

15th November 2024

Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

I do hope that this correspondence home finds you well.



Firstly, many congratulations indeed, to our Tenpin School bowling team, who competed in the Gloucester Tenpin Panathlon Bowling Event last Friday, sponsored by St James's Place, and came first. A really wonderful and successful day out for those involved.

It has been a busy week, commencing with an anti-bullying assembly on Monday, followed by an extended tutor time activity, in which students considered what constitutes bullying behaviour and its impact on others, with some students designing anti-bullying posters/leaflets - the best of which will be displayed around the school. To further raise the profile of our anti-bullying work in school, which includes the appointment of student anti-bullying ambassadors, a scavenger hunt was held on Thursday, which saw lots of students taking part and in doing so, learning more about our anti-bullying ambassadors, who they are and their role in school.

On Wednesday, we began the year 9 GCSE options process, with an assembly to set out the GCSE curriculum and what choices students can make, with informative talks given by our subject leaders, in areas not studied at KS3, such as Business Studies; or in those subjects offered at KS3, but whose GCSE courses differ significantly from that taught in year 9, such as GCSE PE and drama; and from the three science heads of department, aimed at helping students consider whether to study three sciences separately, or to study GCSE combined science, which equates to two GCSEs. I hope the year 9 students found that useful; we now look forward to the Year 9 GCSE Options Parent Information Evening to be held in school on Tuesday 26th of November. To help students make decisions regarding their GCSE options, and to offer parents/carers more information please visit our website [Our Curriculum | The Crypt School](#)

On Thursday, last year's Flying Start Challenge team were treated to a tour of the Dowty site in Gloucester which they very much enjoyed. We look forward to seeing how this year's team progress in the competition. My thanks to Mr Croft once again for providing this opportunity for our students.

I do hope that the year 11 (online) parent's evening held last night was useful, for both the students and for their parents/carers. As year 11 approach their formal mock exams, which



will be held in the hall in December, and decisions about their post-16 options, guidance and support about how each student can further improve across their subjects is always well received, whilst being an important way in which we can help students secure the grades they need to move into their preferred post-16 pathway.

Today was a non-uniform day, in aid of Children in Need. It was great to see so many involved in raising money for the charities associated with Children in Need: by breaktime you had raised £1269. My thanks to everyone.

As usual, lots of sporting activities and fixtures have occurred this week, which seek to cater to the needs of the student body as a whole. The school prides itself on offering opportunities across a wide variety of sports, rather than focussing upon just one or two, and thereby maximising opportunities for everyone to become involved in both recreational, as well in many competitive sports.

It was great to see the main hall back in operation this week, following over £500,000 of remedial work, which has been carried out over the last few months. Most of that money was spent on external roof repairs and waterproofing, while internally the old curtains have been replaced, as has the stage lighting equipment, with the hall fully repainting. My thanks to the CSPTA for their generous contribution towards that project.

Later today, at St Mary de Crypt Church, where the school was founded in 1539 by Dame Joan Cooke, our dramatists, led by Mr Roberts, are due to perform extracts from Treasure Island. The character of Long John Silver was inspired in part by Stevenson's friend, Old Cryptian and poet William Henley, most famous for his poem Invictus. Next year marks the 150th anniversary of Henley's poem Invictus, and the story of Henley's life and achievements, his strength of character forged in adversity will also be explored through a presentation written by current year 13 student Freddie and read out by Christopher (year 13) prior to the performance. Good luck and my thanks to all involved.

With continued best wishes,



Nicholas Dyer
Headmaster

School Dates

18th November – Last date to order Christmas Lunch

20th - 22nd November – Year 7 Residential Trip

26th November – Year 9 Options Evening 5.40pm - 8pm
28th November - 1st December – Cologne Christmas Market Trip
28th November – Teenage Voices Gloucester Cathedral
29th November – CSPTA Christmas Fair 6pm-8pm
5th December – Year 12 Parent/Carer Evening (Virtual)
10th December – CSPTA, 6pm, S-Block
11th December – St Mary Redcliffe Bristol Carol Concert
12th December – Theatre Trip, War Horse, Oxford
17th December – Christmas Carol Service, St Barnabas
20th December – 12.30pm End of Term
6th January – Start of Term Week 2
14th January – CSPTA Meeting (6pm, Sports Block)
16th January – Year 13 Parents Evening
22nd January – Year 9 Showcase Concert 6pm – 7.30pm
3rd February – Year 11 Information Evening
5th February – Music Theatre Showcase 6pm – 8pm
6th February – Year 10 Parents Evening Virtual

Christmas Fair

There are a few places left for stallholders at the fair. If you would like to attend, please register here: <https://forms.gle/MSGW7LdedKi6bCX69>

Thank you for your help with the raffle. Tickets to be returned to reception by 27th November.

