

5th December 2025

Dear parents/carers and students,



School Musical - Oliver!

A really wonderful production of Oliver was held over the course of last weekend, culminating in a superb performance on Saturday evening. My congratulations to all involved, who will take cherished memories of their roles in Oliver! on into their future lives. I've no doubt we will see many of those who participated and performed in Oliver! on the Crypt School stage again, with many no doubt harbouring thoughts of possible future careers in the creative and performing arts sector - the talent is certainly there. I am very grateful to the CSPTA who provided well organised refreshments during the interval.

CSPTA Christmas Fair

We look forward to welcoming many families into school later today for the CSPTA Christmas Fair and my thanks again to the volunteers of the CSPTA for putting together this event, which we hope will raise considerable funds to support good causes in the school. As the Christmas holiday approaches, it was really good to see so many students enjoying their school Christmas lunch over the course of this week, and my thanks to the school canteen team for putting on such a lovely meal for all those who participated. Next week the sixth form can enjoy a Christmas meal in the dining hall on Thursday 11th of December, which will also be the school Christmas jumper day!

Canteen changes - see attachments to this letter

The new contract to provide food and refreshments to the school via the school dining hall and new sixth form cafe, has been awarded to Caterlink, who will take over the running of the two facilities in January, 2026. The school determined to choose Caterlink, who also provide catering services to a number of other local schools, due to their commitment to locally sourced foods, the provision of a salads and the use of returnable food trays, to cut down on waste and to encourage a culture of recycling amongst our student body. We now look forward to working with them ready for the start of term 3, in January.

Post 18 choices

As the end of term approaches, I encourage everyone in year 13 who has yet to submit their university application form to Ms Glock (Director of Post 16 Education) to do so. I was delighted to hear that 10 students in year 13 have received interviews from either Oxford or Cambridge universities, with many other year 13 students already receiving offers of study at a wide range of UK universities. Those who are considering an apprenticeship route after their A Levels, benefited from a mock apprenticeship assessment workshop on Wednesday, organised by careers leader, Mr Germaine. Thank you to all those employers who gave up their time to help support that event, which I know was extremely useful to those many year 13 students who attended.



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

Y12/13 clinical psychology talk

Psychology A Level students enjoyed and benefited from a talk from Dr Champion a practising clinical physiologist, to help support their ongoing studies and also to grant them an insight into what careers are available in psychology and what students have to do in order to pursue a career in clinical and psychology related roles. Thank you to Ms Scott-Johnson for organising that talk.

Year 11 Mock Exams

Year 11 students will begin their important mock exams next week, with many having already started these exams with the MFL speaking exams having taken place across the week. Outcomes of these exams will help students and their teachers determine their revision and teaching plans across terms 3-5, whilst also granting students a sense of where their strengths and areas of further work and study lie. Students will also consider the outcomes of their mock exams in light of their post-16 choices.

Year 9 GCSE Options Information Evening

I do hope that last evening's parent/carer information event was useful in helping both our year 9 students, and their parents/carers in understanding the options process, the curriculum pathways available for year 9 students to follow, and in determining which subject options the students may end up choosing. All information from that evening is now available on the school website.

F1 Regional Finals at Bath

Well done indeed to our two F1 in Schools' teams, who performed very well indeed in the regional competition, held in Bath on Tuesday. They have been working extremely hard over many months, preparing for this event, working on developing their cars for racing, gaining sponsorship, refining technical details and preparing for presentations and questions. Thank you to Mr Baldwin and Ms Hall for their support of this project in school, which many of our senior students thoroughly enjoy and benefit enormously from.

Student voice

I am pleased that our three School Parliaments have now met, granting student representatives an opportunity to feed back their views to senior staff on a range of issues. Student voice has always played an important part in the development, progress and wellbeing of the school community, and student views are taken seriously by the school and its Governing body. Three School Parliaments exist: one for wellbeing, one for the curriculum, teaching and learning and one for enrichment and extra curricular activities. Furthermore, students are also represented at Governor level, with the Head Boy and Head Girl acting as our two student Governors across the course of each academic year. Annual student surveys also help inform the school's development with regards to a wide range of issues.

School Music

Thank you to our Young Voices Choir, who travelled to bring both festive joy and the pleasure that accompanies listening to the sound of young people's voices to the residents of Knoll Care Home on Thursday. The choir and school orchestra are now busy preparing for the annual Carol Service which will be held at St Barnabas Church on Thursday 18th of December at 6.30pm. I hope to see many of you there that evening - an evening that always, for me, marks the start of the festive period.

