

16th May 2025



Dear parents, carers and students,

I hope this newsletter home finds you all well.

GCSEs and A Levels started in earnest on Monday and continued across this week, with a large number of year 11 students opting to spend some of their time studying in school between their exams, which is very positive - study rooms will always be available for them, and for year 13, to use to study in if they so choose to do so. Year 11 study rooms will be staffed throughout the GCSE exam period. Year 7 end of year assessments began on Monday and ran throughout the week - I do hope these assessments went well for the year 7 cohort, outcomes of which will be reported home to families in due course. It is worth noting that students in year 12 sat their Core Maths examination this week: Core Maths is offered as an academic enrichment option to year 12 students and is studied by those whose A levels require mathematical understanding, but who are not studying maths A Level. I hope those exams progressed well.

Mr Foster (maths) reports of the school's great success in the Junior Maths Challenge held earlier in the school year: *'143 students sat the test (and) for the third year running we comfortably achieved more awards in total than any year since records began. 84% of students won an award compared to 50% nationwide. 16% of entries won gold compared to 8% nationwide (with) silver or above at 53% compared to 25% nationwide.'* What an achievement for the school as a whole, and for all the individuals who sat the challenging papers. Best in school was Hugo C, and best in year 7 was Elliot C.

Duke of Edinburgh practice expeditions continue this weekend, following last weekend's very successful bronze ones - with silver award participants involved on this occasion. Once again, I hope these trips are enjoyable experiences for all involved, and my thanks to the staff team involved in coordinating and overseeing the scheme in school.

On Monday many Crypt students attended the English School's Athletics competition held at the Prince of Wales Stadium in Cheltenham.

The Crypt School teams performed very highly indeed, with, as Mr Hart notes, *'some incredible individual performances.'* The team results were:



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The Crypt School
Educating students since 1539

Junior boys 4th

Junior girls 3rd

Inter girls 2nd

Inter boys 1st

This will mean that the school now qualifies in the inter boys category for the A final in Nuneaton on 17th June - the first time a Crypt team has made it through to an A final for 6 years. Congratulations to all our athletes, and my thanks to Mr Hart, Ms Leask, Mr Stanlake and Mr Atkinson for their work in enabling this success. Well done to the U15 girls handball team, who went to Plock Court on Tuesday and took part in the Regional handball competition. Ms Leask reports on their success later in this newsletter.

It has been a busy week of cricket, with year 7 students enjoying a tournament on Monday evening against St Peter's and Holmleigh Park schools, the 1st XI playing Pates on Wednesday and Dean Close on Thursday, alongside the year 10 and 9 teams, with other fixtures taking place tomorrow for the year 7-10 teams. Thanks to Mr Windsor and Germaine for organising these matches.

Staffing update for Term 6

The following staffing changes have been agreed, and which will come into effect in term 6, for the duration of one year to help support the school's work in the associated area:

Mr James Higgs - Associate Member of SLT for Teaching and Learning

Mr Christopher Germaine - Associate Member of SLT for Behaviour (years 7-11)

Heads of year changes, for Term 6:

Head of year 7 (into year 8) Mr Germaine

Head of year 10 (into year 11) Mr Windsor

Head of year 12 (into year 13) Mr Bevan

These changes allow Mr Bowen (current head of year 7) to oversee the term 6 induction arrangements of the new year 7 cohort, who start in September and for Ms Parkin to do the same for the new year 12 cohort; Mr Bevan and Mr Windsor, always oversee the academic and pastoral care of the year 13 and year 11 cohort's respectively. Other heads of year, will continue with their current year group in term 6 and across the next academic year.

With continued best wishes.

Yours sincerely,



Nicholas Dyer
Headmaster.

School Dates

19 May	Y12 Geography Field Trip
20 May	Y10 Water Sports Trip
23 May	End of Term 5
2 June	Term 6 Starts Week 1
5 June	Staff planning day: school closed to pupils. GCSE and A level exams continue in school.
10 June	CSPTA AGM and meeting 6pm S Block All welcome

Careers Insight Talks 2025 – An inspiring start to the series

As part of The Crypt School's coherent and well-structured Careers Programme, our 2025 Careers Insight Talk series launched in earnest on **Wednesday 14 May**. This initiative is designed to support our **Year 12 students** as they begin shaping their choices for life beyond school, and reflects our unwavering commitment to broadening their horizons.

