

14th February 2025



Dear parents/carers and students,

I do hope this letter finds you all well.

Term 3 draws to a close today and seems to have dashed by; a considerable amount has been achieved in the last 6 weeks and, as I said to students in years 7-12 in my assembly yesterday, I do hope that each student feels that they have gained much from term three, both academically and in their own personal development. My thanks to all my colleagues at Crypt, for their hard work this term and for the support they always offer to the students, as well as to each other.

Academically, it had been a busy and important term for all year groups, but especially for our examination students. Year 13 mock exams began on Monday, in the main hall, giving our senior students a real experience of what to expect in the summer; those mock examinations will continue after half term, giving students time to recharge whilst also undertaking more revision. Year 11 will have further mock exams in the second week back after half term, identifying through those exams, areas which are secure and areas in which further work is needed, helping then inform the teaching and learning and support offered to them in the period leading up to the GCSE exams in May. My thanks to the DT and art teachers, who are giving up their Saturday (tomorrow) to support students with their GCSE and A level coursework projects.

It was great to see so many events and activities going on this week, and indeed across term 3. On Tuesday after school, 60 drama students from years 7-12 enjoyed a trip to Bristol to watch Dear Evan Hansen, a powerful and emotionally charged musical, described by BBC Radio 2 as, "The musical of its generation, for all generations." My thanks to Mrs Crozier for organising that visit. Across this week, our Young Enterprise group, organised by Business Studies teacher, Ms Shaw, have been busy with their valentines' fundraiser: the Young Enterprise scheme, supported by business, seeks to promote the skills needed to lead, manage and make a success out of a business idea. Supported by a business advisor, and the school, I'm sure that this year's participants will learn valuable lessons to build upon in both their school and later lives.



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

On Wednesday, many of our year 11 GCSE students attended the 'GCSE poetry live' event held in Bristol, enabling them to listen to some of the poems that they encountered during their GCSE studies and to appreciate them as they were meant to be - presented in an oral format. My thanks to Mrs Hardacre for organising that experience for the students.

Today, some year 12 students are attending GE Aerospace's RETHINK Day, as part of their career development programme. On the theme of careers, this year, our careers leader Mr Germaine, has organised a number of 'Inspired Lectures' as part of our career's guidance programme and on Thursday, as part of that programme of lectures, Helen Daltry came into school to talk about Maths in everyday life. Helen was a Maths and PE teacher, before she moved into the commercial sector; she wrote the 2012 Olympic timetable - what a feat of organisation indeed. With the subject of maths in mind, some of our mathematicians enjoyed a day out of school on Thursday at the Maths team challenge, held at Monmouth school; the team performed extremely well against very strong competition and were runners up: congratulations indeed to Jaanvi, Hugo, Lianna and Reuben.

Sport has been a key feature for many students across this term. Highlights this term have included: our year 9 boy's rugby team, who have made it to the EDF final, and who will play that final match at Kingsholm stadium; our year 9 girl's netball team, who made it to the quarter final in the national plate competition, where they faced Exeter school, narrowly losing to them; the year 11 girl's netball team, who played at the national South West England netball tournament and were placed 4th, and our senior boy's football team, who are currently unbeaten in the county football competition. Well done to all involved in those teams.

Well done to Mr Whittaker, on his guest editorship of the Music Teachers Association magazine, offering a unique insight into the challenges and opportunities that face music departments across the country in providing musical education to their students. And, on a final note, we have heard that Old Cryptian Matt Sherratt, has been appointed as the new interim head coach of the Wales national rugby team - an incredible achievement, and I am sure we will all wish him well with that appointment. Matt left Crypt in 1993 we believe, having played for the undefeated 1st XV rugby team in his final year in school.

I wish our students a good rest over half term; with continued best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Dyer'.

Nicholas Dyer
Headmaster

School Dates

24th February – Term 4 Starts

28th February – Cake Sale for DofE

28th February – 6.15pm CSPTA Quiz

6th March – Y9 Parent/Carer Evening Online

11th March – CSPTA 6pm S Block all welcome

12th March – Y12 European Youth Parliament Trip

12th March – Evensong Gloucester Cathedral

13th March – Community Iftar

13th March – Y12 Geography Trip to Swanage

14th March – Spanish Play

CSPTA Quiz Night!



Join us for the CSPTA Quiz Night! 💡

Test your knowledge, compete with friends and family, and support a great cause all in one go!

Every ticket purchased helps raise funds for the CSPTA, so your participation directly benefits our school community. 🤝🌟



Mark your calendars and purchase your tickets via ParentPay.

Please bring some loose change for some games that will happen alongside the quiz.

Don't have enough for a team? No problem we will be making teams on the night so come along!

Year 10 Students Visit Bath University: Inspiring Aspiration for the Future

On Friday, **7 February 2025**, 145 of our Year 10 students were given the exciting opportunity to visit The University of Bath as part of our school's careers programme, aimed at fostering aspiration and broadening their future prospects. This visit allowed students to experience first-hand what university life is like, inspiring them to think big about their own educational and career goals.

The day began with a tour of the university's stunning campus, where students explored state-of-the-art facilities such as lecture theatres, libraries, and social spaces. The tour gave our students a real sense of what it might be like to study at university and helped them imagine how they could be part of such a vibrant academic community in the future.

Following the tour, our students had the chance to hear from current student ambassadors at The University of Bath, who delivered engaging presentations about their university experience. These student ambassadors shared personal insights into what it's like to study at Bath, providing helpful tips on managing study-life balance, staying motivated, and making the most of university opportunities. The ambassadors also discussed various academic pathways available at the university and the exciting opportunities that come with higher education.

"It has opened my eyes to what university could be like for me and the wide variety of choices that are available." Aaron, Year 10

A key aspect of The University of Bath outreach was their *Widening Participation Programme*, which aims to ensure that students from all backgrounds can attend university. The programme supports students with access to university life through a range of activities, including mentoring, campus visits, and academic workshops, to help bridge the gap for those who may not have considered higher education as an option. Bath is committed to removing barriers to university education, providing equal opportunities for all students, regardless of their background.

The visit also highlighted the significant benefits of higher education, which extends far beyond the classroom. Did you know that, according to recent government data, individuals with a degree earn, on average, over **£10,000 more per year** than those without one? Over the course of a career, this can add up to over **£300,000** more in lifetime earnings. Furthermore, graduates tend to have better job security and access to a wider range of career opportunities.

This visit has inspired many of our students to think more seriously about their future educational and career pathways. A degree can open doors to careers in areas such as healthcare, engineering, finance, and the arts—fields that require specific qualifications and skills that are developed through higher education.

We encourage all parents to have conversations with their children about their aspirations and the pathways available to them. Whether it's considering university, vocational training, apprenticeships, or other career options, it's important that students begin to think about their future goals and how they can make them a reality.

"The visit was a fantastic experience for the year group. It was an eye opener into real student life and the opportunities university presented as a potential pathway after sixth form." Mrs Jacob-Reilly, Year 10 Tutor

We are grateful to Bath for hosting our students and to the staff and student ambassadors who made this visit such a valuable experience. We hope this trip has inspired our students to continue to dream big and take the necessary steps toward a bright future.

Year 11 Poetry Live! Trip

On Wednesday this week we took 89 of our Year 11 students to the GCSE Poetry Live! event at the Bristol Beacon.

It was a fantastic day, featuring readings and Q&A sessions from six of the poets studied in the AQA anthology, including current and previous poet laureates, Simon Armitage and Carol Ann Duffy. John Agard was a particular favourite, reading us a poem he had written only minutes before arriving!

Students also had two AQA chief examiner sessions which included example poems and model answers, as well as vital exam technique advice. The notes we made from the event will inform our ongoing revision and will be shared with all our students.

Music Newsletter

Term 3 has presented a wonderful opportunity for growth and development. As we reflect on all the musical achievements from KS3 to GCSE and as a school community, we also look forward to a challenging and rewarding programme of concerts to come after half term.

On returning to school from the Christmas break, a cohort of students from Year 9 put themselves forward to perform in our showcase concert with a diverse range of music from classical piano to rock band.

Last week, GCSE students and prospective Year 9s attended an informative workshop by Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, learning compositional devices and analytical skills for KS4 repertoire. We look forward to our students putting these ideas into practice.

Our own Symphony Orchestra have been adding dynamics and phrasing detail into their Spring Concert repertoire. We would like to invite players to join in on Tuesday lunchtimes, to have a wonderful time as a community of like-minded musicians.

Our drama collaboration project has continued with Musical Theatre Club and we have a new performance date on Monday 30th June after unforeseen circumstances. Mrs Crozier and Mr Slemensek have been coaching through songs and movement from shows including

Everybody's Talking About Jamie, Les Miserables and many more. We have chosen our soloists and look forward to working on techniques and characterisation in the Spring term.

Music Technology Club has engaged students in vocational skills in live capture and mixdown techniques. We have taught how different microphones affect the sound at source, and how to choose the best placement for drums, bass guitar and vocals. We will be looking at guitar and piano recording practices after half term.

We have had a great turnout to our choir rehearsals and heard glorious singing for the Kyrie, Agnus Dei and Benedictus from The Armed Man. Mrs Fullerton was able to support the singing techniques required for Barnaby's Psalm 24 on Wednesday, as part of our Evensong repertoire. The Google Form for participating in the Evensong on Wednesday 12th March will be closed after today as we need to confirm final numbers. Please complete this to confirm your child's place if you haven't done so.

The Spring Concert will shortly follow on Tuesday 25th March and you are invited to come along and sing The Armed Man with us. Please email the music department cslemensek@crypt.gloucs.sch.uk

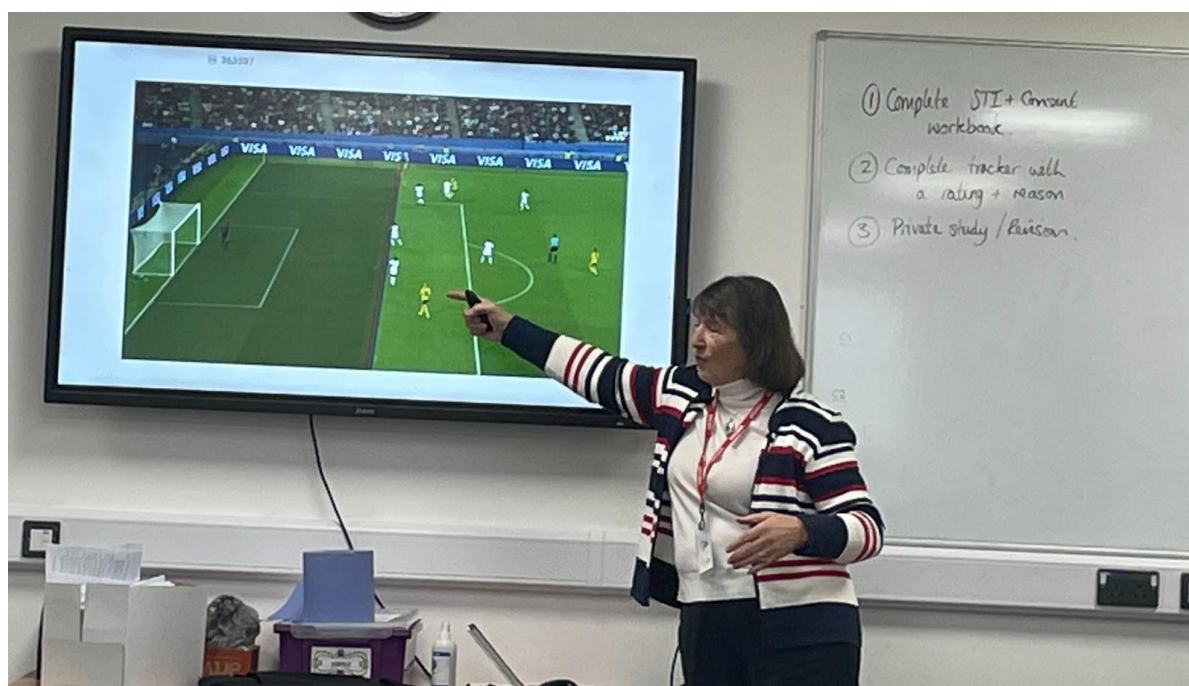
Thank you to all students, staff, parents, carers and caretakers who continue to make music a core part of our school life with their dedication and support.

Cambridge Schools Debate - Southwest Region

On Saturday the 25th January two of our Y12 students competed in the Southwest regional final of the Cambridge Schools debate competition. As last year, the competition was fierce with one school dominating the top positions.

Our students, Joseph and Daniel, improved over the course of the day and achieved a 3rd and 2nd place in two of the rounds. Motions this year included ownership of football teams, the rise of alternative media, and streaming in secondary schools. As well as being a great opportunity to practise debate skills, it was as much a chance to meet and network with other schools, forging new friendships. I hope to see many more students signing up next September!

Inspired Lecture: Maths an everyday tool



As part of our Inspired Lecture series on Thursday, 13 February, our school had the privilege of welcoming Helen Daltry for an engaging and insightful lecture on the importance of mathematics in everyday life. From sports to budgeting, from planning the Olympic Games to ensuring products are delivered on time, Helen demonstrated how maths is a fundamental part of our world.

Helen, a trained maths and PE teacher, has had a remarkable career in the corporate world, securing sponsorship deals and organising major sporting events. Her impressive achievements include managing World Championship Figure Skating and single handedly writing the 2012 Olympic timetable—an extraordinary feat of planning and precision.

