

20th June 2025

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,



Those many year 9 students who attended the visit last weekend to the memorials, cemeteries and other fragments of the front line of the battlefields of the First World War should be praised indeed, for the wonderful respect they showed throughout our weekend away, and in showing great responsibility in their outstanding behaviour throughout our tiring but memorable trip. Mr Howell offers a full report on that visit in this newsletter home, but I would like to offer my thanks to the staff who gave up their weekend to attend the trip, making this occasion possible for nearly 90 students in year 9.

GCSE and A Level examinations came to an end this week, and I do hope those who sat public exams this year performed to the very best of their ability. My thanks go to our examinations team, led by Mrs Wasley and Mrs Coughlin, and supported by a large team of invigilators, for ensuring that every student sat their exams on schedule and in an environment conducive to the importance of what they were undertaking. Organising the many public, and indeed internal exams each year, is a huge undertaking and we all owe our exams team a huge debt of gratitude for their hard work across this year; we now await the outcomes in August, with A Level results published on the 14th of August, and GCSE results and year 12 enrolment day held on the 21st. We look forward to the year 11 Prom, held tonight at Hatherley Manor and the year 13 leaver's party, to be held in school on the Thursday 3rd July. I do hope that all our year 11 and year 13 students can now enjoy a wonderful summer.

Exam preparation carries on however, with our GCSE year 10 drama students practising and then performing their assessed performances this week, under the careful eye of head of drama, Mrs Crozier. GCSE year 10 geographers enjoyed a field study trip out on Tuesday and Thursday to the Forest of Dean, as part of their ongoing exam work in that very popular subject area.

As year 13 and year 11 leave for the summer, it was a great pleasure to welcome our new year 7 year group and their families into school on Tuesday evening, as part of our induction programme. With close to a 50/50 split this year between boys and girls in our new year 7, it is very encouraging to see that parents/carers have great confidence in our school's ability to offer their child an exceptional education. We look forward to meeting our new year 7 students again, at their forthcoming induction day in school during the first week of July. My thanks to head of year 7 Mr Bowen, Mrs Wales (admissions), our new year 7 tutor team and Mrs Hargraves for their work ensuring the smooth and comprehensive induction of this new year group into our school life.

Many students from across the school are excited to be involved in the early preparations for the whole school musical, to be held in November - Oliver. Mrs Crozier reports that Crypt is indeed fortunate to have an incredible depth and breadth of acting talent, and auditions were held this week to cast those who will have acting roles in the production.



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The Crypt School
Educating students since 1539

Of course, acting in the production is just one part that students can play: beyond that, many students will get involved in the technical side of the production, in the music and in working with staff to ensure the final production is a great success.

Thank you to year 12 students and to Mrs De La Feunte for hosting nearly 60 year 3 & 4 students in school on Thursday, for our annual festival of learning. The occasion involved year 12 students offering workshops to those year 3 & 4 students who attended, in a range of areas which have arisen from their work in their scholarship programme across the last academic year.

The school's athletics teams performed very well at the national school's final at Nuneaton, with the girls' team competing on Monday and the boys on Tuesday. Mr Hart notes that despite many exceptional individual performances, the girls team came 9th and the boys 8th on Tuesday. Year 7 and 8 Boys Cricket teams enjoyed matches this week, with the weather exceptionally kind to our summer sports - if perhaps, a little too hot!

Thursday morning saw the last of our very important and well received community hours with this one celebrating Pride month. The hour started with an assembly organised by Mr Antonious, Mrs Hayes and Mrs Hargraves before students considered the importance of developing accepting views, of the value we place on each individual's own identity and the sense of pride they can feel in their own lives, sense of place and identity as young people.

The school hosted a teacher taster day on Thursday, attended by a number of prospective teacher trainees, across many different subject areas. It is always wonderful to welcome (prospective) new entrants into the profession and I am always inspired by those many people who want to commit themselves to enriching the lives of our young people, supporting them to flourish in their lives, and through that playing a pivotal role in ensuring the success, wellbeing and continuity of our society through their roles as teachers.