The PTA are still looking for tombola donations: bottles of wine, toiletries, small toys, ornaments, chocolate/sweets, unwanted gifts - these can be handed in at school reception. Please contact cspta@cryptschool.org if you would like to donate a prize for the raffle. They would also really welcome donation of cakes on the day of the sale



Finally, you can now book for your little ones to visit Santa in his grotto! £5 per child with a wrapped gift to take away. All the information you need to book is [here](#).

Tempest Photography

Tempest Photography are pleased to report the whole school group photograph is available to view and order via the following weblink:

<https://http.st/GL2041-203WSG>

Your order will be sent direct to an address of your choice.

For assistance, please call 01736 752411

Option 3 - Place an order (P&P applies)

Option 5 - Customer services

Do take a look. We were so lucky with the weather and the photo is great!

Changes to School iPad Rules

Now the Hall is back in use iPads will no longer be allowed in the canteen

Year 10 and 11 may use their iPads in the Hall. KS3 may use their iPads at clubs, eg Blooket, in the Library or outside. This change is in response to current research about the negative impact of screentime and online content, also in response to student and parent feedback. Thank you for understanding that this change is to support student wellbeing.

If parents would like support and advice with screentime at home, this information may be useful: [Screen time advice hub for parents | Internet Matters](#)

We also suggest parents regularly check their child's devices (including social media accounts) and discuss the content they see online. This is to protect them and support them if they see or experience any unkindness online.

Rugby

During match days on a Saturday, we provide refreshments to parents. These are available from the Pavilion, which is a short walk from the rugby pitches. These include bacon rolls, as well as tea and coffee. Should you wish to pre order a Bacon Roll, please complete the appropriate Google Form below and we will have it ready for you. Refreshments are available during the games and pre-ordering is **not** essential, although we may sell out before you have the opportunity to get your hands on one!

All funds raised goes to our Sports Foundation, to further improve Sport at school.

16 November v [Pates](#)

30 November v [Hereford Cathedral School](#)

Online Safety – Android Phones

Google Family Link is a free way to set parental controls across Android devices. Manage a child device user by allowing parents to set digital rules and setting up supervised devices.

You can manage app access, set screen time and device bedtime remotely to help them build good online safety habits when they're connected to the internet.

[Google Family Link - Parental controls guide](#) | [Internet Matters](#)

Christmas Lunch

A festive menu for Christmas Lunch. At the top, there is a logo of a chocolate cake with a cherry on top, next to the text "Let the 'feastivities' begin!". The menu lists two main options: "Roast Turkey and Stuffing" or "Cheesy Cauliflower & Leek Puff Pastry Wreath", both served "with Roasties, Vegetable Medley, Gravy and Yorkshire Pudding" and "and Snowy White Chocolate Blondie" or "Chocolate Cheesecake". The price is listed as "£3.50" and the booking deadline is "Book your lunch by 18th November on ParentPay". At the bottom, there is a logo for "ASPENS".

Let the "feastivities" begin!

Roast Turkey and Stuffing
or
Cheesy Cauliflower & Leek Puff Pastry Wreath
with
Roasties, Vegetable Medley, Gravy and Yorkshire Pudding
and
Snowy White Chocolate Blondie
or
Chocolate Cheesecake

£3.50
Book your lunch by 18th November on ParentPay

ASPENS

Tuesday 3rd December Year 8 and Year 11

Wednesday 4th December Year 7, Year 12 and Year 13

Thursday 5th December Year 9 and Year 10

Book your Lunch by the 18th November on ParentPay

To order a vegan meal please email hwasley@crypt.gloucs.sch.uk

There is no cost to students with free school meals by they must still order a lunch on ParentPay.

Library

We are now back into the full swing of our term leading up to the Christmas break. I will be running a Christmas Quiz to challenge the students again, our Halloween Quiz went very well.



Halloween Quiz Results –

Congratulations to – Isabel 8JC for winning the black chocolate rose and a book of her choice.

Runners up – Emilie 9WEH and Jackson 7JC who win a magnetic bookmark and some sweets.

I had over 50 students take part who all received merits for entering.

Word of the Week – Every week I put a new word in the Daily News and display on the noticeboard on the English corridor. If students use the word in any piece of schoolwork and come and show me, they receive 3 merits.

Lily 7JC used the word this week in her work this week, the word was Effervescent, well-done Lily.