Finally, congratulations to OC Chloe Barnes who has won the Sky Portrait of the Year award - an amazing achievement for a talented young artist link.

With my continued best wishes,



Nicholas Dyer
Headmaster

School Dates

11 December	Christmas Jumper Day
11 December	Sixth Form Christmas Lunch
15 December	CSPTA Meeting S1 6.30pm
18 December	Christmas Carol Service St Barnabas 6.30pm
19 December	Term ends 12.30pm

Plunging Into Icy Water in Aid of Prostate Cancer UK

Mrs Wales is doing 12 cold water dips in December to raise money for Prostate Cancer Research - if you would like to read more, please click on this link. Thank you

https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Sue1763802804477?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL



Exciting New Catering Partnership: Students Have Their Say!

We are delighted to announce that Caterlink will become our new catering provider starting 5th January. Following a rigorous tender process, a panel of students from Year 7 to Year 13 helped us decide by sampling menus and offering their feedback—so we know the food is student-approved! We are also very pleased to confirm that our excellent existing canteen team will remain in place.

Essential Changes to ParentPay/Accounts:

To ensure a smooth transition to the new system, please note the following key dates:

- Clear Debts: Please ensure catering accounts are entirely debt-free by 17th December.
- Top-Up Freeze: Do not top up accounts between 18th December and 1st January. Please pause any auto top-ups during this time.
- Resume Top-Ups: You can add money again from 2nd January 2026.

Don't worry—any remaining credit on your child's account as of 19th December will automatically transfer to the new provider.

Please view the whole menu and find more information at the bottom of this letter

Double Podium Success for Crypts F1 Teams!

We have returned from the F1 in Schools South West Regionals victorious, securing two podium positions out of 24 professional entries!

It has been an exceptionally intense few weeks for the department. Just as the deadline approached, our CNC machine suffered a critical mechanical fault. It was a race against time to get it back up and running, leaving us with just three days of machining availability. This meant every second counted, and each team had to work efficiently to cut a single car each before the big day.



Ceres Racing – 2nd Place

Ceres Racing faced a heart-stopping moment during manufacture when their car sustained a catastrophic breakage on the front of its chassis. With no time to re-cut, the team took swift action to repair the damage using a significant amount of resin glue. Unfortunately, this resulted in a weight gain of 10-12 grams on a target weight of 48g!

A 20% increase in weight is usually disastrous for track performance. However, because the competition spans multiple disciplines, the team offset this impact with their top-notch engineering and enterprise portfolios. Combined with an impressive pitch display and verbal presentation, their all-round excellence secured them a fantastic 2nd place finish.



Altas Racing – 3rd Place

Altais Racing deserves enormous credit for taking a massive leap this year. This year, the team decided to progress from the Development Class to the Professional Class alongside Ceres, which required a complete redesign of their vehicle. They effectively had to start from a "clean slate" to meet the vastly different regulations of the higher tier.

The fact that they managed to overcome machine faults and the massive workload of a new class to secure a 3rd-place win is extraordinary. We are now hoping that the team will be awarded a 'Wild Card' placement based on their high points score against other regions, allowing them to progress to the National Finals alongside Ceres.

A huge well done to all our engineers and enterprise students for their resilience and success!



Drama clubs

Now that Oliver has finished (and staff have had a week to recover!), the following drama clubs will be resuming from next week (w/c December 8th):

