

18th October 2024



Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

I do hope that this correspondence finds you all well.

Firstly, my thanks indeed to all students who helped out at our open day and evening on Wednesday of this week; they really are a powerful set of ambassadors for the school and were able to offer our visitors a real insight into the education, ethos and culture of their school that we all work hard to create and sustain. The day saw hundreds of prospective parents/carers and their children tour the school and see for themselves what a Crypt education has to offer. Thank you to the CSPTA for supporting the event and to my colleagues for being so welcoming of our many guests on that day and evening.

Our societies fair took place on Monday in the Sports Hall, with much on offer to the whole school to join in with. Our academic societies are run by members of year 12, and offer other students the chance to develop a new interest, or build upon existing ones. Thank you to our year 12 students for organising and leading these societies across this academic year.

Our first Full Governing (Trustee) Board Meeting took place on Monday after school. Governors play an important role in school life, setting the strategic direction of the school, supporting me in my work as Headmaster, and that of that senior leadership team; they also carry out reviews of our work in school and offer expert guidance and help in specific areas, such as in health and safety and admissions, whilst being able to offer legal and finance expertise and insight too. Governors are drawn from a wide variety of backgrounds and offer rich and diverse experiences to help support and sustain school improvement. Our head boy and head girl also attend board meetings, as representatives of the student body, to offer Governors an insight into school life from their perspectives.

On Thursday evening, a Harry Potter quiz took place in the Dining Hall, with many students enjoying the experience, whilst helping to raise money for school funds. Thank you to our School Librarian Deborah Jordan for organising and leading that quiz, and for the support of the CSPTA

Thank you to those many members of the local business community who came into school today to interview every member of year 13, granting each one a real experience of what a formal interview for a job, an apprenticeship, or a university place might be like. Thank you to Mr Germaine, our careers leader, for organising the event. With careers in mind, next week (on Wednesday 23rd of October) we will be holding our annual Careers Convention in the Sports Hall, attended by many local and national businesses/employers, as well as many universities. All students will be able to attend the convention across the course of that day



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The Crypt School
Educating students since 1539

to find out more about the myriad opportunities available to them upon leaving school.

Thank you to Miss Parkin, (Head of Year 12 and Oxbridge and Competitive University Course coordinator) for ensuring that all UCAS forms, from members of year 13 applying to Oxbridge and other early deadline courses, were sent in time for Monday's deadline. All other university applicants should work to complete their own applications over the coming weeks, under the guidance of our Director of Post 16 Education, Ms Glock. Many students in year 13 are planning to apply for the highly competitive degree apprenticeships, for jobs or other post 18 options and they too, as is the case for all members of year 13, will receive individual support and guidance whatever their future aspirations may be.

This week many students have enjoyed taking part in some of the following activities, beyond their normal lessons and other routine experiences: A Level maths and physics lunchtime academic support sessions; choir preparation for our annual Remembrance Service; taking part in the cipher challenge; writing poetry/short stories for the national poetry/short story competition; representing the school in netball or rugby and so much more besides.

Do have a lovely weekend.

With continued best wishes,



Nicholas Dyer
Headmaster

School Dates

24th October – Autumn Concert 7-9pm

25th October – Non uniform day, bake sale and end of term

5th November – Term 2 starts

6th November – Sixth Form Open Evening 5pm to 8.30pm

12th November – CSPTA meeting at 6pm (Sports Block)

14th November – Year 11 Parents Evening (Virtual)

15th November – Treasure Island – St Mary De Crypt

20th - 22nd November – Year 7 Residential Trip

26th November – Year 9 Options Evening 5.40pm - 8pm please note new date

28th November - 1st December – Cologne Christmas Market Trip

28th November – Teenage Voices Gloucester Cathedral

29th November – CSPTA Christmas Fair

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

Cyber First Silver Award



We are delighted to announce that our school has been awarded the **CyberFirst Silver Award** in recognition of our dedication to inspiring the next generation of cyber security professionals. This prestigious award, presented by the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC), highlights our commitment to delivering high-quality learning experiences in the field of cyber security, digital safety, and online responsibility.

