

11th October 2024



Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

It was wonderful to see some of our year 7 students visiting the Cheltenham Literature Festival this week, in the company of our Head of English Mrs Hardacre. I do hope those that attended both enjoyed and benefited from that trip. Year 12 geography students also ventured out on Monday to Northleach, to carry out a field study, as part of their A Level work; one of the great aspects of studying geography is no doubt those field study trips, that put theory learned in the classroom, into practice in the lived environment. Also on Monday, Rob Bennett from Bloodhound Education came into school to talk to students about his experiences as an engineer and the physics and maths, as well as advanced technology that is needed to create a car such as the Bloodhound. Today, the various school choirs came together under the direction of OC Dr Charles McDougall to enjoy their first practice together, in preparation for the forthcoming Gabrieli Choral concert, which will be held at St Mary Redcliffe in Bristol in December. A wonderful sound emanated from the sports Hall, where the practice was held, such are the numbers involved.

On Thursday, our inspired lecture series continued with a talk on AI, its applications, potential and the challenges it may pose by Dr Sayers.

Yesterday, the School held a practice lockdown of the whole site: thank you to all students and staff for their cooperation with this exercise. Learning was the intended aim of the practice lockdown, and through feedback received, and observation of the practice lockdown, school can further refine its preparedness in the event of having to lock the school down in a real emergency. Fortunately, we know that school lockdowns are a very rare occurrence in the UK; however, they have and do occur as we witnessed only last year at Tewkesbury School, with lessons from their experiences having been shared across the wider county.

On Thursday evening, staff met together to engage in our continuing professional development and learning programme. Thursday's training focussed on teaching and learning, as well as approaches to assessment of our student's work. Staff also received fire awareness training and training from the school nurse on how to help support students who may have an anaphylaxis shock, through the application of an EpiPen for example.

Despite the continued rain, many sporting fixtures once again took place in netball, football and rugby against a wide range of schools. It was pleasing indeed to hear of the many successes against King Edward's Stratford on Saturday, which included a mighty 61-0 victory for Crypt 1st XV, who also beat Marling School on Wednesday in a cup game. On Wednesday, as part of the sixth form enrichment programme, it was pleasing to see so many of our senior



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The Crypt School
Educating students since 1539

students involved in physical recreation activities, as well as those involved in our many sports teams, such as our senior girl's netball team who enjoyed playing in a county tournament. As the pressure of academic work for our senior students facing both GCSE and A Level exams grows across this year, continuing to participate in sporting, or other recreational activities is I believe so important to both their mental and physical wellbeing.

Next week, we look forward to the launch of our many planned academic societies for 2024-25, at the Societies Fair on Monday. All students are invited to take part in our societies programme and can join the one(s) they wish to on Monday. I encourage all to attend that event in the Sports Hall, and to get involved thereafter. On Wednesday next week, we hold our October open day, and as a result school will close early to students on Tuesday at 1.10pm.

With continued best wishes,



Nicholas Dyer
Headmaster

School Dates

15th October – School early closure 1.10pm

16th October - Open Event for prospective students. Crypt student Helpers in school from 5-8pm

17th October – Harry Potter Quiz Evening

24th October – Autumn Concert

25th October – Non uniform day and end of term

6th November – Sixth Form Open Evening 5pm to 8.30pm

12th November – CSPTA meeting at 6pm (Sports Block)

14th November – Year 11 Parents Evening (Virtual)

15th November – Treasure Island – St Mary De Crypt

20th - 22nd November – Year 7 Residential Trip

Lost Property

School collects many items of lost property each week; these items are stored in the Dining Hall for students to collect. However, the number of items has swollen beyond the capacity of that area. In future, items of lost property will be housed in the Dining Room on a two week cycle: at the end of each two week timetable cycle, any remaining items of lost property, will be taken from the Dining hall and stored in another area of the School. Students can still collect items of lost property from that area but will then have to request to visit that area. At the end of each term, any items of lost property still not collected, will be sent to charity, the school's second-hand uniform shop, or disposed of.

Open Evening Helpers 16th October

Thank you to our students who have volunteered to help on open evening. Students need to be in school from 5pm and the evening will finish at 8pm. Parents and carers please give permission for them to attend on ParentPay. We do appreciate the change you make to your schedules to help make this event successful.

Foodbank Tinned Fruit Champions



We have a steady growing donation of tinned fruit for the foodbank, thank you.

You can donate until the end of the day on Monday 14th October so there is time to pick up a tin on your weekend shop.

One tin makes a difference!

Music

We were delighted to welcome back our guest speaker for Prizegiving, Dr Charles Bequignon-MacDougall, who returned to deliver an all-day workshop in preparation for our main choir performance with Gabrieli Roar and our own Remembrance Service. We really appreciate all he does to inspire our students' confidence and love for singing.