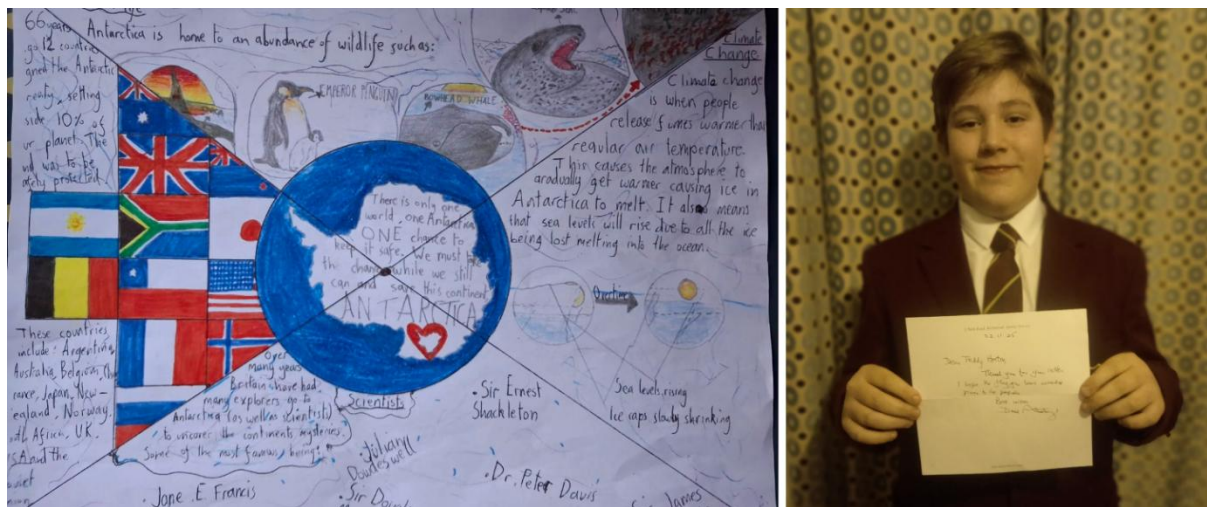
- Monday lunch times: Musical Theatre club
- Tuesday lunch times: Drama club
- Wednesday lunch times: Unpolished Playground

These will all take place in the drama studio, starting at 1.30pm.

From The Crypt to Antarctica (and Back!)

Teddy in Year 7 designed a flag for a Geography competition and it was so good that it has been sent to the scientists in Antarctica. He decided that he wanted to share his news with his hero Sir David Attenborough and he just received a handwritten letter in response! Here is Teddy with his letter.

Respect is one of our school values and we love to see pupils respecting nature and the environment like this. Well done Teddy – we are very proud of your efforts and initiative.



Oliver! Brings the House Down

It's been a week since our school production of Oliver! and there is still a buzz in the corridors about this fantastic show.

All three performances across last weekend were a raging success, with stunning performances, singing and dancing from the entire cast. The energy and commitment to the show was electrifying. A huge congratulations again to everyone involved - cast, pit band, technical team, backstage team and production team. It was a true team effort to pull off this huge project in just 3 months - but we achieved it! A fantastic experience for all, requiring teamwork, focus, dedication and resilience. We are truly proud of this show!



The wheels are already in motion for our summer production and summer musical theatre showcase, more information to be announced soon...

Drama trip: Mary Poppins

On Wednesday December 3rd, 60 students (and 6 staff!) enjoyed a theatre trip to see Mary Poppins at the Millenium Centre in Cardiff.

This show was the UK tour, but it could have easily been the West End - the performances were exceptional and the technical elements were magical, Bert was tap dancing upside down on the ceiling and Mary Poppins flew out over the audience before the finale.

A wonderful and thrilling experience for all involved, and definitely worth the late finish. Thank you to parents and carers for supporting our students to attend trips such as this, they truly are a wonderful experience for our young people, building memories that they will remember for life.



Christmas Has Arrived at The Crypt!

The Student Executive has done a fantastic job decorating the Christmas tree in preparation for the School Fayre. A massive thank you goes to Pound Farm for generously donating the tree to The Crypt School this year.

Visit them here: <https://www.poundfarmshop.co.uk/>



Pastoral staff visit GRASAC

This week, during the 16 Days of Action Campaign, Gloucestershire Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre (GRASAC) welcomed Mrs Hargraves (Deputy Headteacher) and Mrs Attwood (Pastoral Support Worker) pictured with CEO Sharne Maher. They met dedicated staff, learnt about our 40+ years of vital work supporting young people and adults who have experienced sexual violence, and heard some of the plans for the year ahead. Mrs Hargraves and Mrs Attwood also appreciated creative displays about GRASAC's work, and experienced interactive spaces focused on mindfulness and self-care.



Music Newsletter

A huge congratulations to the entire Oliver! family — cast, musicians, production crew, and backstage teams — for an outstanding performance run! Your talent, teamwork, and energy brought the show to life in the most wonderful way. Thank you for all your hard work and dedication.

This week, a selection of our Young Voices spread some festive cheer with a heart-warming sing-along at a local care home. Their performance was greatly appreciated and helped brighten the season for residents and staff alike. Well done to everyone involved!

With the holidays approaching, our attention now turns to the Carol Service on Thursday 18th December. Rehearsals are in full swing, and the music department is buzzing with excitement. Thank you all for your continued commitment — it's shaping up to be a beautiful event.