The CyberFirst program encourages young people to explore the world of technology, and we are proud that our students have embraced these opportunities with enthusiasm and creativity. Our school has worked hard to integrate cyber security principles into the curriculum and provide enriching extracurricular activities that foster critical thinking and problem-solving skills essential in today's digital world.

This Silver Award reflects our ongoing efforts to equip students with the knowledge and skills to navigate an increasingly interconnected and technology-driven society. From coding clubs,

our ambitious curriculum and participation in national cyber challenges, we strive to ensure that our pupils are prepared for both the opportunities and challenges of the future.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all the parents and guardians who have supported us in this journey. Your encouragement at home and involvement in school activities have played a crucial role. The CyberFirst girls' competition is already consisting of four teams of year 8 girls which is amazing when tackling the gender divide that exists.

Looking ahead, we are excited to continue building on this achievement by expanding our programs and engaging with even more students to foster a deeper understanding of digital resilience and innovation. We hope to earn your continued support as we pursue the CyberFirst Gold Award and further enhance our cyber education initiatives.

Thank you once again for being part of this exciting journey with us.

War Horse Drama Trip

The drama department is delighted to be offering students the opportunity to see War Horse at The New Theatre in Oxford on Thursday December 12th. War Horse is an unforgettable theatrical experience which takes audiences on an extraordinary journey from the fields of rural Devon to the trenches of First World War France. Based on the beloved novel by Michael Morpurgo, this powerfully moving and imaginative drama is a show of phenomenal inventiveness.

We have 40 tickets available on a first come first serve basis to students in all year groups - we anticipate this trip being popular, so if you are interested in attending, please purchase your ticket as soon as possible - the cutoff date is Friday 1st November. There is a letter with more information, details and a link to pay on your Parent Pay account from Monday 21st October.

Please email any questions to Mrs Crozier (acrozier@crypt.gloucs.sch.uk)

School iPad Accessory Store

Just a reminder that we now have a School iPad Accessory Store open. The store will open and closed during various periods throughout the year, and our suppliers will ship in bulk any orders to the School. We will then distribute them ourselves. The current order window will be closed on the 25th of October, the final day of term. Please order any accessories before then, and we will hand them out to students once we have received them, after half term.

Music

On Monday, Year 12 were tasked with promoting our lunchtime activities for the Societies Fair. Representatives for Music included Jessica Smith, Amelia Kaljstein and Joseph Hipwell, who kindly provided performances and recruited many new students for the Rock Band lunchtime session on Tuesdays, and our Cantores Cryptienses choir.

Open Day was held on Wednesday, providing a wonderful opportunity for our musical talent to showcase their skills to prospective students. Jazz Band were set up in the Crush Hall to introduce guests with selections including Tenor Madness, Autumn Leaves and Cold Duck Time led by Mr Slemensek, while A Cappella Choir provided an uplifting programme of songs including Chattanooga Choo Choo and Mr Blue Sky led by Mr Clark and Mr Whittaker. We were so pleased with the level of interest seen in our department offerings. Charles Barrow, Rafael Pozzi and Sammy Startup all held 'try an instrument' workshops, giving guests the chance to learn the fundamentals of brass and strings for fun



and demonstrating exceptional mentorship skills. Young Voices held open rehearsals in the music classroom led by Mrs Banda, before staging a performance of This is Me and Go The Distance in the Sports Hall, showing theatrical prowess and commitment. Mr Storer held an open rehearsal for Junior Brass Project in the Pavilion and Jai Skerritt led a Samba Band parade through the school corridors. A special thanks to all our music leaders and

buskers who proudly reflected our mission to provide an inclusive musical education and bring together a vital sense of community.

Cantores Cryptienses have been progressing well in preparation for the Remembrance Service on Friday 8th October, taking on Dr. MacDougall's advice about the importance of text setting and meaning. Places are now very limited for Gabrieli Roar, with a reminder to please complete the Google Form if you would like to attend this.

Library

On Wednesday we held our open evening welcoming families to have a look around our wonderful school. The library was open, with many displays to show what the library offers our students.



