

10th October 2025

Dear parents/carers and students,

I hope that this letter home finds you all well.



School safety

I noted in my assembly yesterday morning to all students and staff, that our school remains above all, a safe and inclusive place; a place where all students can learn and develop together, be themselves and feel valued. The two incidents that occurred earlier in the week, and which have now resulted in an arrest by the Police, should not shake us from that view, or shake our belief in our values, particularly those of kindness, of integrity and of respect. Indeed, those school values, alongside responsibility and pride, stand even more strongly in contrast to those of any individual who seeks to intimidate others, often and typically of people younger than themselves. I am extremely grateful to the Police and Community Officers, as well as to my colleagues, for their support of the safety of our pupils before and after school and for their swift action in following up upon these incidents and for making an arrest.

The school takes its responsibility for the safety and welfare of all of its students and staff seriously: staff are on duty after school between 3.10pm and 3.30pm, before school and during the day of course too. The school main gate is shut during the day, with controlled access to the school, and to the buildings via an electronic system. The school has over 90 CCTV cameras helping to both ensure safety and to deter anyone from intruding onto the site; our 30 acre site is also enclosed behind a secure fence and hedging.

However, we need to be mindful that school is not a prison, and we would not wish it to be so; we also know that our local area has its share of social and economic challenges, and while every person I come across in the locality only wants the very best for their area, with many people working tremendously hard to improve social cohesion for example at the new Blackbridge Sports Area, challenges remain, and occasionally can impact negatively upon local residents, our school and its pupils. However, in my 16 years at the school, I can only recall a tiny handful of incidents occurring, and when they do, as with this week, the Police, school and community response is always outstanding.

I remind everyone once again, to take care when leaving the school site, not least due to the busy roads around the school. If not being collected until later, students should wait in school in the homework club, reception area or sixth form centre and report any concerns to school staff to deal with.



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Registered in England and Wales: Company No: 7489196

The Crypt School
Educating students since 1539

Student Personal Education

The school works hard to educate all our young people about their world - its challenges and opportunities - their own health and wellbeing and works hard to support them in the choices they make as they grow and develop into young adults. This week, we saw a wonderfully informative and educative Community Hour, focused on Black History, with a particular focus on the Bristol Bus Boycott, as noted by Mrs Hargraves and our Inclusion Lead Mrs Hayes in a letter home last week. On Wednesday, years 11-13 attended a talk about the dangers of illegal drugs, by Bob Tait, with a parental presentation held afterward - a video of his talk is available for others to view if they wish - I encourage you all to do so, to help enable shared messages to students about the dangers posed to them by illegal substances.

On Thursday, year 8 benefited from attending a play called Chelsea's choice. The play considers a number of themes such as healthy and unhealthy relationships (and how each can be defined), safe internet use, sexting, consent and how young people can access help and advice.

Year 7 Pastoral evening

I hope that the many new year 7 parents/carers who were able to attend Tuesday's new year 7 pastoral evening felt it was a worthwhile event. Tutors, head of year Mr Bowen and Deputy Head Mrs Hargraves certainly thought so from the school's perspective. The Year 7 cohort continue to impress us all with their enthusiasm, politeness and embrace of the many opportunities open to them at school.

Sporting fixtures

It's been another busy week for our sporting teams with fixtures across a range of sports, with many fine performances on display. My congratulations to all students whose effort, commitment and achievement in sport were recognised at last Friday's Sports Award Evening.

Academic enrichment

On Thursday, many of our senior students sat the Senior Maths Challenge, organised by Mr Foster. Each year, many maths challenges occur for all age groups, and students benefit and enjoy having their knowledge and understanding really challenged through these events. We look forward to news of how well our senior students performed in due course.

Although not quite perhaps falling into the realm of academic challenges, I know a large number of students enjoyed the Harry Potter Quiz, held after school on Thursday - my thanks to Mrs Jordan for organising that event.