New Stock to the Junior Library

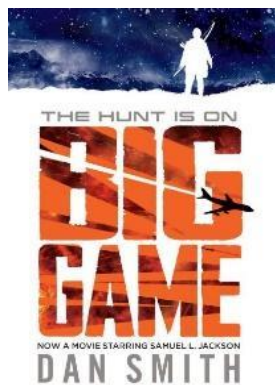


Ironheart

[Allan Burroughs](#) and [Fred Van Deelen \(Illustrator\)](#)

Since her father went missing while prospecting for oil in Siberia, life has been tougher than ever for India Bentley. Little does she know that he was searching for Ironheart, a legendary fortress containing the secrets of the old world. A place some say could save humanity... or destroy the world.

Along with tech-hunter Verity Brown and her android, Calculus, a killer from the old world turned protector in the new, India must make the journey to remote Siberia to try to find her father and finish his work. But there are others fighting to find Ironheart too - and they have very different goals in mind. If India fails, it won't just be her father who pays the price. It will cost her the Earth.



Big Game

[Dan Smith](#)

13-year-old Oskari is sent into the cold wilderness on an ancient test of manhood. He must survive armed only with a bow and arrow. But instead, he stumbles upon an escape pod from a burning airliner: Air Force One. Terrorists have shot down the President of the United States. The boy hunter and the world's most powerful man are suddenly the hunted, in a race against a deadly enemy.

I do ask students if they can recommend any fiction or non-fiction books, and I try my best to stock them. We do welcome donations to the library. If you have any books you are sorting through to give you more room – I do frequently – please do think of us at Crypt. All donations are very welcome – books suitable for year 7 to year 13 are very much appreciated.

I am in the process of adding new upper school and sixth form fiction for the readers in year 10 and above.

Music

We would like to welcome everyone back to an exciting term as we prepare for the seasonal event cycle. Our musicians have been extraordinary in their achievements over the course of Term 1, with our Autumn Concert providing a flourishing bouquet of high standards and talent in music.

With our new cohort of Year 7s and welcoming back Old Cryptians, our Symphony Orchestra represented all that we aim to achieve, an inclusive and diverse community of music makers, as they opened with Mozart's Symphony No. 40: 1st Movement, led by our very own Mr Whittaker.



Our Young Voices have increased in number and performed some wonderful presentations of This is Me and Go The Distance, thanks to the tremendous work of Mrs Banda. Their confidence and performing ability has grown so much since the start of the year and we are excited to see their talents continue to develop.

Junior Brass Project provided a rousing rendition of Another Day and Mbale Magic by Andy Norman, with Mr Storer guiding many new players from 'Try a Brass Instrument' workshops to performance standard within the first weeks of term.

Jazz Band concluded the first half with Autumn Leaves by Josef, accompanied by some of our Year 11 soloists and led by their brilliant ensemble leader Mr Rushton. This was followed with a jovial start to the second half with Tenor Madness by Sonny Robbins.

We encourage students who provide innovative ideas for musical engagement to create new opportunities to others who may benefit. Jai is a stellar example, utilising his percussion specialism to lead the Samba Band with an original piece of work. They have been rehearsing every Thursday lunchtime for the concert and we look forward to hearing more from them soon.



A Cappella Choir, under the guidance of Mr Clark, created a sombre and reflective soundscape with *Come Sleep* by Charles Wood, utilising the acoustics of the Sports Hall to his advantage for a Cathedral-esque sound.

One of our new projects this year includes Musical Theatre Club, a collaborative project between Drama

and Music to provide foundational skills in theatre performance. The sessions are held by Mrs Crozier and Mr Slemensek, who were given the opportunity to showcase the students with *Seasons of Love* from *Rent*. The song has a soulful influence with a message of how we change in the course of a year, and it was lovely to see our students immerse themselves in the storytelling.

We would like to thank all our soloists for the hours of preparation and commitment to their musicmaking. To our piano soloists Amira, Erika and Rayna for their outstanding attention to detail and practice, Jai for his detailed marimba playing, Aleksia for her excellent violin work, Julian for his saxophone expertise, Jessica for her brilliant clarinet playing, Tifaine for her expressive singing and Robin for his virtuosic flute piece.

Finally, our orchestra concluded the festivities with a familiar favourite *Hungarian Dances No. 1* by Brahms, underpinning a dramatic climax of brass and percussion.

On Friday 8th November, our Cantores Cryptienses choir set the atmosphere for a respectful and reflective Remembrance Service, leading the congregation of staff and students across the school with *Guide Me O Thou Great Redeemer*.