We would like to remind you that places are still available to participate in the Gabrieli Roar concert on Wednesday 11th December with the main choir. These places first come, first served as they are limited. Please complete the Google Form sent last Friday to secure this.



Symphony Orchestra are progressing with their Autumn concert repertoire and gained much confidence over the technically challenging rhythms presented by Mozart and Bernstein.

Year 8 have been learning how to write notation for fanfares using Musescore. Using broken chords, they demonstrated techniques in developing melody and rhythm, and how to expand on motifs to create a ceremonial piece for solo brass.

Year 10 have started their Concerto Through Time area of study for GCSE, learning key developments in the Baroque, Classical and Romantic periods. The listening paper will ask them to identify an extract of music and place within a given period. They have made a strong start and look forward to seeing the work they produce.

On Wednesday, a group of students from Years 9 and 10 participated in a songwriting workshop led by The Music Works. The session was hosted in their purpose-built performance and recording space in Kings Square, with the song being featured in an end of year performance for the G15 partnership event.

Musical Theatre Club have been delving into acting through song skills, drawing on personal experiences to develop character complexity in Seasons of Love from Rent. Breath support exercises and vocal production techniques were analysed to help with projecting from the stage.

Library



The Harry Potter book quiz is causing excitement around the school. The owl post has been delivering invitations to all the students enrolled for the event, which is Thursday 17th October, 4.00 - 6.30.

They have received an email asking if they would like to enjoy pizza before the event too.

I have also just launched the Halloween Quiz which can be picked up from the library. Last year students were very eager to take part. The prize is a book (of course) and a black stemmed chocolate rose. The students have 2 weeks to take part.



I was lucky enough to visit the Cheltenham Literature Festival with some Year 7 students on Tuesday. More below!

I would like to say a big thank you for the donations I have received from parents for the library. If anyone has any books suitable for year 7 to year 13 they no longer want, please feel free to donate them to the school's library.

Elevate

elevate[↑]

How You Can Help Your Child Set Up for Success in Exams
Tuesday 15th October 6:00-7:00pm (BST)

[Click here to register for free](#)

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

- Create a road map to maximise success in their exams
- Structure their final week before exams
- Stay on track & avoid cramming or stressing the night before

Year 7 – Cheltenham Literature Festival



This year we were able to take thirty of our Year 7 students to one of two creative writing talks at this year's literature festival. In English, Year 7 are studying a range of folktales and are preparing to write their own.

On Tuesday 7th our first group heard from three authors, Liz Hyder, Philip Reeve and Piers Torday, exploring the art of

world building in their latest books. From a parallel universe to 1000 years into the future, and an empire of vampires and werewolves - they had it all!

On Wednesday 8th our second group heard from Katherine Rundell about the inspiration behind her new book, 'Impossible Creatures'. Her book is an epic adventure about a magical land where mythical creatures live, but something is jeopardising their survival...

These trips were a fantastic opportunity for our aspiring young writers to get excited about reading and writing and be inspired by the power of words and imagination. As usual, our students were impeccably behaved and made some impressive notes. We hope to give more of our students the chance to attend the festival in the future.



Keeping your Child Safe Online at Home

Parents and carers may be interested in this Family Digital Toolkit where you can:

- Get age-specific advice and tips to support your children online
- Learn about popular apps and platforms your children use
- Get information about how to deal with any online safety concerns
- Get recommendations for digital tools to support their interests and wellbeing

[My Family's Digital Toolkit - tailored online safety advice | Internet Matters](#)

A Level Geography Fieldwork



A Level geography students enjoyed a sunny morning in the Cotswolds this week as they began their practical fieldwork tasks. 29 students visited Northleach to collect a variety of data about the characteristics of the town.

Students had been introduced to identifying data collection points using more precise sampling techniques. Data was collected through a variety of traditional techniques such as traffic counts, noise pollution and environmental quality surveys whilst also trialling some different approaches such as 'the health of the town'.

Prior to studying Northleach as a case study later in the year, students also explored some of the key historical features of the town and were introduced to its previous functions as a wool town and coaching rest-point between London and Cheltenham. Once again, Mrs Brooks, Miss Barnett and Miss Searle would like to thank the students for the exemplary behaviour and enthusiasm throughout this trip.

