



14th March 2025

Dear Parents, carers and students

I hope this newsletter home finds you all well.

The Year 13 Chemistry Olympiad results arrived in school this week, with the year 13s doing exceedingly well, achieving 34 awards with three students gaining the top, Gold, award. Congratulations to all involved - a strong indication of the strength of talent the school enjoys in chemistry, and indeed across the wider science department and year 13.

Year 13 received their mock exam results today, in a results style event held in school, replicating the results day itself, due of course in August. Year 13 March mock exam results have also been sent home to parents/carers today, and I suggest that students discuss with their parents/carers their outcomes and consider together what the next steps for the student are over the next couple of months before the A Levels begin in May. Any concerns or questions, should be addressed to the sixth form office at school, who will be analysing the outcomes and making any interventions to support students as are required.

Our year 12 geographers are currently on their residential field study trip in Swanage, undertaking research-based activities as part of the A Level specification. One of the aspects of the geography curriculum that attracts so many of our students to study that subject at GCSE, A Level and at the undergraduate level, are the many opportunities for field studies, applying classroom learning into the lived environment, and seeing for themselves issues such as coastal erosion, loss of habitat, but also the natural beauty of our coastline.

As year 9 prepare for their short course RS GCSE in the summer, the RS department held their drop down curriculum day on Thursday, which saw staff offering intensive support to that year group and the undertaking of a mock exam. I do hope those studies are progressing well. This week has marked the end of the year 11 mock exams, with results being issued home in due course.

Congratulations indeed to our two F1 in Schools teams, who had their regional final in Bath last Friday. A full write up is included in the newsletter, but well done to all involved and in particular to Ceres Racing (mainly year 13, who entered the development class last year) who are in the professional class competition and now progress to the national finals. Ceres came first out of 11 teams in the professional class, winning the awards for best engineered car, for sponsorship and marketing. Altas (made up of year 12s) came third out of 22 teams in development class and now wait to hear if they scored high enough to qualify for the wildcard entry to the national finals;



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The Crypt School
Educating students since 1539

however, they were also nominated for sponsorship and marketing and research and development.

Monday marked International Women's Day, and Crypt marked that important day with a whole school assembly led by School Governor and Oxford academic Suzanne Aspden. Suzanne, a parent of a year 9 student, has enjoyed a wonderful career in music and academia, which has enabled her to live and work in New Zealand in the UK. Today, our Board of Governors, and wider school, benefit greatly from the experience and differing perspectives that Suzanne brings to that role.

Well done indeed to the School Choir, who participated in Gloucester Cathedral's Evensong Wednesday evening. That has now become an annual event for the Choir, led by Mr Whittaker, granting students a wonderful experience of singing alongside the Cathedral Choir in such a remarkable building. Also on Wednesday evening, as noted later in this newsletter, a group of year 12 politics students represented the Crypt School in the South West regional competition of the 2025 European Youth Parliament. Mr Higgs (head of history and politics) notes that they performed very well indeed but narrowly missed out on moving to the national stage of the competition.

Thank you to Mr Antonious for organising a wonderful Iftar on Thursday evening, enjoyed by many visiting families, staff and students. The Iftar is the meal Muslims enjoy at the end of each day of fasting during Ramadan, and the food offered at Crypt last night was delicious.

It was great to see our year 8 students engage so positively with the visiting Spanish play today, held in the main hall. Thank you to the MFL department for organising that experience for them.

Thank you to our Duke of Edinburgh staff, who, alongside the company school uses to facilitate the scheme in school, will be busy in school over the weekend supporting bronze and silver participants with preparation of their expedition, including for the silver participants, first aid training. The Duke of Edinburgh award scheme at Crypt continues to grow, with a new Gold Award Honours Board due to be placed into the refurbished school hall in due course, on which the names of all Gold award recipients will be placed.

Mrs Jordan, the school librarian, notes that over the half term break and up to last week the school ran a Readathon for year 7. The students were asked if they would get sponsorship for their reading, and she was delighted that together they raised £316.00 for the Read for Good charity, which provides a regular supply of brand new books along with storyteller visits to brighten up the days of children in all of the UK's main children's hospitals. Well done indeed to all involved.

Finally, thank you to Old Cryptian and long-standing member of the Old Cryptian Rugby Club, Kevin Bendall for presenting me with his new book, which celebrates 100 years of the OC Rugby Club. The Club was founded in 1925, and has witnessed many very talented players being involved at both youth and senior team levels, including notable players such as England internationals Grahame Parker OBE, (two caps in 1938), Charlie Hannaford (many appearances in the 1970s), Peter Butler (1970s) and uncapped international Gordon Hudson, who played for England in 1944, also captaining Gloucestershire from 1948-1950. Many teachers from the school have and continue to play and coach at the club, such as Phil Stanlake (also England U16 coach) and former Director of Sport, Ashley Bawden; today science teachers Matthew Nicholl and Alex Lipscombe continue that tradition.

