

10th January 2025



Dear parents, carers and students,

I do hope that all our students enjoyed a good break from the routines of school life over the Christmas and New Year period, but equally that they were pleased to return to school on Monday.

Of course, Monday's start to the new school term was very disrupted by the weather, with nearly 350 students arriving late in the morning due to travel issues; by contrast, on Tuesday only two were recorded as arriving late. With attendance and punctuality in mind, and barring travel disruption that lie outside of each student's control, please can I remind everyone that we expect all students to be in school by 8.30am, for statutory registration at 8.35am: registration of every student is a legal requirement, and after morning registration at 8.35am students enjoy important tutor time, or assembly activities; school also uses tutor time (8.35-8.50am each day) to ensure students' wellbeing, to issue important notices and for tutor and heads of year to meet with individuals as necessary. Well done to our year 7 students, whose attendance at school across terms 1 and 2 is the best in the school; to both celebrate and recognise that fact, each student in year 7 received a warming cup of hot chocolate at break on Thursday from head of year 7, Mr Bowen.

Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) outcomes for the current year 13 arrived in school yesterday: 39 members of the current year 13 undertook the extensive research and work involved in their EPQ project, and I was delighted that so many achieved highly, with nearly 40% of grades being awarded at A*-A. Well done to all those in year 13 who have worked hard on this additional qualification, that is offered to sixth form students alongside their A Level studies.

With academic work in mind, year 12 and 10 have been sitting internal exams this week, with those exams continuing into next week as well. For both year groups, those exams will offer a strong indication of their current performance in each subject and provide them with clear targets for further improvement as they continue to work hard towards their exams, which will take place next summer, 2026.

Year 11 and 13 returned to school on Monday, with the knowledge that their public examinations are now only a few months away; in fact, GCSE exams begin on Thursday 8th of May, with year 11 study leave beginning the day before, and A level exams commence on Monday the 12th of May, with their study leave beginning on Friday the 9th of May. To help those taking exams, our annual revision and support programmes for year 11 and year 13 have been published, with sessions already underway for students to attend.



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The Crypt School: a company limited by guarantee.
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The Crypt School
Educating students since 1539

Year 11 students have until the 24th of January to submit their Sixth Form Application forms, via the school website, if they wish to be considered for a place in year 12 this coming September, following their GCSE exams. Entry grades have been increased from 36 points to 48 points, derived from each student's best 8 GCSE results. To help support year 11 with their decisions, the senior team at school is currently meeting with every member of year 11 - any member of year 11 can request a careers interview if they wish.

On Thursday it was great to see many of the parents/carers of the primary school children that the school is offering mentoring and support to through our outreach programme. Many of our year 12 students volunteer to mentor these children, who come into school each Thursday from local primary schools, and who receive support for their work in maths and English for example. The year 12 students also work to strengthen children's personal skill set, in areas such as self-confidence. Later in the year, those children will be offered support with the year 7 entrance exam. My thanks to the many year 12 students who volunteer to support this programme.

Our new year 12 prefects, appointed at the end of last term, have begun to take on duties at school - well done to all those who received a perfect tie prior to the holiday, and I look forward to seeing them develop their leadership skills as prefects over the coming months. In the summer term, I have booked a leadership training day for those students, which will be delivered by Ben Walden, from leadership development company, Contender Charlie. Ben delivered a leadership training day for staff at the end of term 1, which was very well received indeed.

On Tuesday of next week, I am delighted to see that all of our year 8 students will be learning essential CPR skills. Thank you to Mr Germaine for organising that important set of workshops next week.

Finally, well done to the U15 (Year 10) girls' football team, who competed in the ESFA competition on Thursday. The team put up a fantastic fight but were narrowly defeated on penalties.