In just the first week, students had the opportunity to attend five different sessions, covering diverse career areas including **Cyber Intelligence, Gap Years, Wealth Management, Civil Engineering, and Degree Apprenticeships**. With over 25 talks scheduled across the series, our students are gaining exceptional insight into a wide range of pathways.

A particular highlight came from **Quayside Wealth Management**, where we welcomed Alex Kell and Crypt School alumnus Will Bond. Their talk provided an engaging look into financial advising, underlining the importance of teamwork, hard work, and perseverance to succeed in the finance sector.

Isaac in Year 12 commented, "Today I feel I have been enlightened to the world of work, especially with regards to financial advising. The knowledge they provided was excellent and I feel I know a lot more now."

The competitive nature of Degree Apprenticeships was clearly illustrated in a session led by representatives from the **University of Exeter**. Students learned how these pathways combine rigorous academic learning with real-world work experience, and why they are in increasingly high demand among motivated school leavers.





Our talk on Gap Years, delivered by **Project Trust**, focused on the developmental benefits of taking a year out. Students discovered how a well-planned gap year can foster independence, enhance global awareness, and develop resilience – all of which are highly valued by universities and employers alike.

Mladen Dragojlovic from **Amey** offered insight into the dynamic and growing field of Civil Engineering. His session not only explored the variety of entry routes into the profession but also highlighted the competitive and evolving nature of the sector, especially in relation to sustainable infrastructure and technology.

A Year 12 commented, "I hadn't even thought of civil engineering until Y12, but then it came up on a careers profiler. I liked the idea of combining technical skills with time outdoors and the chance to travel. And there are always job opportunities for engineers."

Finally, a team of speakers from **Cyber and Intelligence International** – Sophie, Ryan and Maja – shared their experiences in the Intelligence and Cyber sector. Students learned that Gloucestershire, as home to GCHQ and related organisations, offers expanding career opportunities in cyber security and intelligence. With the UK cyber sector growing steadily each year and skills shortages still prevalent, this talk was especially relevant and timely.

We are incredibly proud of how our students have engaged with these opportunities and are deeply grateful to all the industry professionals who volunteer their time to inspire the next generation.

Looking ahead, next week promises even more exciting opportunities with talks scheduled on Production Management, Project Management, Software Engineering, and Technological Developments in the Police Force.

The Crypt School remains committed to offering outstanding guidance and real-world insight as our students take confident steps toward their futures.

Drama School production November 2025!

The drama and music departments are excited to announce that the school production for next academic year will be...

Oliver!

We are looking forward to staging a musical in the school hall (for the first time in several years) – but it's important to note that you don't have to be a confident singer to get involved. We welcome students of all abilities and experience to register interest and you only need to

audition if you would like to be considered for a named role. Any students that would like to be involved in the ensemble do not need to audition, they only need to email Mrs Crozier to express interest.

Key information:

-Show dates will be Thursday 27th November (1-3pm), Friday 28th November (7-9.30pm), Saturday 29th November (2-4.30pm and 7-9.30pm)

-You must be able to attend all rehearsals: Every Monday lunchtime in the music room and every Wednesday after school 3.30-5pm in the drama studio from the start of term 1 in September until the show has finished.

-You must also be able to attend additional rehearsals on Saturday 15th and Saturday 22nd of November, 10am-4pm both days (at school).

-Auditions for named roles will be at lunchtime on Monday 16th June and we will release audition material before the end of term 5 so that students have plenty of time to prepare. If any year 11 students are unable to make that date due to exams, please email Mrs Crozier.

If you have any questions, please pop along to the Drama Studio to ask them at lunch time on Monday 19th May.

***Year 8 Students Learn the Power of Empathy through
Workshop with Victim Support***

At The Crypt School, Personal Development is more than just a subject - it's an opportunity for students to grow into thoughtful, compassionate individuals. This term, our Year 8 students took part in a powerful series of workshops led by Lizzy Jones and a dedicated team of volunteers from the national charity ***Victim Support***.

Established in 1973, Victim Support offers free and confidential help to anyone affected by crime. Their work in schools helps young people understand the real-life impacts of crime - not just on victims, but also on families, witnesses, and even those who cause harm.

Lizzy Jones, commented “It was an absolute pleasure working with Year 8 at Crypt. They were reflective and insightful, and they compassionately considered how crime can impact individuals differently depending on their circumstances. They approached their conversations with empathy and understanding, using their own experiences to help them relate to others. Many stated that following the sessions, that they wanted to challenge themselves to not be passive bystanders to injustice and to try and connect with people who may be needing help.”