Our Halloween display offering a wide variety of fiction and non-fiction books for the students to read over the half term.

Along with the Halloween quiz, which is proving very popular – closing date is 22nd October.



A very interesting display of the Summer Reading Challenge entries we received from new year 7 students.

Lots of amazing stories and drawings – such a wide range of genres and wonderful imaginations.

To challenge the children visiting us was a display of clues of different fictional characters from popular fiction.

Each child received a little sweet reward for their efforts.

It was a very enjoyable evening having lots of visitors asking questions about the library, how it works and the Accelerated Reader program.

I am looking forward to some very eager readers join us in our new year 7.

Crypt Fundraising



Lucy from Sunflower Suicide Support visited school today to collect the school's donation from the Pie a Teacher event. Kai and Maddie did a fantastic job in making this happen. The final total raised was £863.27.

Teams4U Christmas Box Appeal



This year, The Crypt School is again going to be taking part in the Teams4U Christmas box appeal. The school community has sent in excess of 100 shoeboxes

in previous years to help children and families in need. This year, Teams4U are sending boxes to Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, Bosnia and Romania and we would like to be involved again.

If your family would like to take part this year, it would involve wrapping a shoebox and lid separately and then

packing it with toys, stationary and practical items. There is a list of ideas

of things to put in the box in the leaflet which can be collected in school from reception or from E3 and we will also have sticky packing labels for the outside of the boxes.

On the leaflet is also a gift aid form, along with details of the suggested donation to cover transport costs (can be enclosed within the box).

These gifts really make a difference to the lives of those who receive them and this will be particularly true for some of the challenging times now facing the world. We are asking that completed boxes are brought into school from **4th – 11th November**. **The room to drop-off at in school is room E3** in the AI block please. If you would like more details about Teams4U, they can be found by following the links below:

[Teams4U shoebox appeal 2024](https://teams4u.com/shoebox-appeal/) <https://teams4u.com/shoebox-appeal/>

Bloodhound Education STEM Workshops



I would like to say a huge "Thank You" to Rob from Bloodhound Education who delivered a series of fantastic workshops for our students. The morning saw all of our new A-Level physics students take part in the event, putting into practice what they have been learning but has sometimes seemed a little abstract. It was a joy to see students working in teams, often introducing themselves for the first time and getting truly stuck in. The talks were in depth and challenged our students to think differently, to innovate and be inspired by innovators of past and present. The science interwoven with the history took us through a story of development and the students, and staff, were gripped.

The afternoon was slightly different with invited students from all year groups taking part. It was fantastic to see students working together and taking pride in their creations - determined to test, improve, repeat. The talk that accompanied the session was incredibly powerful.

The feedback we received from the students has been overwhelmingly positive. Students have been very excited to share with members of staff about the workshops they took part in. Words we heard most often include "enjoyable, exciting, informative, fun, creative and interesting".



Many students have been researching more about routes into engineering, work experience and degree apprenticeships as a result.

Inspire Lecture Series: AI and the Future

The Crypt School is delighted to announce the success of the latest installment of our Inspired Lecture Series. On Friday 11 October 2024, students were treated to a captivating presentation by Dr. Will Sayers from the University of Gloucestershire. Dr. Sayers, a leading expert in the field of Artificial Intelligence (AI), provided a fascinating insight into the potential impact of AI on society in the years to come.



Students were particularly intrigued by Dr. Sayers' exploration of the various applications of AI, from healthcare and finance to transportation and entertainment. The lecture highlighted both the incredible opportunities AI presents, as well as the potential challenges and ethical considerations that must be addressed.

“Today's lecture about Artificial Intelligence was very informative. Dr Sayers kept the group engaged with real-world examples and discussions on how AI is shaping the future”. Lucy Year 12

The event was a resounding success, with students eagerly engaging in Q&A sessions and expressing a keen interest in learning more about AI and its implications. The Inspired Lecture Series aims to expose students to a wide range of subjects and inspire them to pursue their academic and personal goals. We are grateful to Dr. Sayers for sharing his expertise and contributing to the enrichment of our students' education.