My continued best wishes.



Nicholas Dyer
Headmaster

School Dates

- 17th March– GCC Apprenticeship Roadshow 5pm Main Hall
- 18th March – GCSE Recital
- 19th March – Prospective Y12 Webinar 5pm
- 20th March – Young Enterprise Swindon
- 20th March – Fame lab Final Tewkesbury
- 21st March – Non uniform Day Red Nose Day and Inclusion Gloucestershire
- 22nd March – GCSE Music Coursework Workshop
- 25th March – Spring Concert 7pm
- 26th March – Battlefields Information Evening 5.30pm
- 27th March - Y7 Parent/Carer Evening in school
- 28th March – RETHINK GE Aerospace



Neurodiversity Celebration Week

17 - 23 March 2025

Programme

Monday 17th Tutors Resources

Tuesday 18th Neurodiversity Celebration Week Assembly.

Inclusion Gloucestershire talk 13:30



Wednesday 19th Staff ADHD presentation with Alex Lipscombe in room 18 13:30

Thursday 20th Staff drop session with Miss Whiting and Mr Antonious in room 11 discussing all things inclusion

Friday 21st Non-school uniform day raising money for Inclusion Gloucestershire and Red Nose Day

Break time Cake Sale in the Crush Hall



Siena Castellon, Founder

"I founded Neurodiversity Celebration Week in 2018 because I wanted to change the way learning differences are perceived. As a teenager who is autistic and has ADHD, dyslexia, and dyspraxia, my experience has been that people often focus on the challenges of neurological diversity. I wanted to change the narrative and create a balanced view which focuses equally on our talents and strengths."

2025 European Youth Parliament



Eight of our Y12 Politics students represented the Crypt School in the South West regional competition of the 2025 European Youth Parliament. This is the first time we have entered this competition and although they were nervous, their preparations made sure that they were well placed. Each school was given a position to defend, and then other students would offer alternative proposals and questions. At the end of each round students voted to as, or reject a resolution. Unfortunately our students proposal on reducing youth crime and delinquency was rejected. Although we didn't progress through to the national competition, we should give a big well done to Dylan, Lucy, Sanjeevani, Harry, Joseph, Liam, Daniel & Hugh!



F1 In Schools

On Friday, 7th March, The Crypt School competed in the F1 in schools regional finals, a competition that challenges students to design, manufacture, and race miniature F1 cars in a drag race. This year, the school were represented by two outstanding teams: Ceres Racing in the Professional Class and Altais Racing in the Development Class.

Ceres Racing successfully achieved the joint third-fastest car in the competition! However speed is only one element of the judging criteria. F1 in schools has very strict criteria and regulations for the cars engineering. In such that while some teams may have built faster cars, these teams would have faced harsh penalties due to breaking the rules. Ceres Racing took a different approach, it was their ever focus on coherent design that earned them the 'Best Engineered Car' Award!



F1 in Schools places equal attention to the business of the racing team. Teams must secure sponsorships, manage budgets, and source materials to develop and promote their racing brand. Their strategic approach and attention to detail also earned them the Sponsorship & Marketing Award!

Altais Racing also showcased their skills, securing an impressive 3rd place out of 22 teams in the Development Class! Their innovation and teamwork earned them nominations for both the Sponsorship & Marketing Award and Research & Development.



With Ceres Racing set to compete in the National Finals, their focus now shifts to preparing for the next challenge. The finals will take place from 25th to 27th March at the Magna Science Adventure Centre in Rotherham, where we will go up against the best teams in the country.

Congratulations to both Ceres Racing and Altais Racing—you have made The Crypt School incredibly proud. Bring on the Nationals!

A big well done to teams Ceres: Joshua, Michalina, James, Jack, Dylan and Orson. Also to team Altais: Niall, James, Thomas, Edwin, Horia and Oliver.

MUSIC

We had a triumphant evening at Gloucester Cathedral on Wednesday, as we joined the Lay Clarks and Junior Choristers for their Evensong Service. Led by Mr Partington, with Mr Hope providing the organ accompaniment. For many, this was their first time singing in a cathedral evensong and we were really proud of the professionalism and standard set. The blend between our singers and the Cathedral choir was outstanding. A really special moment was hearing Parry's I Was Glad in its full anthemic strength as our singers, confident and joyful, embraced the challenge and performed magnificently. All the hard work certainly paid off, with wonderful memories to cherish!

