

5th September 2025



Dear parents/carers and students,

A very warm welcome to a new school year and I do hope that everyone connected to the life and work of the school enjoyed a good summer.

I was delighted on Tuesday to welcome into the school our new year 7 group. They enjoyed a good induction day, which included a welcome assembly, a treasure hunt around school to ensure their familiarity with the layout of the school, received their iPad and enjoyed some valuable tutor time together to enable friendships to be established and any questions to be answered. I look forward to seeing this year group develop strongly together over the coming weeks and am sure that they will all flourish in our supportive and inclusive school culture, take a full part in the busy life of the school, whilst working hard in their academic studies.

Equally, on Wednesday it was a pleasure to welcome our new year 12 year group into school for their induction day. Over 170 students have enrolled into year 12, with record numbers this year enrolled to study maths, the sciences, economics and computer science by example. Those enrolled into year 12 both met and exceeded the higher academic entry requirements set for this year's Year 12 entry and I congratulate all our new year 12 cohort on their strong GCSE results and wish them every success as they embark on their A Level studies.

I do hope that all students who are new to the school settle quickly, establish new friendships and make a strong start to both their academic studies and wider school lives. I hope that they, along with all our students, will feel a sense of pride in belonging to The Crypt School, and will live up to the high expectations that we have for them; I know that that they will work hard in their studies, whilst embracing all the other opportunities open to them to develop and flourish in their school lives.

As many will no doubt know, the School enjoyed another very strong set of public examination results at both A Level and at GCSE. At A level, 36% of grades were awarded at A*-A, 66% at A*-B and 91% at A*-C, with our year 13 cohort progressing onto a variety of post-18 destinations including university, degree apprenticeships, employment, further training, gap years and so on. GCSE results were exceptionally strong, with 18% of grades awarded at grade 9, 42% at grades 9-8 and 66% at grades 9-7. My congratulations to all of our GCSE and A Level students on their achievements in the summer exams.

Well done to those students in last year's year 9 on their success in their RS GCSE short course, sat in term 6. Year 10 now formally commence their GCSE courses this term, and I encourage them all to work hard this year, building that foundation of knowledge and understanding needed to excel in year 11 and beyond.



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The Crypt School
Educating students since 1539

The summer holiday saw a significant amount of work take place to improve and enhance our school estate. The most significant project was the upgrade and refurbishment of the JJCC - the sixth form centre - where over £300,000 has been invested to improve social and study facilities for our year 12 and 13 students. Other work has involved moving departments to other locations across the school site, improvements to our cramped music rooms, the creation of a new space for our trainee and newly qualified teachers, and other more general maintenance work.



I know that Mrs Hargraves and our heads of year have already written home setting out the school's expectations around student behaviour and conduct, uniform standards and attendance, the use of mobile phones and the need for our students to develop into the responsible and respectful young adults that we all wish time to be. We also want all our students to understand and embrace the five values of our Crypt community, through which they can shape both positive attitudes and a personal moral framework around. These values are: integrity, kindness, pride, respect, and responsibility.

It will no doubt be another busy year for the school, its staff and students - life at Crypt has always been so. I encourage each and every student to commit themselves fully to their academic work across this year, whether that is for those starting their secondary education with us in year 7, or for those in their last year at school in year 13. They should also all get involved in the rich wider life of the school, be that in sport, music or drama; in the many clubs, societies and other activities that run each week, or in acting as prefects, house and form captains, and in always being kind and considerate to others. We aim to ensure that we create a caring, inclusive and welcoming space for all our students, through which they can be themselves, take pride in their work, in both their own, and in others' achievements and grow and develop into the young person they wish to become. We will provide them all with the teaching and learning that will help enable them to progress and flourish in their academic studies, offer them all opportunities to learn about their world, about themselves and about the many future opportunities open to them; we will support their pastoral needs and offer them a clear framework and moral compass through which they themselves will be able to make informed

decisions about their lives and increasingly be able to take responsibility for themselves, as well as for others too.

My continued best wishes,



Nicholas Dyer
Headmaster

School Dates

11 th September	Prize Day
15 th September	Y13 Information Evening Online
16 th September	Y10 Information Evening Online
17 th September	Y8 Residential Trip
19 th September	Y13 Oxford University Trip

Welcome To Our New Year 7 cohort!



"I am very pleased with how Year 7 have settled into school life after only a short while. Staff have been universal in their praise for how polite, well-mannered, and hard-working our latest cohort of Cryptians are. I have been particularly impressed with how everyone has navigated

the hustle-and-bustle of a very busy school site, to arrive to lessons on-time and well-presented.

The next step for our Cryptians will be to get stuck into the lunchtime clubs; the schedule will be announced by Mr Hart very soon. I have told students that everyone should be signing up to two clubs minimum!"

Head of Year 7 Mr Bowen

Welcome To Our New Year 12 cohort!



A very warm welcome to our new Year 12 who began their Sixth Form journeys with us on Wednesday. Around 170 students joined our Sixth Form this week, including many new Cryptians who have made a great start to their time here.

On the induction day, students got to know their teachers in subject induction sessions and completed a treasure hunt activity around the

school led by our wonderful Year 13 student executive team. It was lovely to see the students using our newly renovated Sixth Form Centre spaces and we look forward to a fantastic first term and few years.

Head of Year 12 Miss Parkin

The Lion Trail making hospital life better



For the first and only time, all 86 lions will be gathered in one place at the iconic Cheltenham Racecourse on [Saturday 4th](#) and [Sunday 5th October](#), from 10am to 4pm. You'll have the chance to snap a roarsome selfie, purchase raffle tickets and get your hands on some Lions at Large merchandise!

