

14th November 2025

Dear parents/carers and students,

I hope that this letter home finds you all well.



Remembrance at Crypt

Our two remembrance services held on Tuesday 11th of November, were I think a wonderfully fitting tribute to the 136 Old Cryptians who died in the First and Second World Wars, and who were the focus of our act of remembrance on that morning. I am hugely indebted to all those who played a part in making those services, which were attended by everyone in the school, such a moving, poignant and important occasion. In particular, my thanks go to our talented musicians, for the outstanding music, Mr Stanlake and Mrs Wasley, for their work in preparing the school for the services and to our Head Boy Liam Page and Head Girl Tianna Klaric for their readings and citation; to Oliver Beardsall for his moving speech, and to year 7 students - Rudra and Anu - for their laying of the wreaths in remembrance of our OC's on behalf of us all.

Above all though, my thanks go to Mrs Gemma Hargraves for acting as our guest of honour, for sharing her experiences with us and for offering us all such a moving, poignant and personal insight into what remembrance means to her.



Bath University MFL visit

Thank you to Mr Hooper (MFL) for organising a visit from the University of Bath to talk about modern foreign language learning at university, and careers that are available to those who study a foreign language both at school and university. A most inspiring time for those who attended.

Year 9 GCSE Options Assembly

As year 9 students move further on in their academic studies this year, they will naturally be giving significant thought to their GCSE option choices. To help them in their decision making, Mr Biggs (Deputy Head - academic) and some of our head of department who offer subjects at GCSE which are



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not taught in KS3, led an extended assembly for them on Thursday morning, setting out the options available to students to study in years 10 and 11 and advice on how to make their choices. Before the students in year 9 make their final choices in March 2026, parents/carers will have had a report, a parents' consultation evening and a GCSE options information evening in school: these events will help enable parents/carers to offer support and guidance to their children on their GCSE option choices.

School Musical - Oliver! 28 -29th November

Rehearsals are gathering pace as we approach the dates of the staging of Oliver! here at Crypt. On Tuesday, the cast and musicians were surprised by a visit from Mark Lester who played Oliver in the 1968 film and who lives locally. It was wonderful for the current students to listen to his memories of playing Oliver and his career path thereafter.

Sporting fixtures

After much success last week, our teams have been playing competitive fixtures again this week across many sports: netball (including a cup fixture away against Millfield School), rugby and football with years 8-13 teams all playing rugby matches tomorrow against Pate's. Thank you to those students who have taken up one of our school gym memberships this year, which will help pay for maintenance and improvements to that wonderful school facility. Currently, director of sport, Ms Leask, and our sports academy and S&C coach Ed Archer are discussing ways in which we can further improve that facility and any monies received through gym membership will help ensure those plans come to fruition in the near future.

SARA - Severn Area Rescue Association

You may recall that the school raised money at the end of last term, to support the work of SARA, on the initiative of year 13 student Callum Davies. Callum received, via school, a letter from SARA yesterday, thanking him for his initiative in holding a non-uniform day in aid of their work which in the end raised a significant sum of money. The letter said that the money raised would "...pay for more than 20% of a whole year's boat fuel, or 50% of our medical expenditure in a year." Well done indeed to Callum and to the school community of their support of this local charity.



Children in Need - non uniform day

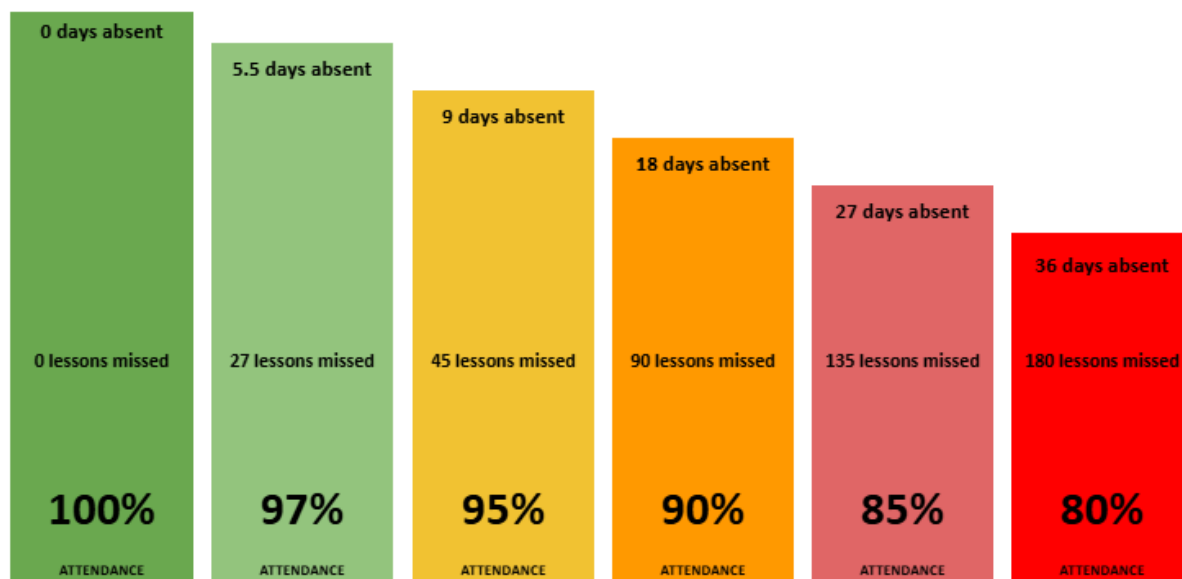
It was good to see many students (and parents/carers) contributing generously to the Children in Need day today in school, through paying to wear non-uniform in school.