Wearing Yellow and our Big Charity challenge - Run the World

All students were encouraged to wear an item of yellow today and it was great to see so many doing so, and through that action, raising awareness of young people's mental health. Today also marks the start of the Run The World fundraiser, which we want everyone to get involved in today and across next week, as we aim to raise £26,000 for charity Talk Well (<https://www.letstalkwell.org.uk>) which is a local Gloucester-based mental health charity.

The just giving page is now open, and donations are greatly appreciated.

https://www.justgiving.com/page/thecryptschool?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL

With my continued best wishes,



Nicholas Dyer
Headmaster

School Dates

13 th October	Autumn Concert 7pm
14th October	Whole school early closure 1.15pm
15 th October	Open event prospective students
16th October	POSTPONED Bingo SARA Fundraiser 5.30pm
17 th October	Run the world event
20 th – 22 nd October	Y7 Residential
22 nd October	Careers Convention
24 th October	Non uniform and cake sale for SARA
24 th October	End of Term

Victim Support



If you or your child has been affected by anything they have seen or heard this week the Gloucestershire Victim Support helpline

Phone [0808 281 0112](tel:08082810112) is open 9am to 8pm Monday to Friday.

If you need support outside of your local team's opening hours, you can call their Supportline for free on [08 08 16 89 111](tel:08081689111)

More information is available here: www.victimsupport.org.uk/resources/gloucestershire/

For children at school the school counsellor continues to be available - appointments can be made via Pastoral Support Workers and could be one off drop in session or a longer course of sessions over a period of weeks, as required.

<https://ygtglos.org.uk>

Open Event Helpers Wednesday 15th October

Our **School Open Evening** will take place on **Wednesday 15th October, from 5.00pm to 8.00pm.**

Many of our students are kindly giving their time to help during the evening, whether by guiding visitors, assisting in departments, or supporting activities. This is always a very busy and important event for the school, and we are grateful for their involvement.

Students who are helping will have two options:

- They may stay in school after lessons finish. The canteen will be open after school so that students can purchase food. Please note: Y7-11 students who remain on site will not be allowed to leave and return.
- Alternatively, students may go home after school and return by **5.00pm** ready to help.

Parents/carers of those students involved have been sent a letter or a google form asking for consent for their child to participate. Thank you for your support in making this evening a success, whether that is through arranging transport or allowing your child to give up their time to represent the school.

Run the World Challenge – 10th to 17th October

The Run the World Challenge begins on Friday 10th October, and we are looking forward to seeing students and staff from across the school take part in this exciting and meaningful event.

All participants have received the information they need to get started and begin logging their miles. Each day, we are asking everyone involved to record and upload their distances so that we can collectively track how far around the world The Crypt School community can travel. Progress updates will be shared via the school's social media channels throughout the week.



Donations are already coming in, and we are incredibly grateful for the generous support shown so far. A reminder that contributions can be made through our JustGiving page at: www.justgiving.com/page/thecryptschool

All funds raised will go directly to Let's Talk Wellbeing, a local charity that provides vital mental health support within our community.

On Friday 17th October, students will have the opportunity to complete their final miles on the school track. Students are invited to wear their Crypt School PE kit for the day.

This is a demanding challenge that embodies teamwork, resilience, and community spirit. Together, we can achieve something extraordinary — uniting as one school to make a real difference in support of a cause that matters to us all.

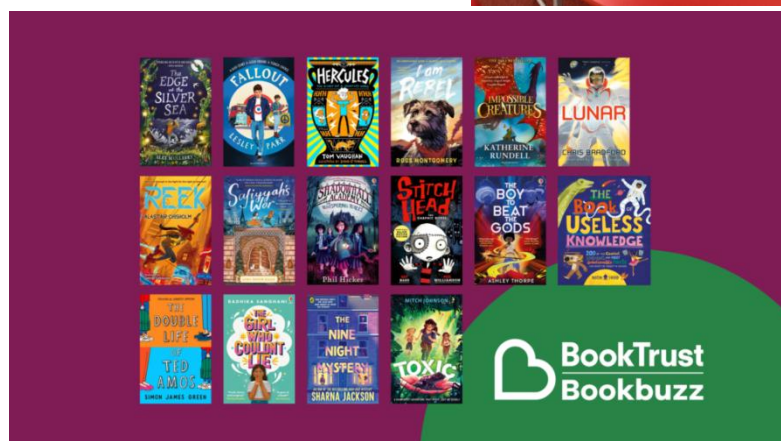
Library Newsletter

The library raffle raised over £400! Thank you to everyone who purchased tickets. Congratulations to Samuel 7JM who won a wonderful selection of books.

