

10th July 2025

Dear parents, carers and students,

I hope this final letter home of the academic year finds you all well.

May I take this opportunity to thank everyone connected to the rich life of the school for all that you have individually and collectively contributed to the work and success of the school over this last academic year.

It has been a busy year indeed, and I do hope that every one of our 1100 students can take many positive experiences and cherished memories out of their school year, whether that be in the sphere of their academic work, or in their own personal development as a young person; in their learning about our world and their place within it; or perhaps in the friendships forged and strengthened across the year from which each person derives so much joy; or in being involved in the rich and varied enrichment and extracurricular programme, in helping others, and in giving to charity. For many of our Cryptians, this year also marked their time to move on from the school into their future lives; I wish all of our school leavers this year every best wishes for their futures, and above all wish them happiness in whatever they go on to do in their lives and hope that they will wish to keep in touch with us here at Crypt. With that sense of leaving school in mind, it was great to see so many of our year 13 leavers and staff attend the Year 13 Leavers Party on Thursday 3rd of July on what was a lovely sunny evening. I do hope all our Year 13 leavers who attended enjoyed their last official event in school and we now look forward to A Level results day in August.



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The Crypt School
Educating students since 1539

It has been a busy run down to the end of the academic year, with numerous events and activities taking place involving so many of our students and staff. On the 30th of June, directed by head drama Mrs Crozier, and musical director for the event Mr Slemensek, a wonderful musical showcase was held at school. Parents and staff who attended thoroughly enjoyed a fantastic range of songs from a variety of hit musicals, all sung and performed brilliantly by our exceptionally talented students accompanied by our equally talented musicians. The quality of the singing and musical accompaniment bodes very well indeed for November's production of Oliver. Last night it was also a pleasure to watch and listen to the massed ranks of our year 7 and 8 singers and musicians as we enjoyed a year 7 and 8 showcase concert organised by music teacher Mrs Banda. Well done indeed to Year 9 student Julian, who has won a place at the Birmingham Junior Conservatoire - a wonderful achievement and recognition of his talent and potential.

On Monday, many members of our wonderful school choir and orchestra enjoyed going on the annual music department's trip to Alton Towers. This trip acts as a thank you to them for all that they so richly do to ensure that the musical traditions of the school both continue and develop further. I'm sure that they all enjoyed a wonderful day out and my thanks to Mr Whittaker for organising this day for them.

Our two Crypt cheerleading teams had a fantastic time on Sunday at their first national competition in Nottingham. Both teams came a very respectable 2nd place in their divisions and - as Mrs Crozier notes - "they did the school proud making Crypt history as the first cheerleading teams to represent the school." Congratulations to all involved in cheerleading across the year and my thanks to Mrs Crozier who has led their work in this regard.

Many of our students enjoy their drama lessons, and their involvement in wider dramatical activities, and drama clubs in school; many will no doubt be looking forward to their part in the forthcoming production of Oliver. This year many of them have been involved in LAMDA work under the direction of our LAMDA teacher Ryan, with LAMDA exam preparation having taken place in school over the last two weeks of term, with the actual exam occurring on Tuesday and Wednesday. I do hope these exams went well and I look forward to learning of the outcomes in due course.

We encourage all our students to work hard, and to make every effort in their academic work and learning. In that regard, I was delighted to welcome to a breaktime treat all those students in years 7-10 who had received two or more commendation letters from me across this year - an occasion to celebrate their work and effort in their studies. About 60 students were in attendance, as we celebrated their individual and collective success across the year. Whilst congratulating them, I also encouraged them all to continue with their dedication to their academic work, and indeed to all else that they do when they return to school in September.

Last week, year 12 students enjoyed a week out of school on work experience placements. I do hope that they all benefited from that experience and will be encouraged now to further explore their post 18 options. My thanks to all the many businesses and employers who hosted one of our students across last week. This week year 12 have enjoyed a team building day and UCAS/post 18 preparation

sessions in school, with their parents/carers able to attend a Post 18 Information evening on Monday, which I hope was informative and helpful to those who attended.

Mrs Hargraves and I, accompanied by the six students who worked to design and paint our Lion for the Big Space Cancer Appeal - Lions at Large trail - enjoyed attending the Lions at Large Launch event on the 2nd of July, held at Hartpury College. Our own Lion will be on display at Gloucester Cathedral across the summer, and I do encourage everyone to follow the Lions at Large trail from Cheltenham to Gloucester, and in doing so raise awareness about this important project and some money as well. I am delighted to say that our year 10 student's efforts in painting the Lion, various other fundraising activities such as the raffle of the Fortnum and Mason Hamper kindly donated by Crypt parents Alistair Lomax and Suzanne Aspden, and other generous parental contributions mean that we have raised an incredible £4276.05 towards the big Space Cancer Appeal. Thank you.

Sport, of course, has featured strongly across the year and we celebrated a wonderful Sports Day on the 25th of June, which Mr Hart reported upon in last week's newsletter. Lots of school records were broken on that day and congratulations to Henley House for winning the house competition. Sport provides something for every one of our students to get involved with across the year and it remains such a wonderful strength of the school life. My thanks to everyone who has supported the rich sporting life of the school across the year.