Attendance Matters

Although some absences, such as illness and family emergencies by example, are unavoidable, it is critically important that every student attends school each day that the school is open to them. Attendance matters: to maximise the benefits that come with attending school - not just in terms of academic progress, but also in terms of their own personal development as young people - students need to be in school, and in their lessons.

I am pleased that attendance levels at The Crypt School are very good; however, some students are missing too many days of school which will certainly have a cumulative impact on their academic progress and personal development; furthermore, they miss out on key school experiences that build memories, positive character traits and friendships. You can see from the chart below that even a few days missed from school will impact significantly on lesson contact time, and as a consequence of an individual student's progress. Thank you for your support in ensuring every student attends school each day that school is open to them.

Attendance matters - Every day counts



Success is earned one day at a time

With my continued best wishes,

Nicholas Dyer
Headmaster

School Dates

17–18 November	Y7–11 Flu Immunisations
20–23 November	Cologne Trip
25 November	SENDCo afternoon 2.30pm–4pm
25 November	CSPTA Meeting S1 6.30pm
28 November	School production Oliver! 7pm
29 November	School production Oliver! 2pm & 7pm
2 December	Y7 Christmas Lunch
3 December	Y8 & 11 Christmas Lunch
4 December	Y9 & 10 Christmas Lunch
4 December	Y9 GCSE Option Evening 5.40pm–8pm
5 December	Christmas Fair 6–8pm
10 December	Y13 Business trip Birmingham
11 December	Christmas Jumper Day
11 December	Sixth Form Christmas Lunch
15 December	CSPTA Meeting S1 6.30pm
18 December	Christmas Carol Service St Barnabas 6.30pm
19 December	Term ends 12.30pm

Christmas Lunch 2025 – Book Now on ParentPay

We're delighted to invite students to enjoy our festive Christmas lunch this December! To secure a place, parents and carers are asked to make a £3.50 payment via ParentPay. Please note that this payment is non-refundable, and students entitled to Free School Meals must still book a meal through ParentPay to ensure their Christmas lunch is reserved.

Payment deadline: Sunday 23rd November.

Unfortunately, it will not be possible to pay or book after this date.



Christmas Lunch Dates:

- Year 7: Tuesday 2nd December
- Years 8 & 11: Wednesday 3rd December
- Years 9 & 10: Thursday 4th December
- Sixth Form: Thursday 11th December

Festive Menu:

- Main: Roast Turkey and Stuffing
or Roasted Vegetable, Cranberry and Cheese Puff Pastry Wreath
- Sides: Roast Potatoes, Christmas Vegetable Medley, Sticky Chipolata and Gravy
- Dessert: Rudolph's Nose Cookie or Cinnamon Popcorn

For those not wishing to have the Christmas lunch, grab-and-go items will still be available as usual.

OLIVER! – Live on Stage! 🎵

School production

Students had an exciting surprise this week when Mark Lester (who played Oliver in the 1968 film) visited the cast of the show! Mark kindly answered questions about his experience in the film, as well as his early career as an actor. We're incredibly grateful that he gave up his time to visit us!



Tickets for the show can be purchased here:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/oliver-tickets-1832910818599>

Drama trip

Tickets for our next drama trip are going on Parent Pay on Monday (17th) November in the morning. This is to see The Woman in Black on Tuesday January 27th in Birmingham (evening performance). Our theatre trips are very popular and tickets sell quickly, so do be quick if your child is interested in attending.

