



Harvest Foodbank Collection



This Harvest, we are the

Tinned Fruit Champion

For our collection drive, in support of Gloucester Foodbank's emergency food parcel service



Please support their work by including tins of peaches, pineapple, pears or any other fruit in your donation this Harvest Festival.



Registered charity no. 1113515

As a school we have been asked to collect tinned fruit to donate to the foodbank. If you are able to donate, tinned fruit can be brought into school until Monday 14th October. Students can place them on the Crush Hall table. We hope for a champion response!



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Music



Our Jazz Band are practising through improvisation techniques utilising blues scales and extended harmony. They are preparing extensively for the upcoming Open Day on Wednesday 16th October and sure to entertain us with Tenor Madness, All Blues and Autumn Leaves. They will be joined throughout the day by A Capella choir who are delighting us with songs including Mr Blue Sky and Chattanooga Choo Choo.

Year 11 have had an exciting revision session on Rhythms of the World revisiting traditional instruments and compositional practices in Greek, Latin and Brazilian music. They have also been demonstrating a varied programme of music in preparation for their GCSE recital.



Year 7 have also been focusing on rhythmic features and learned how to compose polyrhythmic patterns using a pulse sheet. Split into groups of four, one student elects to play a starting rhythm by clapping or using a djembe, with three playing a different set of patterns to the same pulse. Symphony Orchestra have begun looking into Mozart's Symphony No. 40 and thrilled at the number of new string players joining us for this wonderful piece. The interest in joining our main choir has been very strong, with

two new pieces learned this week for Gabrieli Roar, and preparation of For The Fallen and They Shall Not Learn War towards the Remembrance Service.

Some of our visiting music teachers have been holding 'try an instrument' workshops, with Mr Storer inviting students to play brass instruments and Mrs Chapman hosting an introductory cello session.

Music Tech students have been learning how to apply creative effects such as reverb and delay to their remix project, allowing them to create more space and depth to their sound.

Musical Theatre group have been learning Seasons of Love as an ensemble piece and beginning to learn choreography for selections from Everybody's Talking About Jamie.

Letters will be sent out shortly for both Autumn Concert and Gabrieli Roar participation. Tickets will be available to purchase on ParentPay for these events soon.

Mr Slemensek would like to inform you that he is musical directing with Matt Nolan Productions and Theatre Studio at the Everyman Theatre on Monday 28th October. The concert is A Night of Musicals: A Candlelight Concert and more info can be found here. He would appreciate your support for an enchanting evening of musical theatre.

AI Lecture



Dr Will Sayers



Inspired Lecture - Artificial Intelligence

Join us for an exciting opportunity to hear from Dr Will Sayers, Associate Head of Business, Computing and Social Sciences, at the University of Gloucestershire. Dr Sayers specialises in Artificial Intelligence, optimisation algorithms and how they can be applied to solve real world problems.

Session Overview:

Are you curious about the future of technology? Join us for a fascinating talk on Artificial Intelligence! Discover how AI is changing our world and learn about exciting career opportunities in this field. This informative session is perfect for students interested in computer science, science, technology, engineering, and maths.

Don't miss this unique chance to gain valuable insights and advice from a leading professional in the artificial intelligence field

Location: The Crypt School, Room C3

Date: 11 October 2024

Time: 1.20pm



Mira Showers Open Evening

5.00-7.00pm 28th November 2024 and 16th January 2025

This year we are recruiting for L4 Project Managers (post A Levels or equivalent), L3 Engineering Technicians (post GCSE) and a L6 Manufacturing and Design Degree Engineer (post A Levels or equivalent). All our apprenticeships will continue to benefit from a rotational program whereby students can experience several departments within their chosen function as well feel supported by a dedicated apprentice manager.

If you would like the opportunity to find out more by speaking to our current and past apprentices as well as our management team, please come along to one of our Open Evenings bookable via the link below. If you would like a site tour, we would urge you to book a slot as soon as possible. [Mira Showers Open Evening Booking Form](#)

If you have any questions, please email earlycareers@mirashowers.com and we will be happy to help you.

Gloucestershire County Council

They are in the process of recruiting volunteer Panel Members to assist with virtual School Admission Appeals. They are particularly in need of Parent Members (those with children currently in education).

If you are interested here's the link to the relevant page on the Gloucestershire County Council website:

[Apply to become a volunteer school appeals panel member | Gloucestershire County Council](#)