With continued best wishes,



Nicholas Dyer
Headmaster

School Dates

14th January – CSPTA Meeting (6pm, Sports Block) All are welcome to attend

14th January – Y13 Business Harry Potter World Trip

16th January – Year 13 Parents Evening

22nd January – Year 9 Showcase Concert 6pm – 7.30pm

24th January – Year 7 GE Aerospace RETHINK Day

29th January – Year 12 Drive Fit PED

31st January – Non uniform day in aid of Muslims Around the World Project

3rd February – Year 11 Information Evening 6pm

5th February – Music Theatre Showcase 6pm – 8pm

6th February – Year 10 Parents Evening Virtual

6th February – GCSE Music trip to Guildhall

7th February – Year 10 Bath University Visit

11th February – CSPTA Meeting (6pm, S Block) All are welcome to attend

11th February – Dear Evan Hansen Theatre Trip

12th February – GCSE Poetry Live Bristol

14th February – Year 12 GE Aerospace RETHINK Day

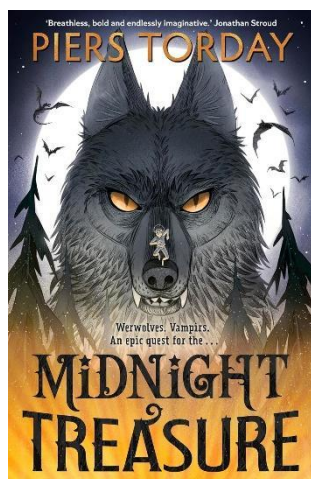
14th February – Term 3 ends

24th February – Term 4 Starts

Library

Happy New Year from the Library. I hope everyone enjoyed their Christmas break and are now back into the routine of early mornings. It has been a very wet and cold start, as January likes to remind us it is winter. The perfect time to be snuggling down with a book and escaping into a different world whether it be fantasy, thriller, sci-fi or a romance. There are lots of choices available in both of our junior and senior libraries to discover.

We are celebrating the fictional character Sherlock Holmes's birthday this month by running a quiz in the junior library covering crime and mystery fiction. All students who take part receive merits and all correct entries are put into a draw to win a signed copy of a popular crime book – keeping the mystery going 😊



Our book of the week is – **Midnight treasure**

[Piers Torday](#) Tibor is a werewolf, adopted by his guardian, a powerful vampire (called vampir in the book). He and his friend Roza are on the deadliest of quests, and one that will test their very immortality. And they're not the only ones hunting for the Midnight Treasure. Battling with bears, wrestling with vampires and racing against the clock, Tibor and Roza must decide who to trust. And whether they will dare reveal the secrets ... of the Midnight Treasure.

A breathtaking new fantasy world from the award-winning author of *The Last Wild*. In an empire of vampires and werewolves (called werwolves in the book), Tibor and Roza are hunting a treasure more valuable than gold ... For readers who loved Katherine Rundell's *Impossible Creatures* or S.F. Said's *Tyger*.

Review – I have read this book, it is the first in a new series, having listened and meeting Piers Torday at the Cheltenham Literature Festival I was eager to read the beginning of a new fantasy series. I thoroughly enjoyed the non-stop action, full of spells, imprisonments and escapes, fights, betrayals with lots of courage and hope.

If you enjoy fantasy with twists and secrets to discovery this is for you.

The Word of the Week is Serendipity – If students use the word in their work and show the relevant piece of work to me, they will receive a literacy merit. The word can be found displayed in the library and on the notice board opposite room 28.

The library is a very popular place for students who want to read quietly, choose a new book and to do work. I look forward to being busy this term encouraging students to find books which will challenge them as well as discovering new genres.

The School IT Shop

We are pleased to inform you that our iPad accessory store is now open for a limited time. You can purchase discounted items such as Apple-compatible pencils and replacement cases through the web store.

The shop will be open from **10th January 2025** until **5th February 2025**. After this period, all orders will be shipped directly to the school and distributed to students.

Please note that there is a direct link to the store here: <https://store.albion.co.uk/the-crypt/>.

Alternatively, you can find the link on our website iPad page under the "Our Parents" section.

We kindly ask form tutors to remind students to inform their parents about this opportunity to place orders before the deadline.

Thank you for your support!

Term 3 PeD signposts

In Term 3 students will be moving on to explore new areas of focus in their Personal Education Development lessons. Should you have any questions regarding this, in the first instance, please contact the relevant Personal Education Development teacher.

In Year 7, students are focusing on bullying, cyberbullying, online safety, data collection & storage, screen time & self-regulation of screen time. The websites being signposted are



<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/>

<https://www.childline.org.uk/>

https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/11_18/

In addition, all are exploring Seligman's ABC theory -

<https://www.mindtools.com/arh8314/the-abc-model>

Year 8 students are focusing on County Lines. The websites being signposted are

https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-abuse-and-neglect/county-lines?_ga=2.165067903.1550435495.1672833462-683171680.1672833461

<https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/what-we-do/crime-threats/drug-trafficking/county-lines>

<https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/what-we-do/our-work/child-criminal-exploitation-and-county-lines/what-is-county-lines>

CrimeStoppers.
0800 555 111
100% anonymous. Always.