A letter with more details will be placed on Parent Pay Monday. Please note that this trip is only open to year 8 and above (as the show is quite scary!)

PTA Christmas Fair

Would your company, or someone you know, be willing to donate a prize to the raffle at the Crypt School PTA Christmas Fair? We've been lucky to have received some wonderful donations from businesses in the past and all monies raised go directly to supporting student projects.

Any donations received are referenced in the newsletter which goes to all parents as well as at the event itself and our social media posts. If you or someone you know would be willing to donate a prize, please get in touch via email (cspta@cryptschool.org).



Music Newsletter

The Cantores Cryptienses choir provided a moving and respectful contribution to this year's Remembrance Day service. Their performance demonstrated great sensitivity, musicality, and reverence throughout the occasion, helping to create a reflective and dignified atmosphere.

The service began with inspiring introductory speeches by Mr Dyer and Mrs Hargraves, whose thoughtful words set the tone for the morning. Their reflections on courage, sacrifice, and gratitude offered a powerful reminder of the meaning behind the day, encouraging all present to pause and remember with sincerity and pride.



A particular highlight of the service was the choir's emotional rendition of A Flower Remembered by John Rutter. The piece was performed with heartfelt expression, its gentle harmonies capturing the solemn mood of remembrance and offering a poignant tribute to those who have given their lives in service. A huge thank you to Charles and Monty for their heartfelt rendition of The Last Post.

The choir also delivered stirring and triumphant performances of well-loved hymns, including I Vow To Thee My Country, Jerusalem, and Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer. Each was sung with conviction and clarity, encouraging a strong sense of unity and pride among the congregation.

We are proud of how the Cantores Cryptienses choir served with great professionalism and care, their music enhancing both the emotional and ceremonial aspects of the service. The inspiring words of Mr Dyer and Mrs Hargraves, combined with the choir's uplifting performances, ensured a truly memorable and heartfelt commemoration of Remembrance Day.

The Carol Service is taking place on Thursday 18th December at St. Barnabas' Church.

Symphony Orchestra have begun learning their Christmas repertoire, with a few favourites including A Christmas Festival and Sleigh Ride. Vox Floreat are also performing a selection of timely pieces including O Radiant Dawn.

Letters have been sent out to those who wish to participate in the carol service. Please can you confirm your child's attendance no later than Friday 28th November. There won't be any more forms accepted after this time to ensure all students are accounted for.