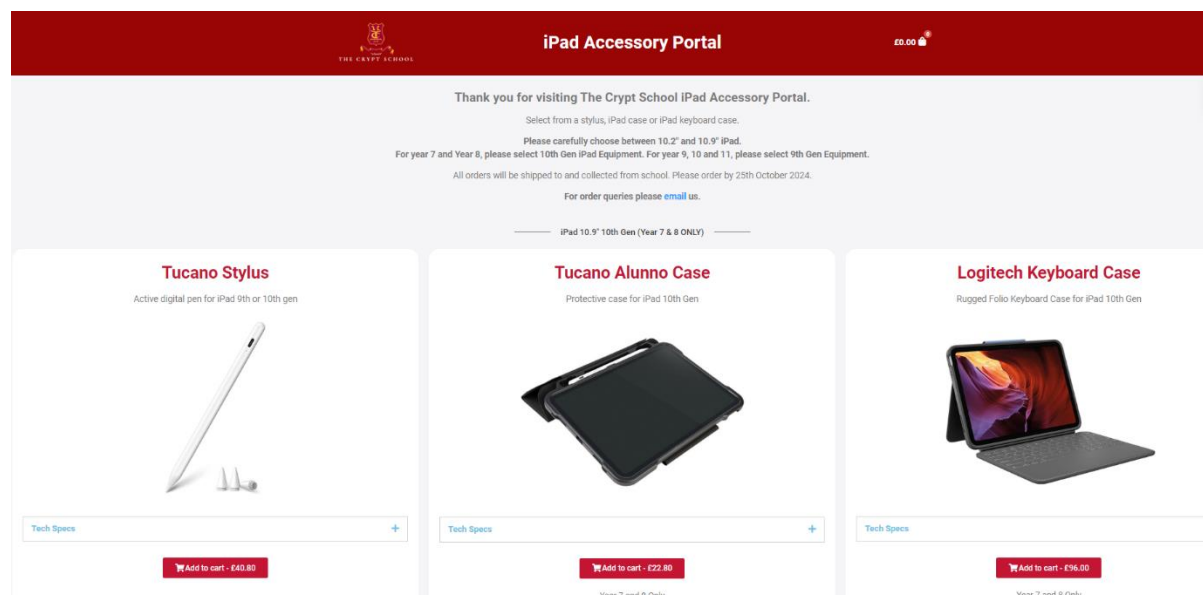
iPad Accessories Store



This week marks the launch of our iPad Accessories Portal, with Albion, our iPad Supplier. The link can be found here:

<https://store.albion.co.uk/the-crypt/>

Or on our iPad page in the **Our Parents** section of our website. You can purchase new cases and accessories for your child's iPad through here, as an easy-to-use store. If you order



anything, please make sure that it is compatible with the generation of iPad your child has. They are all labelled by year group.

The portal will be opened and closed throughout the year to allow our suppliers to bulk ship any products that we have purchased as a school. We will then issue this equipment to your child. Information regarding closure dates can be found at the top of the store page.

Alumni News



We have some exciting news to share from an ex-pupil, Nabil.

Last weekend, Flowers Band, based in Gloucester, competed in the National Brass Band Championships of Great Britain, held in the Royal Albert Hall, London. After a stunning performance of 'Harrison's Dream' by Peter Graham, the band was awarded 1st place, earning the

title of National Champions of Great Britain.

This accolade comes just one month after the band qualified to represent England at the European Brass Band Championships, to be held in Linz, Austria in 2026.

Not only is this the first 'major' win in the band's history, it is the first time in the history of the 124-year event, that a band from the West of England region has won the title. A truly historic feat.

Nabil plays percussion in the band and began playing during his time at the Crypt.

A fantastic achievement! We would all like to share our congratulations.

British Rowing

British Rowing's Talent ID Centre based in Gloucestershire are reaching out with an exciting opportunity for students to get involved in one of Team GB's most successful Olympic Sports: [Rowing](#).



Following the outstanding achievements of Team GB at the recent Paris Olympics, where rowing once again shone as a leading sport, we are proud to say that **two members of the**

Olympic Rowing Team came through our centre as part of a Learn To Row Initiative. This highlights the incredible talent we have in Gloucestershire!

We are offering a **Learn To Row** programme from **28th October to 31st October**, designed to introduce students to the sport, develop their skills, and uncover hidden potential. Whether or not your students have previously considered rowing, this is a chance to engage in a sport that fosters resilience, teamwork, and discipline - all while having fun on the water.

Programme Details:

- **Dates:** 28th October - 31st October
- **Location:** Gloucester Boathouse
- **Age Group:** Year 9's - 11's
- **Cost:** £20

This is a unique opportunity for students of all abilities to try rowing under professional coaching, with potential pathways into competitive rowing and, maybe one day, Team GB!

We encourage students to sign up using the link below:

<https://sites.google.com/view/hartpuryrowing/about-us/learn-to-row/october24learntorow>