Following a reading of Psalm 46 by the Head Boy, the choir performed *They Shall Not Learn War*, a setting of Isaiah Chapter 2 originally commissioned for Exeter University Chamber Choir. Although the text derives from biblical origins, the sentiments laced with the phrases 'and they shall beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks' carries a resemblance to our fortitude in how to rebuild and honour the fallen from the devastating effects of war. When Harry Bradford of The Sixteen gave his advice on the text setting, he used this to help provide moments of emphasis and significance in the storytelling. Reverend Steve Ward then addressed the school emphasising that soldiers are human beings who are merely doing their job, in light of political or economic turmoil. This was followed by the ever-patriotic rendition of *I Vow To Thee My Country*, as a whole school performance.



With the traditional wreath-laying in memory of past students who fell in the First World War, the Head Girl stated 'We Will Remember Them'. Upon this, Year 10 trumpeter Charles stepped forward and delivered a truly pure and passionate tribute of The Last Post, reverberating across the Sports Hall and commencing the significant moment of silence. He handled the performance with much respect and care.

Our choir then echoed the poetical setting of Lawrence Binyon's For The Fallen, with music originally composed by Douglas Guest. The text was delivered with strong adherence to the messages 'At the going down of the sun' and 'we will remember them', playing respectfully to dynamic control and use of consonants. A high degree of precision was demonstrated in these performances and we would like to thank everyone's commitment to rehearsal attendance and working to bring out the best of these songs.

The service concluded with Parry's Jerusalem, sung with great emotional intensity and warmth, reflecting how dedicated our choir is in achieving outstanding work.

GABRIELI ROAR

Thank you to everyone who has applied to take part in Gabrieli Roar's A Grand Christmas Concert on Wednesday 11th December. All 65 places have now been booked and we cannot wait to recommence the magnificent Georgian Carols provided by Dr. Charles MacDougall. Please note that all participants need to attend every rehearsal on Wednesday lunchtimes and Thursday tutor times. If you foresee any difficulties please let us know now and we can offer a place to someone else. More concert details can be found below.

A GRAND GEORGIAN CHRISTMAS Join Gabrieli Roar for 'A Grand Georgian Christmas', a festive treat featuring the rich harmonies and spirited rhythms that once filled the village churches and parish halls of England. With over 4,000 young singers participating in eleven performances alongside Gabrieli's world-class musicians, audiences and singers alike are sure to delight in this vibrant, rustic, and cheerful music of the Georgian period.

Tickets for the concert are now available on the link below:

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/gabrieli/t-gapekdn>

Cross Country

A great effort from the 40 students who competed for the school in the district cross country race at Plock Court this week. We are still waiting for the team scores, but we had some outstanding individual performances.

Harrison and Enrico came across the line together to be joint first in the Junior boy's race with Ollie very close behind in 3rd.

Kimberley ran a very measured race to power away at the finish to win the junior girl's race.

Andrew C. controlled his race from start to finish to win comfortably the Inter Boys race.

Also qualifying for the next round in Newent are Rick, Ethan N and Nadia.

Well done to everyone who took part and thank you to Miss Leask, Mr Windsor and Mr Atkinson for helping on the day.

Elevate Education

Dear Parents,

We're excited to announce that Elevate Education will be hosting their next parent webinar on **memory** on November 19th.

Elevate works with our students, delivering high-impact workshops on study skills, motivation, wellbeing, and exam preparation. By tuning into their webinar series, you'll learn **how you can help support your child at home by reinforcing the skills they're learning at school.**

Sign up for the session below to learn how you can **help your child recall their syllabus content in an exam setting.**

How You Can Help Improve Your Child's Memory
Tuesday 19th November 6:00-7:00pm (GMT)

[Click here to register for free](#)

Free Winter Activities for Children, Young People & Families



An update on HAF booking this Winter...

We will continue to allow families time to browse all of the activities that are on offer two weeks before they are available to book online.

From 18 of November at 12pm, you will be able to view all the activities on offer in the Winter. This means you will be ready when **activity booking goes live at 12pm on the 2nd of December.**

The Winter HAF Activities will take place between 23rd of December and 3rd of January.

Activities for Families living in Gloucester City Can be found here: www.gloscityhaf.co.uk

Setting up a CABS account is easy:
Scan this QR Code with a phone camera for quick access



If you need any HAF related help then please contact us:

T: 07340 709 871

E: gloshafconnector@gmail.com

Follow us:



@gloscityhaf



Gloucester Food Bank



THIS CERTIFICATE IS PRESENTED TO:

THE CRYPT SCHOOL

THANK YOU FOR BEING OUR TINNED FRUIT CHAMPION

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT

THE TOTAL WEIGHT OF YOUR HARVEST DONATIONS IN 2024 CAME TO

129.9 kg (of which 95.3 kg was tinned fruit!)

THIS GENEROSITY IS GREATLY APPRECIATED BY THE FOODBANK TEAM

AND THOSE WE ARE ABLE TO HELP