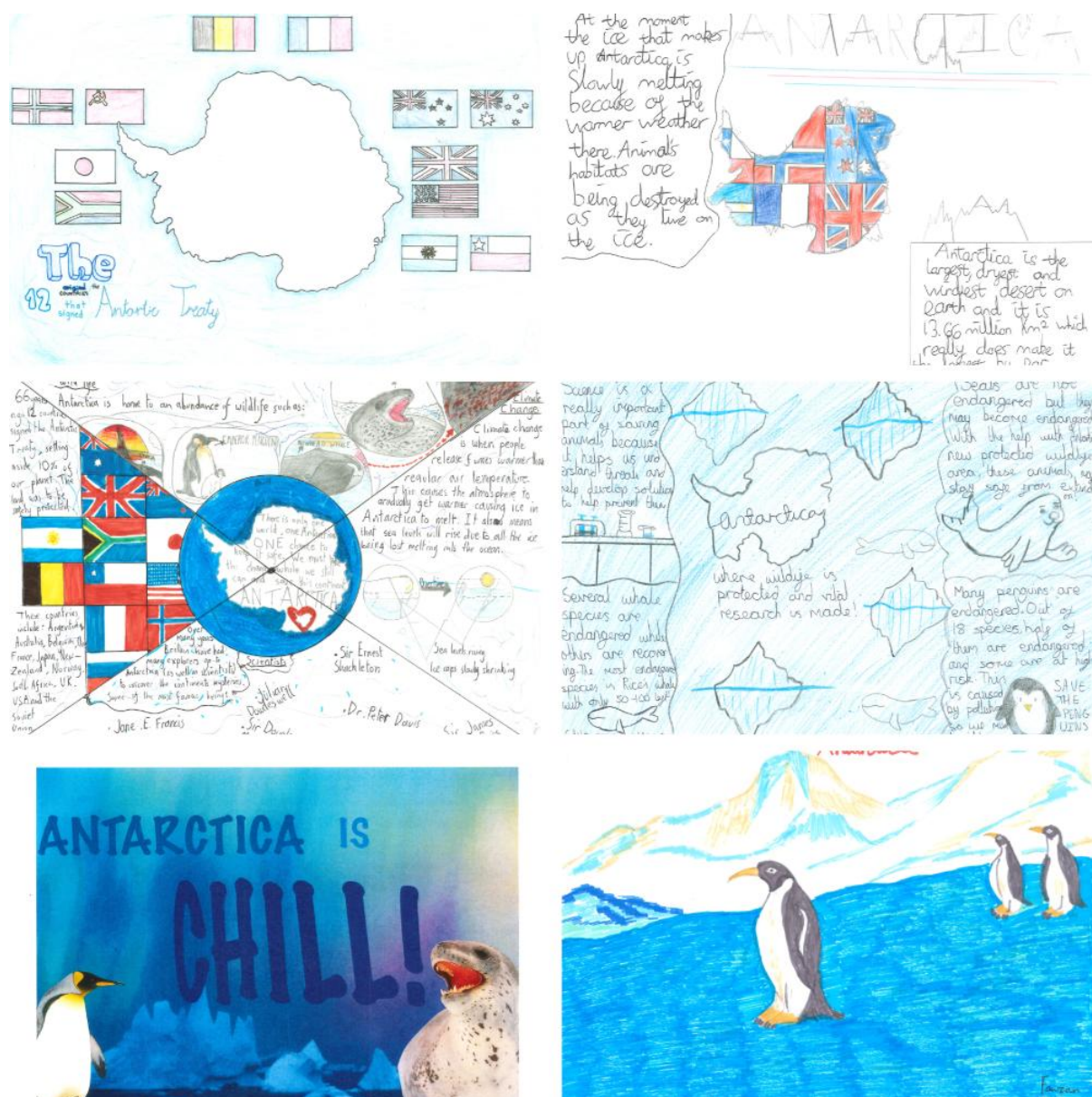
Geography Newsletter

The geography department has been running two competitions in term 1:

1) The ONS Data Challenge was aimed at geography and maths Sixth Form students. This was organised by the Office for National Statistics and students were challenged to investigate an area of England and Wales using the 2021 census data. Participants had to select specific pieces of data and present this using the maps available on the ONS website. They then had to describe their area, compare it to another local area, identify and explore a particular issue arising from the data and, finally, make a policy suggestion which would tackle the identified issue. Our students looked at both local areas and those further afield such as London and Liverpool. They looked at issues surrounding employment, overcrowding and educational attainment which resulted in policy recommendations

which were practical and realistic. Congratulations to Josh G, Adam W, Tom S and Michal P on your entries which are a tribute to the time and effort you put into your work.

2) Antarctic Flags - Each year the UK Polar Network encourages school students to explore life in Antarctica and the challenges that the continent currently faces. Students are asked to create a flag to illustrate a key characteristic or challenge. Thank you to Sam S, Alex V, Sophie T, Fawzan, Sabienne, Ayaan S and Teddy H for your flags. The flags have now been sent off and we look forward to receiving back the photos of your flags being shown by Antarctic research scientists at some point in the next 6 months.



MFL News



Year 9 French enjoyed exploring three French poems and recorded readings of the one they found most poignant in commemoration of Armistice Day.

The students enjoyed understanding a poem of such importance in a different language and realised how important the Remembrance Day is throughout the world.

Enrico Cecconi, Associate Professor in Italian and Admissions Tutor Bath University MFL department, gave a stimulating and enlightening talk on modern languages to Year 9 students and the GCSE linguists in Years 10 and 11. The 6th Form linguists also enjoyed an informal chat with him over a pizza lunch. He was a charming Italian ambassador for MFL and will inspire our next generation to linguistic enjoyment and success.



The Invictus project

To celebrate the 150th writing of 'Invictus' by ex-Cryptian William Henley, Crypt students have been collaborating on an exhibition which will run from now until the end of the year.

This poem is famous, both in Britain and around the world, and Crypt students have traced the myriad of ways it has influenced figures from Nelson Mandela, to Winston Churchill.

The themes of resilience, suffering & inner strength are all relevant to us all today. During Hidden Histories club students have researched, written out & presented various topics, and this makes up the display at St Mary De Crypt. Please do visit the exhibition (it is free) and the student's work can also be seen [here](#).

Online safety - Discord



Discord appears to be increasingly popular at home, especially with some of our younger pupils. Pupils should be over 13 to use this app and there are concerns about the content and language used on the platform. Further information for parents is here: <https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/apps-and-platforms/social-media/discord/>

As ever, we suggest parents monitor their child's mobile phone and devices to see who they may be communicating with and what is being shared.