With sport in mind, the much anticipated rugby and netball tour to South Africa rugby departed school yesterday, with five staff accompanying nearly 40 rugby and netball players on what will no doubt be a trip of a lifetime. We look forward to hearing all about their trip and experiences when school resumes in September. Thank you to Ms Leask and Mr Windsor for all their hard work in organising this experience for those attending.

Duke of Edinburgh has featured strongly for so many of our students this year, and the last two weeks of term witnessed a range of Duke of Edinburgh events taking place including: a drop down day for year 8, which included Duke of Edinburgh taster sessions, to encourage year 8 to join up to the Bronze award next year; expeditions at the weekends and the departure of our Gold teams to Scotland for their 10 day expedition. As Mr Antonious leaves school for a new role, I would like to thank him for his exceptional hard work in enabling so many students to participate in the scheme. In that regard, congratulations to Mr Howell, who has been appointed as our new Duke of Edinburgh Manager, and to Miss Shaw who will be Assistant Manager of the scheme, as of September 1st.

On Tuesday, staff enjoyed an after school party, at which I was delighted to present 5 long service awards to the following colleagues:

Lynn Green: Reception 20 years

Dan Foster: Maths teacher/second in department 20 years

Gordon Taylor: Network Manager 20 years

Jess Barnett: Geography teacher 10 years

Louise Coughlin: Exams and Data Administrator 10 years

Julian Loewenthal: DT Technician 10 years

At that event, colleagues also said farewell to our staff leavers and wished them every success and happiness in the future.

I am delighted to announce that the following will be joining the school staff in September:

Tom Farmer - head of boys' PE

Alex Borley - teacher of science/chemistry

Christopher Hooper - teacher of MFL

Kathryn Marrs - teacher of graphic communication and art

Nikola Stoneman - teacher of English

Thea Gooch - PE Intern: Activity Leader in Exercise, Fitness and Personal Development

Term ends today at 3.15pm after our end of term celebration assembly, held in the Sports Hall. I was delighted to be able to give out numerous awards for effort and achievement across wide aspects of school life celebrating the achievements of many of our students this term, and year. I do hope all students can reflect proudly on the school year 2024-25 and take forward into the next academic year some very positive memories of progress made in their school lives and importantly in their own personal development as a young person.

With my very best wishes then for the summer, and I look forward to seeing our GCSE and A Level students in August on their results' days, and everyone else at the start of a new school year in September.

With best wishes,



Nicholas Dyer
Headmaster

School Dates

14 th August	A Level Results Day
21 st August	GCSE Results Day
2 nd September	Year 7 Only - Induction Day
3 rd September	Year12 Only – Induction Day
4 th September	Term 1 Starts (All Pupils)

Silver DofE Qualifying Expedition

Sunshine, Teamwork & Triumph on the River Wye

From Friday 27th to Sunday 29th June 2025, our students embarked on an unforgettable three-day canoe expedition along the picturesque River Wye — and what a weekend it was! Blessed with glorious summer weather, the trip was a perfect blend of adventure, resilience, and teamwork in the great outdoors.

Day 1 – Friday 27th June

The expedition began at Hereford Rowing Club, where teams met their assessors and supervisors for final kit inspections and route checks. Spirits were high as the sun shone down on the staggered canoe launch. Teams set off on their remotely supervised journey downriver, heading towards their first destination Tresseck Campsite, Hoarwithy.

After arriving at the campsite, students set up their hike tents and prepared evening meals on Trangia stoves, demonstrating impressive independence and cooperation.

Day 2 – Saturday 28th June

The morning began with a cooked breakfast and campsite pack-up before teams took to the water once more. The day's journey took them deeper into the stunning Wye Valley, with sunshine glinting off the water as they paddled their way to the Wye Valley Campsite, near Welsh Bicknor.

Another successful evening saw tents pitched efficiently and hearty Trangia meals prepared, with students reflecting on their progress and the camaraderie built along the way.

Day 3 – Sunday 29th June

The final stretch of the journey saw students break camp, cook breakfast, and paddle onward under clear skies to their end point of Monmouth Rowing Club.

Throughout the expedition, students rose to every challenge with maturity and determination. The glorious weather was the cherry on top of a truly memorable outdoor experience. A huge well done to all involved!

School Vacancy

We are currently seeking a friendly, organised, and dependable individual to join our team as a School Administrative Assistant. This vital role supports the daily operations of our school, provides first aid and helps ensure a welcoming environment for students, staff, and families.

If you or someone you know may be interested, please visit our school website for more information and application details.

Enquires to: sbailey@crypt.gloucs.sch.uk. Closing date: Noon, Thursday 14th August '25. Interviews: w/c 1st September 2025.

Cambridge Chemistry Challenge 2025

As the name suggests, a very challenging written paper - a competition entered by 15,000 Y12 Chemistry students across the country, organised by Cambridge University



Our Y12 Chemistry students sat this paper last month & encountered questions on a variety of challenging topics from beyond the A-level specification. This year, it included questions on isomerism and the element Boron.