The Crypt School is committed to providing students with opportunities to learn from leading experts and develop a well-rounded understanding of the world around them. We look forward to continuing our Inspired Lecture Series and bringing more exciting speakers to our school. Our next lecture in the series is on **Wednesday 13 November**, when Dr Carolyn Lovell,



Dr Carolyn Lovell



Inspired Lecture - Science & Technology

Join us for an exciting opportunity to hear from Dr Carolyn Lovell, Head of Research at the National Police Chief's Council, as part of our Inspiring The Future Lectures. Dr Lovell brings a wealth of experience from the forefront of technology and innovation in helping fight crime.

Session Overview:

- Hear Carolyn's journey into Science and Technology within policing
- Current Science and technology in use in policing
- Looking to the future the art of the possible.

Don't miss this unique chance to gain valuable insights and advice from a leading professional in the science and technology field

Location: The Crypt School, Room C3

Date: 13 November 2024

Time: 1.20pm



Science
& Technology
in Policing

Office of the Police
Civil Scientific Advisor

Head of Research at the National Police Chief's Council, will talk about the developments of science & technology within the police service and the role it plays in solving crime.

Personal Educational Development

Term 2 sees the delivery of statutory Relationship & Sexual Education lessons at School during timetabled PED lessons. The subject matter of the PED lessons are shared with students via their google classroom. Whilst this can be sensitive subject matter, it is part of the curriculum content and included as part of the PeD learning journey. However, we always aim to make the students feel as comfortable as possible. Ground rules are in force (as always) in these lessons, we will only expect those to contribute who wish to do so and all conversations are hypothetical scenarios only.

We signpost support within School, such as Pastoral Support, Form Tutors and HOY, in addition to other trusted adults in school. During the lessons we reference agencies that can support. We encourage students to let their PED teacher or Pastoral Support know in advance of the lesson, should this subject matter be a trigger for them so we can work out a way forward with them.

The GlosFamilies Directory has some wonderful support guides as well as signposting further support-

<https://www.glosfamiliesdirectory.org.uk/kb5/gloucs/glosfamilies/home.page>

Please refer to the School's RSE policy on our website for further information.

<https://s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/sh22-cryptschool-org/media/downloads/relationshipsandsexeducationpolicy2024final.pdf>

Y7 The physical & emotional changes of puberty & adolescence. Healthy & unhealthy relationships. Social media influences, abusive relationships, coercive control, sexting & revenge pornography. Knowledge of gender stereotyping, sexual orientation, homophobic bullying, transgender understanding & same sex relationships. Long term relationships, marriage & civil partnerships. The breakdown of a relationship & divorce. Consent & the impact of negative experiences. Exploring personality types, relationships, friendships & coping strategies. To understand the importance of sleep, diet, & exercise. External support includes:

www.brook.org.uk/

www.nhs.uk/

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/forced-marriage>

www.freedomcharity.org.uk

www.childline.org.uk

Y8 Awareness of stereotypes, specifically gender stereotypes & of sexual manipulation by the media. Knowledge of healthy & unhealthy relationships with a particular focus on exploitation, grooming, domestic abuse & the impact of negative experiences. Internet influences including the dangers of gaming & of sex education from pornography. Healthy & unhealthy relationships- respect & equality, an understanding of the emotions involved, the legalities & how to stay safe. Sexual health - contraception & an awareness of STIs. An awareness how viewing habits & listening habits can affect thoughts, feelings & mental health. Exploring happiness and its meaning.

External support includes:

www.childline.org.uk/

www.barnardos.org.uk/

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/>

www.nationaldomesticviolencehelpline.org.uk

<http://thisisabuse.direct.gov.uk/need-help>

www.brokenrainbow.org.uk/

<https://www.dayoneny.org/>

<https://holliegazzard.org/>

Y9 Awareness of pregnancy - its long-term implications, abortion & adoption. Contraception knowledge. Understanding of the laws regarding consent, pornography & its influences. Awareness of upskirting. Relationship progression, sexual pleasure & the need to make informed, communicative decisions. The impact of negative experiences. Recognition of FGM & HBA. External support includes:

www.hopehouse.nhs.uk

www.sexwise.org.uk/

www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/inappropriate-explicit-content/