<https://crimestoppers-uk.org/keeping-safe/community-family/county-lines>

In addition, all are exploring Seligman's Positive Psychology -

<https://www.pursuit-of-happiness.org/history-of-happiness/martin-seligman-psychology/>

Year 9 students are focusing on Careers. The websites being signposted are

<https://www.youthemployment.org.uk/>

<https://www.unifrog.org/>



Year 10 is focusing on money management. The websites being signposted are -

<https://www.onefamily.com/savings/money-management-tips-for-teens/>



<https://www.moneyhelper.org.uk/en/family-and-care/talk-money/how-to-help-teenagers-manage-their-money>

<https://www.barclays.co.uk/moments/children-and-money/teaching-teens-about-money/>

Year 11 students are focusing on RSHE (Relationship & Sexual health Education). The websites being signposted are

<https://www.hopehouse.nhs.uk/>

<https://www.themix.org.uk/>

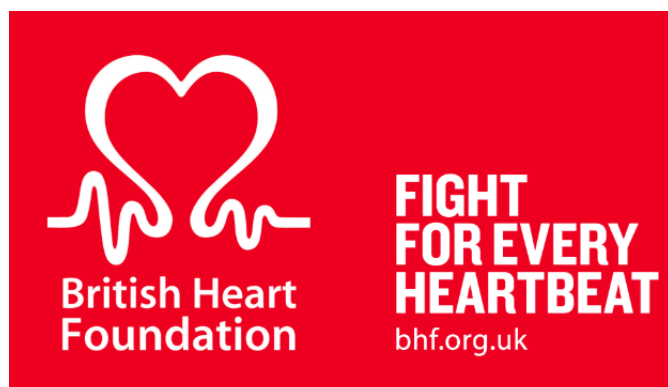
<https://www.diversityrolemodels.org/>

<https://www.ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre/>



Year 12 students are focusing on CPR, self- examination & screening.

<https://www.bhf.org.uk/how-you-can-help/how-to-save-a-life/how-to-do-cpr>



<https://www.heartstarter.co.uk/>

<https://orchid-cancer.org.uk/testicular-cancer/>

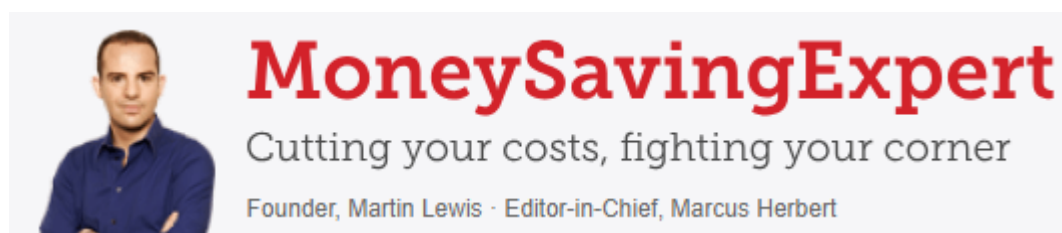
<https://www.yourprivates.org.uk/>

<https://coppafeel.org/>



Year 13 is focusing on money management. The websites being signposted are

<https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/students>



www.themoneycharity.org.uk

Vacancy: School Administration Assistant

New Vacancy

20 hrs per week, Term Time only over 5 days

School Administrative Assistant

Closing Applications: Noon, Wednesday 29 January 2025

Interviews: Thursday 6 February 2025



The Crypt School is seeking a skilled and experienced administrator to provide essential support across various key areas of the school, including the main office, sixth form, and other departments. This role also carries significant responsibility for overseeing first aid provision.



Read the post for more details & how to apply

We have an exciting opportunity for a **School Administration Assistant** to join our team. This is a part-time role (20 hours per week, over 5 days, term time only).

The role involves supporting key areas of the school, including the main office, sixth form, and the other regions, as needed. It also carries significant responsibility for first aid provision, so confidence and comfort in handling medical situations are essential.

We are looking for someone who is proactive, personable, and flexible and can manage a variety of tasks efficiently. A commitment to professional development, including participation in training, is also required.

Full details and an application form can be found here: <https://cryptschool.org/explore-our-school/work-with-us/>.

If this sounds like the role for you or someone of interest, we'd love to hear from you!



The Crypt School Parent Teacher Association

Parents, Teachers and Friends

cspta@cryptschool.org

Our next meeting to be held on
Tuesday 14th January 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**
Bid for Cheerleading Uniforms
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 February	Tue 8 th April
Tue 11 th March	Tue 13 th May
	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