During the sessions, students explored how empathy - understanding and sharing the feelings of others - plays a crucial role in helping people cope after difficult experiences. They engaged with thought-provoking activities and real-life case studies, encouraging them to consider how different individuals might respond to the same event in very different ways.

“It was a very interesting workshop and it allowed you to think and reflect on the issues people face. It allowed me to stand in their shoes, if only for a moment and think about things from a different perspective.” Year 8 student.

One key takeaway for students was that no two people react to trauma in the same way. Everyone is unique. Some victims might suffer visible injuries, while others may struggle silently with emotional distress. Through discussions and reflective tasks, students were encouraged to ask questions like: *How might a victim feel? What could help them feel safe again? What might a bystander or even the person who caused harm be experiencing?*



Mrs Medcroft, Associate SLT for PeD, said: “The workshops really challenged our students to see the world from different perspectives. It’s been brilliant to watch them grow in awareness and understanding.”

We're proud of how thoughtfully our Year 8 students approached these important conversations. As a school, we believe that developing empathy is essential not just for academic success, but for building a kinder, more compassionate community - something we know our students are more than capable of leading.

For more information about the work of Victim Support, visit www.victimsupport.org.uk.

Junior maths challenge

This week we received the junior maths challenge results for years 7 and 8. 143 students entered and a record 121 won awards, more than any year since records began. As awards are only given to half the entrants nationwide this is a very strong achievement. 23 students (16%) won the coveted gold award only given to the top 8% nationally.

Many students used online webinars from the charitable group parallel to prepare for the challenge and I'm sure this helped.

Ten students scored enough to get through to the next round, the junior kangaroo, in June: Elliot, Jaanvi, Oscar P, William T, Hugo, Rowan, Joshua H, Meenakshi and Yui Chit.

Mira Showers Inter-School Sustainability Competition

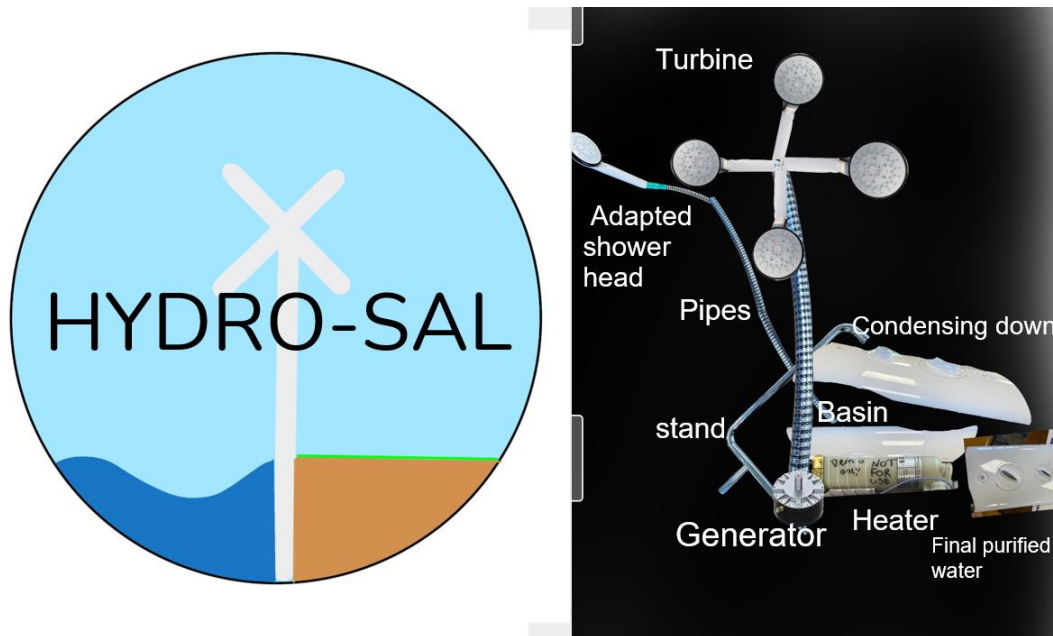
Two teams of Year 9 students entered the Mira Showers Inter-School Sustainability Competition. They were tasked with finding a solution to the problem of wasted spare and used parts of old showers. They researched various solutions and designed a product that could be built with the unwanted parts.