“We are grateful to Helen Daltry for giving up her time to come into school to speak with our students about her experiences. The stories told about her role in organising the London 2012 Olympics were most interesting and engaging.”

Chris Germaine, Careers Leader

During her talk, Helen highlighted the role of maths in sports, whether it's scoring in tennis, tracking performance in golf, or making strategic decisions in competitions. However, the main focus of her presentation was her work behind the scenes in organising large-scale sporting events. She emphasized the importance of planning, problem-solving, and adaptability—skills that all heavily rely on mathematics. From spotting trends and patterns to

identifying cost savings and keeping projects within budget, maths is at the heart of successful event management.

Helen's lecture was truly inspiring, showing students that maths is not just about numbers on a page but a powerful tool shaping the world around us.

"It was interesting to hear how Mrs Daltry wrote the Olympic timetable by herself. I expected to hear that she led a team of people. Phenomenal really." Alex

U14 Netball Quarter Finals

On Monday 10th February, the U14 netball team took part in the quarter finals of the sisters in sport shield competition in Exeter. After a long journey, the team warmed up well and started the game strong. This resulted in them being down only by 3 in the first quarter. The team then regrouped and focused on some hard defence in the second quarter.

The girls then turned the score around and were now in the lead 17-14 going into half time. The game then only continued to get harder and more competitive, finishing the third quarter down 27-25. In the final quarter the girls fought hard and worked well to move the ball to the goal, however Exeter kept their lead. The game finished with a final score of 40-31.

Well done to the U14 team for their performances throughout this competition and we are so proud of how far they have got. Their commitment and determination has never wavered and they have worked brilliantly as a team.

Feb 2025 Half Term Activities



FREE ARCHERY

11 - 16 Year Olds
11am - 1pm
Drop In

Tuesday 18th Feb.

The Friendship Cafe,
Chequers Bridge
Community Centre,
GL4 6PR

No open-toed shoes, wear
long sleeves & hair tied back.

No need to book - just pop
along and shoot some arrows!



Any questions please contact our office on 01452 415900!



Fair Shares
community time banks
01452 415900 • fairshares.org.uk



Funded by
UK Government



The Venture Community Hub



Free Movie Showing

Friday, February 21st Entry - 7pm
Movie - 7.30pm

Open to all
Movie is PG rated

The Friendship Cafe
Chequers Bridge
Community Centre
Painswick Road
GL4 6PR



Fair Shares
community time banks
01452 415900 • fairshares.org.uk



Free Movie Showing

Friday, February 21st Entry - 4pm
Movie - 4.15pm

Free Popcorn & Juice
Open to all aged 12+

The Friendship Cafe
Chequers Bridge
Community Centre
Painswick Road
GL4 6PR



Fair Shares
community time banks
01452 415900 • fairshares.org.uk



Funded by
UK Government



The Venture Community Hub



Monument Trial Challenges

Dates & Themes

17-2 FEB-MARCH
MATH WHIZZES
Maths Whizzes is an exciting, location-based challenge that turns problem-solving into an adventure! Participants visit specific locations, uncover math-related clues, and solve engaging questions to earn points.

3-16 MARCH
SCIENCE WHIZZES
From forces and living things to materials and outer space each challenge is designed to be interactive, fun, and educational, making science come alive beyond the classroom!

17-31 MARCH
HISTORY WHIZZES
Step back in time and uncover the past! From ancient civilizations to key moments in British history, each challenge helps you explore different eras, important events, and fascinating figures.

we can move Active Gloucestershire

PLAY

SAVE THE DATE!

Parent & Carer Workshops

Parent & Carer Workshops

Are you worried about your child's well-being?

Parenting is rewarding yet challenging, especially when concerns arise. You are not alone.



TIC+ run FREE Workshops that meet face-to-face or virtually via Zoom

Discover strategies to nurture resilience, guided by trained facilitators.

Share experiences, learn and grow in a safe space.

Visit the Parent Support pages on our website www.ticplus.org.uk or scan the QR code

BOOK NOW

March - April 2025

DATE	DAY	TIME	LOCATION
11 Mar - 08 Apr	Tuesday	10:00am - 11:30am	Stroud
11 Mar - 08 Apr	Tuesday	6:30pm - 8:00pm	Zoom
12 Mar - 09 Apr	Wednesday	7:00pm - 8:30pm	Zoom
13 Mar - 10 Apr	Thursday	7:00pm - 8:30pm	Zoom