We are delighted that many of our students gained awards - **2 Gold, 8 silver and 18 copper awards**. All students that entered should be immensely proud of themselves for demonstrating they can embrace a challenge and excellent resilience and problem-solving skills.

Girls into Electronics Day - University of Bath

This week, four students from years 10 and 12 attended a Girls into Electronics day, hosted by the Department of Electronic and Electrical Engineering at the University of Bath. It was organised by the UK Electronics Skills Foundation (UKESF) and sponsored by Apple.

First, the girls heard from a UKESF scholar who has completed her undergraduate degree and is now following a career in electronics. She explained her career path and how she has benefitted from mentoring. Next, the students completed a hands-on activity, designing circuits on the computers before building them. They also built and tested a car that changed speed depending on the light levels, and a throwing arm that could throw a paper ball at a target. This was followed by lectures explaining the undergraduate courses on offer at Bath, as well as the range of group projects on offer. We heard from students who are participating in the Formula Student competition (designing and building electric F1 cars) and Team Bath Heart who are developing artificial hearts for patients. Engineers from Apple spoke about their roles within the power distribution sector of Apple UK, and also told us about the Apple + GiE Mentor programme. Lunchtime was kept free for girls to explore the campus, and then we had a tour of the department. The final activity involved the students programming microcontroller kits that they were able to take home for further practice. An excellent day, and we look forward to joining this programme again next year.

Apple + Girls into Electronics Mentor Programme

Applications are now open to all female students in Years 10, 11 and 12 (closing date 21st July).

Apply here:

https://essentials.applesurveys.com/jfe/form/SV_ddtofxVXt6Jclw2

Program Overview:

The programme starts with an in-person session hosted at Apple's UK Headquarters in Battersea, London on August 28th, with the remaining events hosted on-line. The initial session will include a 'Fundamentals of Electronic Engineering' session.

Successful applicants will also benefit from;

- 3 month mentorship program with Apple HWT Engineers & Imperial College Women in EE Society
- 6 bi-weekly Mentor Circles running from August 28th - November 27th

This looks like a fantastic opportunity, so get your applications in quickly!

Musical Theatre

Last Monday our Musical Theatre club performed their first ever showcase to friends and family on our school stage. Students have been working hard on ensemble numbers all year, including Les Miserables, Everybody's Talking About Jamie, Lion King and Rent. A number of students also performed solos and duets from lots of other musicals, including Hamilton, Chess, Grease and many more!

We're very proud of all the student's hard work, and the fantastic pieces that they performed.



Cheerleading club

Last weekend our two cheerleading teams, Diamonds (Juniors) and Platinum (Seniors), competed for the very first time at a national cheerleading competition in Nottingham. Both teams performed their routines beautifully and did the school incredibly proud coming 2nd place in their respective divisions.

A huge well done to all our cheerleading students, we're so excited to see the team progress next year!



Drama



This week our GCSE Drama students had a fantastic opportunity to watch one of their set texts (Noughts & Crosses) live on stage at Regent's Park Open Air Theatre in London.

The set was inspiring for the student's ideas about the play and the actor's performances were incredible. We're so glad that we were able to make this trip possible (so close to the end of the year) as it's been incredibly beneficial for the student's study of the play.

Library Newsletter

The library has been remarkably busy with lots of students enjoying the events taking place.

Last week we welcomed the new year 7, introducing them to the library and showing them how they can use the space when they join us in September. They took part in a fiction book hunt in small teams. With the quickest team receiving a magnetic bookmark.

The Word of the Week is still proving a challenge with students using the word weekly in their work to receive merits.





Over the last 2 weeks there has been a Hunger Games quiz running. Lots of students took part and received merits for entering. The winner was Harry 8JM. Who received the new Suzanne Collins Hunger Games book with a tote bag.

On Friday 4th July – to celebrate The Reaping Day we had an event in the library. It was a small district quiz and a target throwing competition. Congratulations to Esther 8JC for winning the target game and Zack 8JM for winning the district quiz. They both received a Mockingjay Pin.



Congratulations to the winners, merits were given to everyone who took part.

In September we will be celebrating Percy Jackson, so keep your eyes out for the events planned in the library.

The games Friday is going very well and will continue next year.

Students are borrowing books for their summer reading, so I am looking forward to hearing what they have enjoyed over the summer relaxing and reading.

Have a great summer everyone. Mrs Jordan



Thank You For Your Book Donations



Last week we collected donations for the Children's Book Project charity from our new year 7 cohort and existing students. Hundreds of books have been donated! Here are some of our student librarians showing only a small selection of the books. We are grateful for the generosity of our school community - these books will now go to the charity to share with disadvantaged children and families.

Spaghettieis



As the summer approaches and it is getting very hot our year 10 German classes learnt all about the Eisdielen (ice cream café) culture and the traditional Spaghettieis.

We had great fun making our own Spaghettieis and it tasted sehr lecker!



A Wild in Art event



Find the Pride of Gloucestershire this Summer with our roarsome Art Trail!

Find over 30 large lion sculptures in Cheltenham and Gloucester from 11 July to 14 September 2025.

Visit our website:

lionsatlarge.co.uk



Registered charity no. 1051606

Presenting partners:

