

13th September 2024

Dear Parents/Carers and Students,



I do hope this correspondence home finds you well.

After a full week back at school, I expect that our new students have already settled in, are making friends and getting used to the rhythms of Crypt School life. To help them settle in further, and to have fun, they - along with all our other students - are invited to get involved in some of our lunchtime and after school clubs and activities that have been organised by Mr Hart. The full list of clubs and activities available is attached to this newsletter and can also be found on the school website. Alongside these clubs, and later in the term, our many school societies will be established: led by sixth form students, and attended by members of the school, they proved very popular indeed last year, and I anticipate that will also be the case this year too. My thanks to all staff for offering these and other opportunities to our students, through which they can make friends, learn something new, develop a skill and have some fun.

It has been a busy week in school with much going on, not least in the students settling into their lessons and school routines, and for new students finding their feet of course. On Tuesday, our year 7, 10 and 12 students had their individual photos taken, alongside new staff and the Student Executive Committee; year 7 and 12 form and year group photos will be taken next week. All photos will be available for parents/carers to purchase in due course if you wish to do so as a record of your child's membership of the school.

Today, year 7 enjoyed a musical showcase in the sports hall to introduce them to all the different musical instruments that they could learn this year, as part of our commitment to the promotion of music and of enjoying being involved in the rich musical life of the School. Indeed, the breadth, depth and outstanding quality of school music and of our student musicians was on display at our wonderful Speech Day and Prize Giving held in the Sport Hall last evening. At that event, we were delighted to welcome musician Charles Béquignon-MacDougall back to his old school as our guest of honour. Charles led some musical activities during the day yesterday, and conducted our Choir at last night's event, awarded prizes to our prize winners and then gave a motivating and inspiring talk to all who attended. Thank you to Charles for giving up so much of his time to be with us at school yesterday.

Sport has started in school again this week, with the 1st XV finding Monmouth School quite a challenge in their first game of the season. Netball practices and other sporting activities have also started again, with many fixtures across a variety of sports starting up again next week and across the term. Our students really enjoy and excel in their sporting lives here at Crypt, and under the direction of our new Director of Sport, Miss Leask, the rich sporting life that



Headmaster: N C Dyer BA (Hons) MA NPQH
Telephone: 01452 530291
Email: enquiries@crypt.gloucs.sch.uk
www.cryptschool.org

Registered Office:
Podsmead Road, Gloucester GL2 5AE
The Crypt School: a company limited by guarantee.
Registered in England and Wales: Company No: 7489196

The Crypt School
Educating students since 1539

we offer here will continue. To help support our sporting and games programme at Crypt, we are currently advertising for Sports Coach (Girls' Sport): if anyone might be interested in that role, then please do have a look at the advert on the school website.

The CSPTA Committee met after school on Tuesday, and it was good to see so many parents attending. My thanks to the CSPTA for their funding of new musical equipment for the school and for funding the new wall art that is now in place on the upper corridor of the old school building.



The wall art looks really good and has brightened up that area of school. If you do have time to support the work of the CSPTA, or to join the Committee, then please do contact CSPTA Chair Claire Berry cspta@cryptschool.org for more details on how you can help support the work and life of the School through being involved with the CSPTA.

Tomorrow, we expect over 650 year 5 pupils to arrive at school in two sessions to sit the grammar school entrance test here at Crypt. This year the seven grammar schools in the county have received a record number of registrations to take the test at one of the seven schools. I do wish those taking the test every success and best wishes and look forward to welcoming many of them into Crypt at our open day in October and then formally into school as new students next year.

With continued best wishes,

Nicholas Dyer
Headmaster



School Dates

16th September – Year 10 Information Evening

17th September – Whole Year Photos (Year 7 & 12)

20th September – Year 13 Oxford University Trip

23rd September – Year 12 Information Evening

23rd September – Army Careers Visit

24th September – Pittville Pump Room Concert

26th September – Year 7 Disco

30th September – 2nd October – Year 8 Residential to Croft Farm

3rd October – Whole School Photo

3rd October – New Year 7 Pastoral Evening

7th October – Year 12 Geography Trip

8th October – CSPTA Meeting at 6pm

17th October – Harry Potter Quiz Evening

24th October – Autumn Concert

6th November – Sixth Form Open Evening

12th November – CSPTA Meeting, 6pm

14th November – Year 11 Parent/Carer Evening (Virtual)

15th November – Treasure Island at St Mary de Crypt

Music

A warm welcome back to everyone from the music department. We have already made a strong start with our orchestra and A Capella choir performing for the annual Prizegiving and Speech Day on Thursday 12th September. Our esteemed guests, parents and teachers were graced with the sounds of our Year 11 soloists Erika Millard and Robin Nishimura, accompanied by one of our illustrious piano teachers Mr Boodle upon arrival to the Crush Hall.



We also had the immense privilege of welcoming former Cryptian Charles Béquignon-MacDougall to lead a workshop for our A Capella Choir during Lesson 5. Charles is a prominent figure in the world of choral music, having performed as a member of VOCES8, London Voices and as choral director leading sessions for BBC Singers and London Symphony Orchestra.

As the audience took their places to celebrate the wonderful accomplishments of our community as a school, the orchestra commenced with Mozart's Eine Kleine Nachtmusik, with a modern addition of drum kit from our newly appointed drum technician Sebastian Byfield. This was succeeded by Brahms' Hungarian Dance No. 1 and revisit to Erika and Aleksia's orchestral piece originally premiered at Gloucester Cathedral for our Founders' Day last July. Our incidental music session concluded with a selection of highlights from Handel and the celebratory March from Scipio, setting a prominent tone for the evening's discourse of pride and achievement. A brief interlude showcased our A Capella Choir, led by the aforementioned Charles MacDougall, sang with purity and clarity to the harmony of Farrant's O Lord For Thy Tender Mercy's Sake.

We believe this year will be the strongest yet for our new Year 7 cohort, with a huge uptake in instrumental lessons and interest in our Young Voices group. To demonstrate the skills of the musicians taught by our very own peripatetic staff, we hosted a showcase in the Sports Hall during Lesson 5 on Friday 13th September. This helps to provide aspirational values to new members of our musical community. Students who proudly demonstrated their instrumental progression included Levi (Year 8) on clarinet, Abigail (Year 8) on flute, Julian (Year 8) and Sammy (Year 8) on saxophone, Charles (Year 10) and Monty (Year 9) on cornet, Sam (Year 9) and Nathen (Year 9) on guitar, William (Year 13) on violin and other soloists from our event on Speech Day. We also had our very own Mr Whittaker leading the year group

through the joy of singing. This event truly shows the power of music as an inclusive and rewarding experience.

Finally, our GCSE students have been invited to perform at Pittville Pump Room in Cheltenham on Tuesday 24th September and we are very excited to hear their practical skills flourishing in preparation for their coursework next year.

New clubs are now available to sign up to, including Music Technology, DJ club, Musical Theatre in collaboration with the drama department, and Grade 5 Theory coaching. Please ask a member of the music staff for more information.

With the increase of exciting opportunities we are able to deliver this year, we have decided to create a dedicated Instagram page to promote and highlight our work over the coming academic year. We would be grateful if you can follow and show your support on @cryptschoolmusic.



Library

The library has been a hive of activity with year 7s getting used to coming in to choose books and do work on their iPads. I am enjoying the enthusiasm they have and talking to them about their reading choices. The year 8s and 9s are also settling in well enjoying the library and choosing new fiction to read.

The Roald Dahl display has proved to be popular and prompted some students to have another look at some of the books we have by the famous author.

This week I have asked students to sign up to become librarians and I have had a wonderful number of students asking to join. I am holding a meeting with them next week to do some training and get them assigned to a day.





Also launched this week is the Harry Potter Book Day Quiz. I have had a lot of students and staff asking me about the event which is being supported by the CSPTA

The quiz will be in the Canteen area with pizza available from 4.00pm to enjoy before the quiz begins

Fancy dress is optional

Science magic in the interval

A choice of pizzas and prices will be coming soon. You can bring your own food if preferred.

Refreshments by the CSPTA will be available to purchase throughout the event

Teams of no more than 6

Starting at 4.30 till 6.30 (approx.)

To register to take part in the quiz please come to see Mrs Jordan in the library

Clubs

MONDAY					
Club	Location	Staff	Club	Location	Staff
Rugby Skills Year 7	Field	AHt	KS4 Powerlifting	Fitness suite	HJ
Senior Basketball Term 2	Sportshall	JB/EB	Model United Nations	C4	KP
KS3 Gamemaker club (to start week 3)	Lab room 17	DRo	Year 10 & Year 11 GCSE art support sessions (drop-in)	Rm 13	CM
Drama Club	Drama Studio	GR/AC	KS3 Girls Football	Field	AL
Brass Group	Pavilion	PS	A Level Geography essay writing	39	CBs
Young Voices	Music Rm 21	SB	Python Programming Adventure Club	15	JR
Music technology club	Music tech room	CS	Homework club 3.15-4.15 Monday-Friday	R42	SSt
Try a Cello workshop!	Music studio	RC	Classics Club	28/27	EC/MHr/ NMc
Hidden Histories	37	JH/JO/CH			
DofE *WK1/WK2 Help and support with the completion of your Bronze or Silver Award	Rm11	OA			

TUESDAY					
Club	Location	Staff	Club	Location	Staff
KS 4 GCSE Badminton	Sports Hall	AHt	A-level Chemistry drop-in	Lab 4	CG / MB / NB / HB
Debate Society (Wk 1)	Good question! TBC - Eng classroom?	EG	D of E Completions all levels Y11,12,13	E8 week 2 only starting 24th Sept	AP
KS3 Blooket Club (week 1)	Room 32	JT	D of E Silver canoeists Yr11	Rm16 week 1	ALo
Art Club	13	SD	Year 10 & Year 11 GCSE art support sessions (drop-in)	Rm 13	CM
DofE Bronze	Room 14	KW	Darts KS4- Actual darts board but mental math adding scores ect (max 8 per session)	Room 33	MP
Symphony Orchestra	Music room 21	JMW and CS	Year 12/13 A Level Sociology support drop in sessions (from term 2)	C4	KP
DJ/Mixing Club	Music tech room	Sihi and Sathvick Y8	Year 12 & Year 13 A Level Chemistry support sessions (drop-in)	Lab 4	CG/MB/HB/NB
Rock bands	Music studio	Student led	GCSE DT Support	8	EL
KS3 Table tennis	Sportshall	ND	STEM Soc	E4	AHa
All years cross country	Outside	JMB/GH	Darts KS3- Actual darts board using mental math (max 8)	Room 33	MP
Mathematics Society	E9	Student led			

WEDNESDAY					
Club	Location	Staff	Club	Location	Staff
KS3 Blooket Club (week 2)	Room 33	JJR	Year 10 & Year 11 GCSE art support sessions (drop-in)	Rm 13	CM
Cheerleading KS3/4/5	Sportshall	AC	Japanese Club	E8	PJ
Year 7 badminton	Sportshall	JEB	Geography Documentary Club (week 1 only)	38	HS
KS4&5 LGBTQ+ club	Lab 7	TP	Dungeons and Dragons (closed to new members this term)	E6	KWi
Choir (Cantores Cryptiensens)	Music room 21	JMW	KS3 Yoga (starting 18th Sep)	Drama Studio	IP
Senior Football	Field	CWG			
Gold Sports Academy	Fitness suite	PE			
Game Design (Kodu)	15	JR			
Y12 Med Soc (from Term 2)	Lab 3	HB			

THURSDAY					
Club	Location	Staff	Club	Location	Staff
Year 9 Rugby	Field	AHt	Cross Country	Outside	JMB/GH
KS4/5 Volleyball	Sportshall	EB	KS3 Lego Club	25	SWi /HAt
Musical Theatre	Drama Studio/Music TBC	AC	Year 12/13 A Level Psychology support drop in sessions (from term 2)	C4	KP
Samba Band	Music Room 21	Jai (Y10)	Languages Society	30	HQ
Year 12/13 A Level Maths support drop in sessions	S3	M Davis E Wife	Y12 STEP/MAT/TMUA	E9	DF
Journalism Club	29	CC	Y7-11 Maths Base (support session drop in)	E7	RL/KW/DDy/PJ
Chess	E3	ADC	WarHammer	13	SD
Our Natural World Club	Lab 7	TP/ZR/ALp			

FRIDAY					
Club	Location	Staff	Club	Location	Staff
House events	Various	AHt	Senior Rugby captains run	Field	HW
The Unpolished Playground	Drama Studio	GR	Christmas Club (Term 2 only)	9	EL
Jazz Band	Music Room 21	AR			
Lego Robotics Club (Y7 and Y8)	E1	SJ			

University Parent Webinars

The Admissions Team at the University of Bath are running a series of Parents' Webinars for parents and guardians of children looking to begin their studies in 2025 and 2026:

[Supporting your child's UCAS application for courses starting in 2025 \(3 October 2024\) \(bath.ac.uk\)](#)

[Supporting your child: Student finance, scholarships, bursaries and budgeting \(27 March 2025\) \(bath.ac.uk\)](#)

[Supporting your child: Accommodation and student support panel discussion \(1 May 2025\) \(bath.ac.uk\)](#)

Find out more and register for each session using the links above, and please email student-recruitment-team@bath.ac.uk if you have any questions.

Campus visits for prospective students:

Discover the University of Bath to find out about our fantastic facilities and what it's really like to be a student here. You'll get to go on a tour (led by a current student) to explore our campus. You'll also get to ask our students any questions you might have about university life in our interactive Q&A session. You'll also listen to a presentation to find out more about university life or how to make a competitive application.