We are now focusing on our Spring Concert performance which will take place on Tuesday 25th March. Our choir have been practising with great determination, and made great progress in the Kyrie, Sanctus and Benedictus of The Armed Man. Our orchestra have also been making a wonderful sound with the West Side Story and Symphony No. 41, with refinement and polish to take place! A note to say the whole school is invited to attend the Spring Concert, with tickets available on ParentPay. Only those who are performing in the event have been sent a letter and form. We are busy raising funds for our music department, to purchase new resources and to upgrade old equipment. It would be wonderful to have a packed hall!

After our successful application to the Cheltenham Jazz Festival, our Jazz Band will be performing in Montpellier Gardens on Sunday 4th May at 10.30am, as part of the Jazz It Up! programme. A letter will be going out soon to those who have attended rehearsals. If you wish for your child to play in this, please encourage them to attend our Friday rehearsal with Mr Rushton. It is an exciting event full of bands playing a selection from jazz classics to popular favourites.

Year 9 Boys Rugby - Mr Hart



Wednesday 5th March was a very special day for all those involved in the boys year 9 rugby team. This was the final of the EDF Cup. In order to reach the final you have to beat every team. I know that sounds obvious but there are different finals on the day for those teams that lost in earlier rounds. What every team is striving for is to reach the EDF Cup Final. Wins against Churchdown, Deer Park and a semi-final win by 10 points to 8 against Marling meant that Crypt made the final for the first time in 3 years.

This was an incredible achievement from a team that suffered early losses at the start of the season. In an ironic twist the team we were going to play in the final were an unbeaten team from Dean Close coached by our ex-Director of Sport Mr Bawden.

The kick off was under lights at 7.00 and we managed to secure the home changing room. You can tell from the boys' reaction that this was a special moment. Eventually it was time to run out onto the pitch as a team and try and create some history.

Our message to the boys before we went out was to make a statement early, to plant a seed of doubt into the opposition that this was not going to be as easy as most people thought it would. And we delivered. George put the kick off high and short which resulted in a knock on, scrum to us and eventually the first try. It was clear from then this was going to be a

competitive game of rugby. Trys were exchanged and going into half time Dean Close had a healthy lead.

The second half can be a time when the boys tire but they went into another gear and with 10 mins to go Crypt were leading. The class of Dean Close was always evident and their full back was carving us apart and Dean Close scored under the posts to lead by 2 points. With 90 seconds to go we were awarded a scrum but George was down injured. He was happy to try and continue so this was our last chance. The ball came out of the scrum and into George's hands. He passed 2 players then went for the most audacious of chips over their defence. The ball seemed to hang in the air long enough for some of the coaches to doubt that decision. However, the ball bounced beautifully up into the hands of George to score what was the winning try.

Not since 2016 has Crypt won the EDF CUP so the celebrations were wild. This success is an incredible example of effort and resilience. The boys could have easily been lacking motivation at the start of the year with several heavy defeats. However, they kept belief and bringing in 2 further coaches in Mr Dix and Mr Curruthers made all the difference.

Having been at the Crypt for many years now this is one of the proudest moments in my teaching career. The whole squad was amazing and proves what staying together as a team can achieve. We will be watching the whole game again next Thursday to celebrate again what an incredible achievement this is. Hopefully we can put the link on the school website for others to enjoy the game.

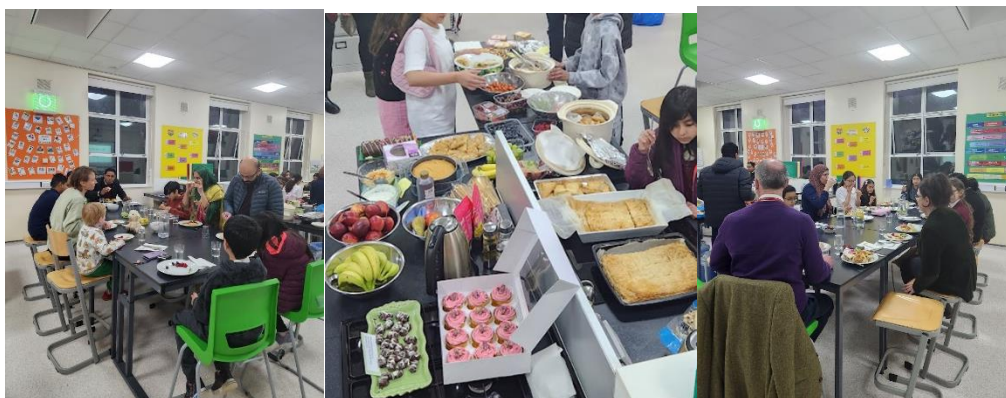
Community Iftar

We are thrilled to share the success of our recent Community Iftar, held on Thursday 13th March 2025. It was a truly special evening that reflected our school vision of ensuring that all our Cryptians flourish, as our school community came together to celebrate Ramadan. The enthusiasm and support from students, parents/carers, and staff were heartwarming, and it was fantastic to see such a diverse gathering embracing this significant occasion. The event provided a unique opportunity for everyone, regardless of faith, to experience the meaning and spirit of Ramadan alongside our Muslim Cryptians.