More updates to come. Keep singing, keep smiling!



WELCOME!

CATERLINK ARE EDUCATION CATERING SPECIALISTS, MEANING THAT WE FOCUS SOLELY ON PRIMARY, SECONDARY, ACADEMY AND COLLEGE CLIENTS ACROSS THE COUNTRY. HEALTHY EATING IS AT THE VERY HEART OF OUR APPROACH TO FOOD, AND WE EMPLOY GREAT TEAM MEMBERS TO BRING THIS TO YOUR SCHOOL.

A FEW FACTS ABOUT US!

WE ARE COMMITTED TO SOURCING INGREDIENTS WITH ASSURED PROVENANCE FROM LOCAL AND REGIONAL SUPPLIERS IN EVERY KITCHEN WE WORK IN. WE USE PRODUCE WITH HIGH STANDARDS OF ANIMAL WELFARE. FOR EXAMPLE – RED TRACTOR MEAT, RSPCA ASSURED FREE RANGE EGGS, MARINE STEWARDSHIP APPROVED (MSC) FISH AND A RANGE OF FAIR TRADE PRODUCE

OUR MENUS ARE WELL BALANCED, EXCITING & FOCUS ON GREAT VALUE AND HEALTHY OPTIONS

WE HAVE SOME GREAT FOOD CONCEPTS THAT REFLECT THE HIGHSTREET SUCH AS STREET FOOD & PECKISH, AND OF COURSE FAVOURITES SUCH AS FISH & CHIPS

WE BELIEVE IN KEEPING PRICES AS LOW AS WE POSSIBLY CAN SO ALWAYS ASK ABOUT OUR MEAL DEAL AND LOYALTY SCHEMES, TO ENSURE YOU GET THE BEST VALUE YOU CAN, AND OF COURSE KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR OUR PROMOTIONS!

WE OFFER MEAL DEALS AND PROMOTIONS EVERYDAY, AND WE HAVE A FUN MARKETING CALENDAR EACH MONTH

WHAT'S ON IN JANUARY...



caterlink
feeding the imagination

WEEK ONE	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
MAIN #1	 CLASSIC MAC & CHEESE With crunchy croutons	 BEEF CHILLI with rice & salsa Mexicana	 CLASSIC ROAST DINNER with all the trimmings!	 CHICKEN TIKKA MASALA with turmeric rice & sambals	 BREADED FISH OR SAUSAGE WITH garden peas and gravy/curry sauce
MAIN #2	 AUTUMN VEGETABLE BAKE With roast sweet potato	VEGETABLE & CHICKPEA CHILLI With rice & salsa	CAJUN SWEET POTATO & SPINACH TART with roast potatoes	STICKY SOY & HONEY VEGETABLES With egg noodles	LOADED DELHI HOUND DOG with Chips
HANDHELD	 Classic Cheese Burger	 Crispy Chicken pitta	 Breaded Chicken wraps	Savoury topped Flatbread	 Selection of hand stretched pizzas
BOWLED OVER	 Loaded Wedges	 Penne Carbonara	 Stir fried sweet chilli vegetable noodles	 Loaded Nachos	 Tomato pomodoro Pasta pots
MODERN BAKERY	ASSORTED HOME BAKES	ASSORTED HOME BAKES	ASSORTED HOME BAKES	ASSORTED HOME BAKES	ASSORTED HOME BAKES
SUPER SPUDS DON'T FORGET ABOUT OUR BAKED POTATOES WITH A VARIETY OF TOPPINGS FOR YOU TO CHOOSE FROM!	CHECK OUT... OUR HOT AND COLD GRAB & GO SELECTION	MENU KEY  VEGAN OPTION  ADDED PLANT PROTEIN  SOURCE OF WHOLEMEAL	ALLERGIES PLEASE SPEAK TO A MEMBER OF STAFF IF YOU HAVE AN ALLERGY AND NEED TO KNOW WHAT'S INSIDE OUR FOOD DISHES. THEY WILL ADVISE YOU OF YOUR AVAILABLE CHOICES.	 feeding the imagination	