Georgia, Tabitha and Phoebe created the 'Hydrosal' which can de-salinate sea water to tackle the problem of water scarcity.

Emilie, Klara and Holly invented the 'Shower Sprout', a product that harnesses water vapour from the atmosphere to enable plants to grow.

Both teams worked with their mentor from Mira Showers to follow a thorough planning process, producing a presentation to summarise their research, planning and final design. With a short deadline, the students needed to work effectively as a team.

We received the results from Mira this week - from all of the schools that entered, the Crypt teams were awarded two out of the three places in the final. We now have the opportunity to present to a panel of judges at Cheltenham Science Festival in June. Well done Georgia, Tabitha, Phoebe, Emilie, Klara and Holly!



Athletics 2025

It has been a busy start to the athletics season with 2 events already completed. The school took 4 teams to the English Schools Track and Field Cup held in Cheltenham. This is a team event where athletes gain points for their performances. Again The Crypt teams were very competitive against 8 other Gloucestershire schools. The team results were as follows:

Junior boys team 4th overall

Junior girls team 3rd overall

Inter girls team 2nd overall

Inter boys team 1st overall

This means that the Inter Boys team now qualify for the A final in Nuneaton on the 17th June. We are hoping the other teams will also qualify if their score is high enough. Although it is a team competition there were some outstanding individual results. As athletes have to compete in 2 events our target is for each athlete to score 30 points for their 2 events.

Below is a list of our athletes that scored 30 points or more:

Name	Points	Name	Points	Name	Points
Tabby T	30	Tom F	33	Andrew C	41
Leanne G	30	Eva B	33	Rick AS	47
Maddie E	30	Ollie T	34	Enrico S	48
Rayna IM	30	Kim H	39		
Oliver C	31	Emmanuel D	40		

My thanks go to Miss Leask, Mr Atkinson and Mr Stanlake for their work on the day.

We have also hosted the Gloucester District Athletics Trials. This is for individuals who are keen to progress to the County athletics round and beyond. We are waiting to see how many athletes from Crypt will qualify so I will do a further update later in the term.

Mr Hart

Crypt Cheerleaders

Our junior (Diamonds) and senior (Platinum) cheerleading teams have enjoyed visiting a local cheerleading gym to complete their routine choreography on a full sprung floor. We are very grateful to GCA cheer for having us and letting us use their facility.

Diamonds are working towards a local club showcase being held here at The Crypt School on June 8th, while both Diamonds and Platinum are excited to be attending national competition in Nottingham on July 6th. We're very proud of their commitment, hard work and can't wait to see their finished routines!

PGL 2026 completed!





The girls were outstanding throughout the whole weekend and showed amazing perseverance and determination throughout the tournament. Our two Y7 teams worked extremely hard throughout the weekend, our A team achieved a bronze medal and our B team improved each game and came away with some wins against other A team schools.

In the Y8 year group we managed to field 3 teams! A,B,C were brilliant throughout cheering each other on and being great supportive teammates. The B and C teams did extremely well and the highlight was them having to play against each other. The A team missed out on a gold medal but played so well in the final and came back to school with silver.

A final PGL for our Y10s we had 2 teams enter. The B team showed true grit and determination, they beat other A team schools and their defence was on fire. The A team made it through to one of the most competitive games we have ever witnessed on a PGL trip. It was back and forth with both schools battling hard but luckier Crypt came out on top with 1 goal in it and took home the trophy.

The weekend is focused on netball but students have the opportunity to go on many activities such as the big swig, swimming and archery. On the first night we had a disco and the second we completed the PGL games. I know the girls have made memories and friendships for life. All came away with key skills such as time management, organisation, independence, resilience and teamwork and that's what the PGL is all about.

Head over to our Instagram account [thecryptschoolpe](#) to keep up to date and see more photos from the weekend.

U15 Girls Handball Team Crowned Regional Champions!

The U15 girls handball team went to Plock Court on Tuesday and took part in the Regional handball competition. The first they came up against Crispin. With a nervous start the girls started to find their feet quickly and finished the game winning 11-5. After a break and reflection on a great first match the team played Westfield and continued to grow in confidence winning 12-4. Finally, they took on a local school when playing Stroud High. In the previous tournament Stroud High came away with the win. The team were determined to claim the title and they finished with a win of 11-9. A fantastic performance from all of the team and I can announce that the U15 girls handball team is going to Nationals. Well done to all the girls team and we are so proud of you.