As the sun set at 18:13, we collectively broke fast, sharing delicious food and meaningful conversations. A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to the feast, whether by bringing a dish, helping with the setup, or simply attending and making the event so memorable. Your kindness and generosity truly embodied the spirit of community.

The evening was a testament to our values of kindness, pride, and respect that we uphold at The Crypt School. We hope this will be the first of many such gatherings that foster a sense of belonging and understanding within our community.

Thank you once again to all who participated and made the event such a success. We look forward to more opportunities to come together and celebrate the diversity that makes our school so special.



Calling All Young Bakers! 🍰 🎂

We're excited to share that applications are now open for the 11th series of *Junior Bake Off*! This popular Channel 4 show celebrates the incredible baking talent of young people across Britain, and we'd love for our students to get involved.

If you're aged 9-15 and have a passion for baking, this is your chance to showcase your skills on TV! Filming will take place from July 2025, but applications close **on Sunday, 23rd March 2025**—so don't miss out!

To apply, visit www.applyforjuniorbakeoff.co.uk. For any questions, you can contact the team at applyforjuniorbakeoff@loveproductions.co.uk or call **0207 067 4833**.

Happy baking and good luck! 🍪 ✨ Mr Antonious

Library News

Last week was full of quizzes and dressing up to celebrate World Book Day. The year 7 and 8 received a book token which they can use for a free book from a local book shop or use towards paying for a new book. The year 7's also received one of the free book choices in their English lesson, which has proven to be popular. Hopefully they will enjoy the book.



Thursday saw Y7 and Y8 dressing up. Lots of different character costumes walking around the school. The tutor groups were judged by Mr Bowen – Head of Year 7 and Miss Searle – Head of Year 8. The winning tutor group received a sweet treat. The winning tutor group for year 7 was 7WEH and for year 8 was 8DW. Well done everyone, having the crocodile from Peter Pan (Hunter 8DW) come to visit me in the library was a real treat.



The quizzes got the students thinking and I am pleased to announce that Lily 7JC won the £10 book token along with Esther 8JC and Amelie 7WEH who were runners up and will receive a free book. The sixth form/staff quiz was won by Joe 13CM by naming all the book covers correctly

This week is British Science Week. There is a display of science fiction and non-fiction books in the library. They have already peeked interest with me having to top the display up and couple of times. There will be another quiz taking place for the next couple of weeks with first prize being Tim Peake – SPACE – The Human Story.

Over the last 4 weeks we have been running Readathon with year 7. The students were asked if they would get sponsorship for reading. I am very pleased to say that they managed to raise £316.00 for the Read for Good charity. The Read for Good Programme provides a regular supply of brand-new books along with storyteller visits to brighten up the days of children in all the UK's main children's hospitals.

The students have been sent a video message to say thank you from Read for Good which they will see in their English lesson. <https://vimeo.com/851288632/03aae5f07b?share=copy>

Well Done Year 7!

In the library we also have a display of authors who celebrate their birthdays in March. They include James Pattison and Sarah J Maas. The display has some interesting facts about the authors lives and interests along with some of the books they have written.

IT Online Shop

The iPad accessory store where you can buy items such as pencils or replacement cases at a discount will is now open and will close at the end of March. Once the store is closed all orders will be shipped to the school for distribution to the students.

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

There is also a link on the iPad page of the website (under our parents)

Is your child eligible for Free School Meals?

If you feel your child may be eligible for Free School Meals but they aren't already receiving them, check eligibility here: [Apply for free school meals | Gloucestershire County Council](#)



The Crypt School Spring Concert

Join us on 25th March
for a lovely evening of
incredible music

Over 65s- £5

Adults- £8

Under 18s- Free

Tickets available
through ParentPay

Highlights:

- Choir: Armed Man Choral Suite- Karl Jenkins
- Orchestra : Radetzky March- Richard Strauss
- Orchestra: Mozart Symphony 41- W.A Mozart
- A range of other solos and student-led ensembles

7PM
DON'T
MISS IT!

All proceeds go to
funding our music
department