

7th February 2025



Dear parents/carers and students,

I do hope this letter finds you all well.

Year 10 parent's evening was held remotely on Thursday evening, which I hope was a useful occasion for families of students in that year group, to be able to discuss their child's progress across a range of subjects. On Monday evening many year 11 families attended school, to listen to a presentation by Head of Upper School, Mr Windsor on the road to the GCSE exams. With GCSE exams due to begin on the 8th of May, with half term and mocks in between, year 11 will be working hard in all areas of their studies, whilst also undertaking revision and attending support and revision sessions in school. I hope that evening was useful to those who attended, offering clear guidance on how families at home can support their child over the coming weeks and months. Year 13 mocks begin on Monday the 10th of February, lasting for two school weeks, and testing students' understanding and knowledge across the subject specifications taught across both year 12 and 13. Students will be given study leave for that period, unless otherwise stated by Mr Bevan, head of year 13.

Early advice and guidance on career opportunities is a strong feature of our comprehensive careers programme in school, and many year 10 students enjoyed a visit to Bath University today, to see for themselves what an HE institution looks and feels like and what it can offer them in the future. Year 10 also enjoyed an assembly on Tuesday, with regard to apprenticeships opportunities available to them, at both the post 16 and post 18 age groups. Most of our students stay on at Crypt after their GCSEs to study A Levels, with many senior students now considering an apprenticeship post 18. This year, Ms Glock (Director of Post 16 Education), notes that about 15 year 13 students have either been offered apprenticeships, or are currently in the process of applying for one to commence after their A Level exams this summer; three students have already been offered apprenticeships in accountancy, at local firm Hazelwoods - well done indeed to them on their success in securing those sought after positions.

The Model UN conference took place on Monday afternoon, involving students across the school debating key issues - my thanks to Ms Plummer for organising that opportunity for our students to engage with.



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The Crypt School
Educating students since 1539

On Wednesday, the Year 9 Flying Start challenge stepped up another gear, as mentors from GE aviation visited school to help support those students involved in that exciting project, coordinated by Mr Croft. Our year 10 GCSE music students attended a wonderful concert in the Guildhall on Thursday afternoon – a superb location and environment to appreciate music within.

On Wednesday, Year 11 house winners enjoyed a trip out to partake in ten pin bowling in recognition of their hard work and effort on behalf of their house and of themselves; thanks to Mr Hart for organising that event and those for the other year groups. Once again, a range of sporting fixtures have taken place, including mixed basketball and rugby fixtures, and it was good to hear of the U16 netball team's success on their weekend tour to Devon, led by Ms Leask and Ms Burnside.

Do enjoy a pleasant weekend.

With continued best wishes,



Nicholas Dyer
Headmaster

School Dates

10th February - **The Annual General Meeting of The Crypt School 4pm. Parents/carers are welcome to attend. For more information, please see the notice of AGM on the School's website.**

11th February – **CSPTA Meeting (6pm, S Block) All are welcome to attend. Further information including the agenda and minutes can be found [here](#)**

11th February – Dear Evan Hansen Theatre Trip

12th February – Y11 trip GCSE Poetry Live Bristol

14th February – Year 12 GE Aerospace RETHINK Day

14th February – Term 3 ends

24th February – Term 4 Starts

28th February – 6.15pm CSPTA Quiz

CSPTA Quiz Night!



Join us for the CSPTA Quiz Night! 💡

Test your knowledge, compete with friends and family, and support a great cause all in one go!

Every ticket purchased helps raise funds for the CSPTA, so your participation directly benefits our school community. 🧑🏫🌟



Mark your calendars and purchase your tickets via ParentPay.

150th Anniversary of Henleys Poem 'Invictus'

We are honoured to share that The Crypt School has received a heartfelt letter from the Nelson Mandela Foundation, recognizing the 150th anniversary of the iconic poem *Invictus*, written by our esteemed former Cryptian, William Henley.

Invictus holds deep significance as it was a source of strength for Nelson Mandela during his incarceration. The Foundation expressed hope that the powerful words of Henley's poem will continue to inspire our students, just as they inspired Mr. Mandela.

This recognition is a proud moment for our school community, celebrating the lasting impact of Henley's work and its profound influence on history.