Bookbuzz is an exciting reading programme developed by Book Trust, the UK largest children's reading charity.

The year 7 students have the chance to choose and keep a book they will love from a collection of 16 fantastic titles, newly selected each year. This is done in their English lessons where they can look at each title before they make their choice.

The year 7's are really enjoying the lesson and looking the wide selection of genres they can choose from. All the books will then be added to the library stock so they can read the other titles that interested them. Use booktrust.org.uk/bookbuzz to have a look at the choices.



Black History Month – Community Hour:

This week, our school came together for a powerful Black History Month Community Hour, celebrating heritage, resilience, and unity. The assembly was led by Mrs Hayes who spoke about the Bristol Bus Boycott – an impactful moment in our local history and within this paid tribute to the

boycott's leader, Paul Stephenson, who sadly passed a few months ago. Our Student Executive Inclusion Leads Manasik Hagger and Sanjeevani Sreeram supported the assembly, and their passion when speaking about Stephen Lawrence reminded us why it's vital to keep learning, sharing, and standing up for equality.

Following the Assembly students spent the first lesson of the day looking at different areas of Black History focusing on the Black History Month's theme: "Standing Firm in Power and Pride".

- Year 7 looked at and researched Black Role Models including Queen Nzinga and Nelson Mandela
- Year 8 celebrated their cultural identity and explored the art of the Caribbean Artists Movement (CAM)
- Year 9 look at the influence of Malcolm X and the British Black Panther Movement
- Year 10 looked at the Mangrove 9 protests looking at real sources from the time
- Year 11 looked at Black protest through music focusing on Billie Holiday and Jorja Smith
- Year 12 looked at the concept of intersectionality and analysed an extract from Akala's book called 'Natives'
- Year 13 looked at the importance and development of the Race Relations Act (1965)

Overall, we hope that our students got real value from this time off timetable and have learnt something new. We know that through stories, music, and art, students have explored the strength and creativity of Black communities across history and today.



Help your child to get ready for their assessments

We're excited to announce that Elevate Education will be hosting their next parent webinar on **exam skills and preparation** on October 14th.

Elevate works with our students, delivering high-impact workshops on study skills, motivation, wellbeing, and exam preparation. By tuning into their webinar series, you'll learn **how you can help support your child at home by reinforcing the skills they're learning at school.**

Sign up for the session below to learn how you can help your child to **get ready for their assessments and walk into the exam hall feeling confident and prepared.**

How You Can Help Your Child Set Up for Success in Exams

Tuesday 14th October 6:00-7:00pm (BST)

Here's what Elevate will be covering on the night:

- Creating a road map to maximise success in exams
- Structuring the final week before exams
- Staying on track & avoiding cramming or stressing the night before

[Click here to register for free](#)

Transport Issues

We appreciate that some of the school bus routes continue to be affected by roadworks. If you have any suggestions or feedback on school bus routes or timings please direct this to the bus company directly. This tends to be more impactful than the school alone raising an issue. If the issue is impacting your child's wellbeing please do also cc' your child's Form Tutor. Thank you.

Crypt VS Sir Thomas Rich's U16



The Crypt U16
v
Sir Thomas Rich's U16

Saturday 18 October
KO - 10am

Refreshments are available from the Pavilion. To pre order Bacon Rolls scan the QR code or complete the Google Form (link below)



<https://forms.gle/rtzwomasAV7X6mxLA>

Cereal Foodbank Donation



20 YEARS

THANK YOU

The Crypt School

For your incredible 2025 harvest donations totalling

57.35 kg of cereals

This generosity is greatly appreciated by the foodbank team and those we are able to help

Gloucester Foodbank
Together with Trussell

Your donation will help us provide emergency food to our community.