Tickets cost **£6 per adult, £3 per child** (age 2-15) and under 2s are free. Alternatively, you can purchase a **family ticket for £15** (2 adults and up to 3 children). Our own lion cub, Dodo, will be back with us in school soon.

Funds raised will go towards [The Big Space Cancer Appeal](#).

Music Newsletter

We are A very warm welcome to our exceptional musical community and to all our new members in Year 7. Following a tremendously successful year, establishing new partnerships and producing wonderful events, we are building on this with a newly refurbished music room. We have a new suite of computers installed with both MIDI and class keyboards. The suite has Musescore for notation work and the addition of Cubase to provide foundations in music production through learning how to use digital audio workstations. This will provide a good theory basis and add another creative musicmaking tool to our class lessons.

The school's annual prizegiving evening will take place next Thursday and we are providing entry music with our Symphony Orchestra, with performances from A Cappella Choir and our ever popular Jazz Trio. Letters have been sent out to all participants from last year and would greatly appreciate the Google forms by Monday please.

A new co-curricular schedule is now available and we are looking forward to welcoming new members to our ensembles. Please come along and have a go at singing or playing an instrument.

All those who have signed up for the Belgium Choir Tour are expected next Wednesday 10th September at lunchtime for rehearsal. Cast and pit band members for Oliver! should all have a rehearsal schedule with the first cast rehearsal taking place on Monday. If students are not consistent in not attending, they may forfeit their place.

Our visiting music teachers are recommencing lessons from next week and we encourage all members of the school community to take up an instrument or vocal tuition. It is truly enriching and provides wonderful opportunities and skills. We are also thrilled to welcome Mr Marchetti as our new guitar teacher.

A showcase of taught students and teachers will be taking place during lesson 5 on Friday 12th September, with lesson forms available from the music department. Any questions please ask Mr Whittaker, Mrs Banda or Mr Slemensek.

All times will be posted on the notice board outside the music room in the glass cabinet. Students should make note of these times when released and give plenty of notice if these need to be rearranged or cancelled due to assessments or illness. VMTs are able to charge for lessons if no notice has been given and they are not attending. A reminder that students need to sign-in to the reception iPad to confirm their lesson attendance, or they could receive a detention.

A music events calendar will soon be posted on social media and placed around the department, as we look ahead to preparations for the Autumn Concert, Teenage Voices and more when announced. We have an Instagram page which will be updated regularly if you would like to follow us on @cryptschoolmusic.

An exciting and busy term ahead with plenty of musical opportunities for all to get involved in!

THE CRYPT SCHOOL

WEEKLY CO-CURRICULAR MUSIC REHEARSAL SCHEDULE AUTUMN TERM 1 AND 2: 2025

DAY	SESSION	TIME	ENSEMBLE
Monday	Lunchtime	1:20pm-2.00pm	Oliver! Rehearsal (all cast members) (music room 21) (JMW, AC and CS) Brass Group (all brass players) (pavilion) (PS) DJ Club (all KS3) (music studio)
Tuesday	Tutor time	8.25am	Young Voices Big Sing! (all Y7 and 8 pupils)
	Morning Break:	10.50am	KS3 String Quartet (Oscar, Ella, Raffi, Isobel)
	Lunchtime	1:20pm-2.00pm	Symphony Orchestra (all woodwind, brass, strings, percussion) (music room 21) (JMW, CS, EM and AA)
			Rock Bands (music studio)
	After School	3.30pm-5.00pm	Oliver! Rehearsal (main hall) (all cast members) (JMW, AC and CS)
Wednesday	Tutor time	8.20am-8.50am	A Cappella Choir (music room 21) (all years by invitation) (SF)
	Lunchtime	1:20pm-2.00pm	Belgium Tour Choir (Cantores Cryptienses) (music room) (Years 8-13) (JMW and CS)
Thursday	Tutor time	8.15am-8.50am	Choir (Cantores Cryptienses) (music room 21) (years 8-13) (JMW and CS)
	Lunchtime	1:20pm-2.00pm	Young Voices (open to all years 7-8) (drama studio) (SB) Oliver! Pit Band Rehearsal (all musicians) (music room 21) (JMW and CS)
	Lesson 5	2.15pm-3.15pm	Y12 Music Practitioners' Enrichment Club (music room 21) (JMW)
Friday	Lunchtime	1:20pm-2.00pm	Jazz band (all years by invitation) (music room 21) (AR) Percussion Ensemble (JS) (all years) (music studio)

Gold DofE Qualifying Expedition – Great Glen Trail Summary

We wanted to take a moment to share a summary of our unforgettable Gold DofE Qualifying Expedition, which took place along the Great Glen Trail from 13th to 21st July. It was an incredible experience for both students and staff, filled with breathtaking scenery, exceptional teamwork, and a true sense of achievement.

After travelling to Corpach, just outside Fort William, on Sunday, students took part in a one-night acclimatisation canoe trip on Loch Shiel (Monday–Tuesday), supported by Live Life Adventure. A day of preparation followed on Wednesday in Fort William, giving students time to finalise plans, restock supplies, and enjoy a well-deserved meal out.



From Thursday to Sunday, the two expedition teams—Green and Yellow—paddled the length of the Great Glen. They camped at a combination of Trailblazer Rest Sites and informal canal-side locations, supported by qualified instructors, radio communication, and bankside vehicles. The students were exceptional throughout, showing resilience, independence, and a fantastic team spirit in challenging conditions.

The expedition concluded with a final night of camping at Bught Park in Inverness and a celebratory Pizza Hut takeaway. We returned to school on Monday evening—tired, proud, and carrying memories that will last a lifetime.



Photos from the expedition can be found here:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/aTwnXZ3p4V3kjvrZ6>

A huge thank you to everyone who helped make this experience possible.