NELSON MANDELA
FOUNDATION

Living the legacy

Mr N Dyer
Headmaster
The Crypt School
Podsmead Road
Gloucester GL2 5AE
United Kingdom

28 January 2025

Dear Mr Dyer

150th Anniversary of Henley's Poem 'Invictus'

We are delighted to write to you to mark the 150th anniversary of the poem 'Invictus' being written by your school's former pupil, William Henley.

'Invictus' is special to the Foundation as it was read by Nelson Mandela while in incarceration and its words helped to sustain Mr Mandela during that time. The Foundation holds a number of items relating to 'Invictus' in its archives. Invictus is also the title of a movie that tells the story of how Mandela rallied behind the South African rugby team during the rugby world cup competition of 1995.

We hope that the words of 'Invictus' will inspire your students in the same way that they inspired Mr Mandela.

With our very best wishes.

Yours sincerely

Ms Razia Saleh

Head: Archive and Research

Founder: Mr N R Mandela Chairman: Professor G N M Pandor Chief Executive: Dr M. P. Buthelezi

IT Number: 9259/99 NPO Number: 034-681-NPO Vat Number: 4590213601D-U-N-S* Number: 652935082

PRIVATE BAG X70 000, HOUGHTON, 2041, SOUTH AFRICA

Tel +27 11 547 5600 Fax +27 11 728 1111

Website: www.nelsonmandela.org

Community Iftar

Ramadan is a special time for Muslim families around the world, and we're excited to celebrate it here at The Crypt School. We're planning to host an Iftar, a communal meal to break the daily fast during Ramadan.

Please join us on Thursday 13th March 2025, at 17:30 hours for our Iftar. It's a wonderful opportunity to come together, share food, and celebrate our diverse community. All are welcome regardless of faith - this is an opportunity to share Ramadan with our muslim Cryptians.

To help us plan for the event, please let us know if you and your family will be attending by Wednesday 12th February 2025 by emailing oantonious@crypt.gloucs.sch.uk.

To make this event a success, we're asking parents and carers to bring a dish or dishes to share. However please clearly label any allergens e.g. dairy.

If you have any questions, then please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Music Newsletter



Choral rehearsals are progressing really well working on details for the Ireland Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis. Spring Concert repertoire is sounding delightful and we would like to extend our invite to our wider community of parents and friends of the school who would like to join in to sing Sir Karl Jenkins The Armed Man. Please email the music department or office if you would like to take part.



On Thursday, GCSE students attended a special concert held by members of Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra at Gloucester Guildhall in partnership with Gloucestershire Music. Led by BSO Associate Musician, Patrick Bailey, we had a very productive and analytical workshop for key terms and devices used in the composition of Baroque, Classical and Music for Television. We were particularly impressed with the advice on using motivic development techniques can lead to deliver short thematic ideas being expanded into full symphonic movements.

Letters have been sent out for Evensong participation and thank you to those who have sent in the Google Form so far. If you haven't done so, please can you complete this soon to confirm your child's place in the Cathedral service on 12th March.

Library News

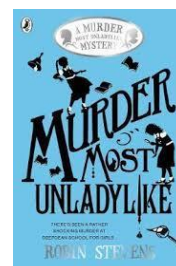
We are approaching our February half term break, which is leading to World Book Day at the beginning of March. Preparations are going ahead. I have lots of activities and quizzes going on throughout the week.

World Book Day is 5th March; to celebrate we are having a tutor dress up competition for year 7 and 8. All tutors groups are choosing a book or book series to dress up in costumes relating to their theme. It could be Harry Potter, The Hunger Games, Peter Pan to name a few. There will be a tutor prize for the best in each year group, with all students taking part receiving merits. It is going to be a very colourful and energetic day for the students, enjoying the atmosphere and interest of different genres around the school. I am really looking forward to seeing the characters walking to their lessons.



Quizzes for all year groups 7 to 9, 10 to 11 and 12, 13 and staff. They are all book themed, so plenty to get the students enjoying their knowledge on the joy of reading.

To celebrate the birthday of the fictional character Sherlock Holmes the Crime and Mystery quiz was very popular. We had 37 students take part and congratulations goes to Izabella 7WEH for winning. Her prize was a signed copy of Murder Most Unladylike by Robin Stevens.



The word of the week is displayed on the notice board on the English corridor and in the library. It also goes on the Daily News announcements for all tutor groups. The students just need to use the word in their work. This week Lily 7JC and Harry 13JMB both showed me the use of luminescence in their work. They received merits and a sweet treat for their efforts.