WEEK TWO	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
MAIN #1	 MEATBALL PASTA BAKE with garlic bread	 SOUVLAKI CHICKEN with Khobez bread & salads	 CLASSIC ROAST DINNER with all the trimmings!	 HOT WOK CHICKEN NOODLES with prawn cracker	 BREADED FISH or SALMON FISH CAKES chips & garden peas
MAIN #2	VEGETABLE FAJITAS with 50/50 RICE	 HOUMOUS & FALAFEL with Khobez bread & salads	LEEK, ONION & POTATO TRAY BAKE with all the trimmings!	 STIR FRIED VEGETABLE NOODLES with prawn cracker	 VEGAN SAUSAGE ROLL WITH chips & garden peas
HANDHELD	 Popcorn chicken & wedges	 Classic Pork Hot Dog	 Chicken Wrap	 Cheeseburgers	 Vegetable burrito
BOWLED OVER	 Chinese vegetable egg fried rice bowl	 Loaded Nachos	 Vegetable Paella	 Loaded Wedges	 Mac & cheese pots
MODERN BAKERY	ASSORTED HOME BAKES	ASSORTED HOME BAKES	ASSORTED HOME BAKES	ASSORTED HOME BAKES	ASSORTED HOME BAKES
SUPER SPUDS DON'T FORGET ABOUT OUR BAKED POTATOES WITH A VARIETY OF TOPPINGS FOR YOU TO CHOOSE FROM!	CHECK OUT... OUR HOT AND COLD GRAB & GO SELECTION	MENU KEY  VEGAN OPTION  ADDED PLANT PROTEIN  SOURCE OF WHOLEMEAL	ALLERGIES PLEASE SPEAK TO A MEMBER OF STAFF IF YOU HAVE AN ALLERGY AND NEED TO KNOW WHAT'S INSIDE OUR FOOD DISHES. THEY WILL ADVISE YOU OF YOUR AVAILABLE CHOICES.	 feeding the imagination	

WEEK THREE		MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
											
MAIN #1		THAI VEGETABLE NOODLES with prawn cracker		LASAGNE with garlic bread & salads		CLASSIC ROAST DINNER with all the trimmings		CHICKEN KORMA with rice and naan		FISH & CHIPS WITH garden peas or baked beans	
MAIN #2		VEGAN MEATBALL PASTA BAKE With salad and garlic bread		VEGETABLE BIRYANI with sambals		ROAST STUFFED AUBERGINE with all the trimmings		VEGETABLE KORMA With rice and naan		BIG PLANT BURGER & CHIPS with garden peas or baked beans	
HANDHELD		Battered chicken burger		Pork sausage hot dogs		Spicy chicken & cheese wraps		Falafel & houmous wrap		Authentic Pizza Slice	
BOWLED OVER		Mac & cheese pots		Vegetable fried rice		Vegetable Paella		Loaded wedges		Spicy tomato pasta pots	
MODERN BAKERY		ASSORTED HOME BAKES		ASSORTED HOME BAKES		ASSORTED HOME BAKES		ASSORTED HOME BAKES		ASSORTED HOME BAKES	
SUPER SPUDS DON'T FORGET ABOUT OUR BAKED POTATOES WITH A VARIETY OF TOPPINGS FOR YOU TO CHOOSE FROM!		CHECK OUT... OUR HOT AND COLD GRAB & GO SELECTION		MENU KEY VEGAN OPTION ADDED PLANT PROTEIN SOURCE OF WHOLEMEAL		ALLERGIES PLEASE SPEAK TO A MEMBER OF STAFF IF YOU HAVE AN ALLERGY AND NEED TO KNOW WHAT'S INSIDE OUR FOOD DISHES. THEY WILL ADVISE YOU OF YOUR AVAILABLE CHOICES.				caterlink feeding the imagination	

WHAT'S ON TODAY

Breakfast

Toast 35p per slice

Bacon/Sausage Toasties £2.10

Bacon/Sausage Baps £2.10

Hash Browns 60p

Tater Tots £1.50

Pastries £1.60

Cereal 90p

Fruit 70p

Fruit Pots £1.25

Beans on Toast £1.20

Hot Chocolate £1.00



Meal Deal

CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING

- ANY MAIN MEAL & VEGETABLES or SALAD
- PASTA POT, SAUCE & SALAD
- PANINI OR JACKET POTATO
- SALAD BOX
- HANDMADE SANDWICH BAGUETTE/ROLL

Plus

Only
£2.80

ONE OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS

- DESSERT OF THE DAY
- FRUIT JELLY
- 125ml FRUIT JUICE
- PIECE OF FRUIT
- BOTTLE OF WATER

LOOK OUT FOR THE GREEN DOT ●