www.gov.uk/government/news/upskirting-know-your-rights

<https://www.brook.org.uk/>

Y10 An awareness of abusive relationships. An insight into the influence the media and pornography have on body image & expectations. Contraception options. Consent, fertility, teen pregnancy & parenting. An understanding of abortion, fostering, adoption and surrogacy. An awareness of miscarriage, still birth & menopause & how to support those experiencing them. External support includes:

www.victimsupport.org.uk/crime-info/types-crime/domestic-abuse/

www.gov.uk/guidance/domestic-abuse-how-to-get-help

<https://galop.org.uk/>

www.nspcc.org.uk

www.respect.uk.net/

www.childline.org.uk/

Y11 An awareness of sexuality and sexual identity in its many forms and to consider stereotypes surrounding this. Challenging opinions & facilitating change. External support includes:

www.stonewall.org.uk

www.genderedintelligence.co.uk

www.fflag.org.uk

www.RUcomingout.com

www.pacehealth.org.uk

www.brook.org.uk/your-life

Y12 Consent, healthy & unhealthy relationships with strategies to deal with unhealthy relationships. An awareness of binge drinking and the impact of alcohol. Contraception and STIs.

www.hopehouse.nhs.uk/sarc/

<https://holliegazzard.org/>

www.drinkaware.co.uk/

Y13 Healthy & unhealthy relationships, pornography, impact of negative experiences. Exploring the nuances around consent. Contraception, STI's. Alcohol awareness and strategies to keep oneself and others safer. External support includes:

www.hopehouse.nhs.uk/sarc/

www.drinkaware.co.uk/

Black History Month

During this month of celebration of Black history and culture, some parents and carers may wish to read more to develop their knowledge and understanding. The books below are recommended by Mrs Hargraves who teaches History as well as being Deputy Headteacher (Safeguarding, Inclusion and Wellbeing). Some of these books were recommended to teachers and support staff in September staff training too. Happy Reading!



Monkhouse, Schoolwear Specialists

Our school uniform supplier, Monkhouse, is offering a huge **20% off everything in-stores only, starting on Saturday 19th October 2024 and finishing on Saturday 2nd November 2024**. If you need to top up on any uniform, P.E. kit items or need a refresh on your

everyday essentials and stationery, now is the time to shop. **(Offer not available on the Monkhouse website).**



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OPCC

Office of the Police &
Crime Commissioner
for Gloucestershire



Will you give us your views about crime and policing in your area?

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) for Gloucestershire wants to hear your views about crime, policing and antisocial behaviour in your area.

**Please scan the QR code or
go to the website below
to take part in the survey.**



<https://online1.snapsurveys.com/opcc?ID=TCS>

The OPCC would like to hear your views about your perceptions of crime in Gloucestershire. This feedback will be used to inform the OPCC's work to make Gloucestershire safer.

The survey is being conducted by Information by Design (IbyD) on behalf of the OPCC. Everything you say will be kept confidential and in line with the Data Protection Act and GDPR.

Cyber Boot Camp

Oct 28th – 1st Nov



Interested in Cyber & AI?

Interested in starting your own business one day?

Aged 16 – 18 & live near Cheltenham?

Join us for a week of hands-on activities to learn about:

- Using Artificial Intelligence to build systems
- How businesses really work - HR, finance, legal
- How to build your own business
- What it's like to work in technology & cyber
- What career paths are available
- Life skills & new experiences



CYNAM

Sign up :





Gloucestershire
Wildlife Trust



Nature Nurtures 2024

*Connecting with nature to improve
wellbeing*



Nature Nurtures aims to support teens aged 12-15 with low self-esteem to promote confidence, positive mental health and reduce anxiety.

Activities include wildlife photography, star gazing and more.

Eight sessions at

**Robinswood Hill
Country Park**

Wednesday
4:30pm- 6:00pm

23 October - 11 December

**Sessions are FREE but
booking is essential**



Contact Jennie to discuss and book:

jennie.denton@gloucestershiREWILDLIFETRUST.CO.UK



Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust Registered Charity Number 232580