Our students are always challenging themselves with reading different genres and new series of books. I regularly have enquiries for the next book in a series or by their favourite author. I do try my best to keep up to date with all new releases. We do have an Amazon Wish List which is up-dated regularly. This can be found on our school website. Donations are always greatly received.

FameLab Academy School Final



Our Year 9 students recently embraced the challenge of the Cheltenham Science Festival's FameLab Academy, a science communication competition designed to ignite their passion for STEM. Every student presented a topic of their choice to their class, resulting in a fascinating

array of presentations, from the prehistoric depths of megalodon to the physics of time travel, the chemistry of makeup, and even the science behind the 5-second rule! Judging based on content, clarity, and charisma was a tough task, but class winners earned their place in the School final.

These finalists stepped up to the challenge, delivering three-minute speeches on stage to the entire year group (who provided enthusiastic support!), a panel of judges (Mrs. Hargraves, Mrs. John, and our FLA mentor, Amy), and answering tough questions. The topics were as diverse as they were engaging: "How does paint dry?", "What if the oceans were made of oobleck?", and "What if the Earth stopped spinning?". The quality of the speeches and the impressive public speaking skills on display were truly inspiring. The support and respect shown by the whole year group made the event even more special.

Congratulations to all our finalists: Joshua, Jack, Emilie, Calvin, Tabby, Noah, Joey, Reuben, and Jamie. A special well done to Oliver, whose captivating presentation on zombies earned him the runner-up title, and to our overall winner, Sahara, for her fascinating speech on fungi! We are incredibly proud of Sahara and will be cheering her on at the Gloucestershire final at the Roses Theatre in March.



U16 Netball Regionals Competition

Last weekend our U16 netball team travelled to Bournemouth to take part in the England South West regionals netball competition. The U16 team faced a challenging pool, however they knew they had prepared well for the tournament. The team started the day off with a great win against Penair school. For the second match the girls faced Newton Abbot College

where the team fought hard but unfortunately lost the game. After a little break the team went on to face Taunton school. The match was closely contested with Crypt taking the lead after the first seven minutes.

After half time the team continued to work hard and were narrowly beaten by 1 goal in the last 30 seconds. The U16 team had a small break where they came together and regrouped after a few losses. The girls then went on to win every other match throughout the day with convincing wins. This just shows the girls' resilience and teamwork they had throughout the tournament. The U16 netball team narrowly missed out on going to the semi finals and finished their pool in 4th place. Thank you to all the parents for their support throughout this season so far.

Congratulations to Florence Collins who was the player of the tournament. We are so proud of the team and all they have achieved. We are certain the team can make it to that level again.



The Crypt School Parent Teacher Association



The Crypt School Parent Teacher Association

Parents, Teachers and Friends

cspta@cryptschool.org

Our next meeting to be held on
Tuesday 11th February 2025 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. Treasurer's Report
4. Bids
5. School Report
6. Future Activities/Events/Fundraising & Marketing
Quiz with Simon Lewis 28 February 2025
7. School Clothing Sales
8. 200 Club
9. Date of next meeting

Tue 11 th March	Tue 13 th May
Tue 8 th April	Tue 10 th June

10. AOB
Succession Planning – upcoming vacancies for Chair, Refreshments, Uniform
PTA Newsletter

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

The Crypt School Association, Podsmead Road, Gloucester GL2 5AE
The Crypt School Association is a registered charity dedicated to supporting the school, registration number 280200

February Half Term Bikeability Courses



February Half Term Bikeability Courses

Bikeability courses give children and young people the skills and confidence to make journeys by bike.

Tuesday 18th to Friday 21st February 2025

Skillzone, Tuffley Lane, Gloucester, GL4 0AS

Courses delivered by friendly, experienced and fully qualified Cycling Instructors

Small group sizes

£8 for a 4-hour course

Ages 9 to 14 (Level 1, 2 & 3 Bikeability available)

For a booking form and further information please email thinktravel@gloucestershire.gov.uk



**Gloucestershire
Fire and Rescue Service**
Working together for a safer Gloucestershire

Cyber Boot Camp

February 17th – 21st



Interested in Cyber & AI?

Interested in starting your own business one day?

Aged 16 – 18 & live near Cheltenham?

Join us for a week of hands-on activities to learn about:

- Using Artificial Intelligence to build systems
- How businesses really work – HR, finance, legal
- How to build your own business
- What it's like to work in technology & cyber
- What career paths are available
- Life skills & new experiences



CYNAM

Sign up :