See our website for further

information: <https://www.bath.ac.uk/campaigns/campus-visits-for-schools-and-colleges/>

Personal Educational Development – Term 1

It was with great pleasure that we received news during the summer holidays that the School had our application to renew our Gloucestershire Healthy Living & Learning Healthy Schools Award approved by the Quality Assurance Group. This process allowed us to audit and evaluate our policy and practice in relation to health and wellbeing to demonstrate whole school support for wellbeing.

We are delighted to welcome our new cohorts to Personal Education Development lessons in Term 1 and are incredibly lucky to yet again, have a diverse, and dedicated staff to lead these lessons.

Over the academic year, within Personal Education Development, lessons explore personal issues, relationships, and aspirations. Students cover key issues facing them and the lessons at The Crypt School stress the importance of discussing topics such as physical and mental wellbeing, consent, relationships, and sexual orientation. An equally important focus for our students is their academic life: how to use study skills productively – whilst understanding how to deal with the pressures these can bring. The Crypt School also focuses on the students' pathways towards the working world; and this enables every student to reflect on potential careers, the skills required and the routes towards achieving their goals. Our aim is to allow students to feel safe and to feel informed. We encourage all to work productively and creatively, to build strong and positive relationships with others, and to contribute to their community. Our goal is to enable our students to flourish by gaining better control over their lives and resilience whilst helping them value themselves as individuals in a pluralistic society. Lots of work has already begun in Term 1-

Year 7, working with their teacher (Miss Burnside /Mr Jakes), are exploring new school anxieties. These include peer pressure, dealing with change in friendships and organisational skills. They will consider emotional management skills such as - meditation; self-soothing; and being empathetic. Help in school will be signposted to the classes. Outside of school, further support could be found via

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

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

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

Year 8, working with their teacher (Mrs Crozier/Mr Whittaker), are studying social media, its positives and its negatives, such as FOMO and cyberbullying. They are revisiting online safety. In addition, they will discuss factors that can affect wellbeing; they will revisit how to self-soothe and discuss the connection between mind and body. This will include the effects of sugar; the importance of sleep; and the benefits of physical exercise. Help in school will be signposted to the classes. Outside of school, further support could be found via

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

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

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

Year 9, working with Mr Jakes, will be focusing on mental health - stress, anxiety, depression; before discussing body image, positive influences, eating disorders, and self-esteem. Help in school will be signposted to the classes. Outside of school, further support could be found via

<https://www.nhs.uk/mental-health/children-and-young-adults/>

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

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

Year 10, working with Mr Hart, are concentrating on GCSE preparation such as study & revision skills. Help in school will be signposted to the classes. Outside of school, further support could be found via

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/>

Year 11, working with Mr Windsor, are focusing on areas such as wellbeing, stress, depression and dealing with pressure. In addition, they will start to explore post 16 pathways via Career Pilot Pathway Planner. Help in school will be signposted to the classes. Outside of school, further support could be found via

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

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

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

Year 12, working with Mr Germaine, will discuss making the most out of Sixth form life; before moving on to exploring post 18 options- University, Apprenticeships, employment, gap year. Help in school will be signposted to the classes. Outside of school, further support could be found via

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

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>

<https://www.ucas.com/>

Year 13, working with their teachers (Mr Pinless/ Mr Windsor), will focus on post 18 options such as personal statements for UCAS and Apprenticeship applications. Help in school will be signposted to the classes. Outside of school, further support could be found via the links above.

History

We have announced our 2 Peter Hobbes History Prize winners - for research projects on ex-Cryptians by VI form students.

Molly produced her analysis of George Whitefield, including thoughts on his legacy. This can be viewed in full [here](#). Freddie focused on William Henley, including his personal battles with TB & literary and his legacy. This can be viewed in full [here](#).

We also had 2 students enter the Historical Association's 'Richard Slessor Memorial Prize' competition - Emilie in Y9 & Christopher in Y13. We wish them good luck!

Careers Talks



EVENT DETAILS

WHEN

Monday 23 November 2024 - 1.20pm

WHERE

The Crypt School - Room C3



Careers Talk



ARMY

Join us for a Careers Talk from The British Army. Where you are interested in joining as a regular soldier or as an Officer, the talk will give you an insight into the large variety of roles that exist. Did you know that you can complete a diverse range of apprenticeships?

Come and find out about the levels of support given, both financial and personal. Look out for the Google Form in your email or scan the QR code.



EVENT DETAILS

WHEN

Wednesday 2 October 2024 - 2.15pm

WHERE

The Crypt School - Room S1



Study America



Are you thinking about studying in America after Sixth Form? Are you seeking a scholarship to study?

Lewis Mckissick, from Future Elite Sports, is coming into school to talk with students who are considering studying in America as a potential option.

Simply sign up using the Google Form or scan the QR code to secure your place.