Hopefully the heat will not make our many students attending today's and this weekend's Duke of Edinburgh Gold Practice Expedition too uncomfortable; however, I do hope they enjoy their weekend.



Finally, congratulations to Mrs Wales (Admissions Officer) for receiving the Pearson National Teaching Awards 2025, Bronze Award in the Unsung Hero category for her amazing work across many years now at Crypt, supporting students, staff and families at home in ways too numerous to mention. A well deserved recognition of someone who has given so much to enrich the lives of others.

With best wishes,
Nicholas Dyer
Headmaster

School Dates

23 rd June	School Diversity Week
23 rd & 24 th June	Summer School
25 th June	Prospective pupils' lower school open morning
26 th June	Y13 Book return
26 th June	Founders' Day 7.15pm Gloucester Cathedral
1 st July	South Africa Information Night
3 rd July	Y13 Leavers Evening

Passenger Worktop with Gloucestershire Fire & Rescue

In terms 5 & 6, students in Year 12 will have taken part in the impactful PASSENGER 2025 Road Safety Workshop, delivered by Gloucestershire Fire & Rescue, a powerful session aimed at preparing young people for the responsibilities and risks of being new drivers and passengers.

The session began with a simple but thought-provoking question: This led students to reflect on the freedom and independence driving brings, while also considering the significant responsibilities that come with it. The presentation helped raise awareness of the real costs, both financial and personal, associated with learning to drive. Many were surprised to learn that it takes around 67 hours and can cost over £2,000 to learn to drive – a serious investment that's worth protecting by making safe choices on the road.

Ms Medcroft, Associate SLT responsible for Personal Development Education commented **"Safer driving is an important part of our curriculum. Teaching young people the responsibilities of getting behind a wheel or in a car with mates is equal to other aspects of our Personal Education curriculum"**.



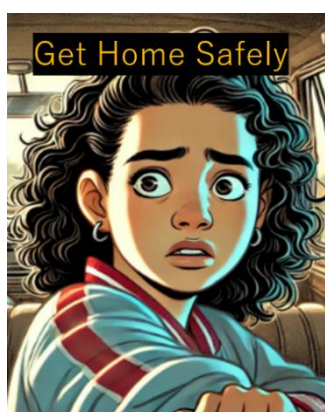
The workshop focused on increasing awareness of risk factors, promoting safe driving behaviours, and helping students develop strategies to keep themselves and others safe. Students explored the major causes of road traffic incidents involving young people. These included distraction (such as mobile phone use), impairment from alcohol or drugs, fatigue, and failing to wear a seatbelt. Even short or familiar journeys were shown to be high risk, especially when seatbelts were not worn. The impact of peer pressure and the natural impulsivity of a developing brain were also discussed, helping students understand why young drivers are more vulnerable to accidents.

A powerful section of the session encouraged students to think about what makes a good friend – not just in social settings, but when someone is about to make an unsafe decision. Whether by speaking up, offering an excuse, or helping a friend get home safely, passengers can have a big

influence. A moving real-life example, shared through the story of a young man named Greg, highlighted how one simple decision – wearing a seatbelt – saved his life.

Mrs Glock, Deputy Head and Director of Sixth Form said, “We are proud to offer our students opportunities like the PASSENGER 2025 workshop, which go beyond the classroom and speak directly to real-life choices and responsibilities. Preparing our young people to be safe, thoughtful drivers and passengers is an essential part of their personal development, and sessions like this could genuinely save lives.”

The session concluded with practical advice for getting home safely, including planning transport in advance, budgeting for taxis, identifying a designated driver, and having a plan if things go wrong. Students were encouraged to look out for each other and to always prioritise safety over convenience or peer approval.



They were also introduced to a range of opportunities available in Gloucestershire for further developing driving skills. These included the IAM Advanced Driving Course for 18–26 year olds, the Pathfinder Under 17's Driving Club, and the Biker Down safety sessions for motorcyclists. Legal and safe use of e-scooters through Gloucestershire's Voi programme was also discussed. Bursaries are available to students to get the courses fully funded. Please contact Emily Booker at Gloucestershire Fire & Rescue for further information.

Driving is a milestone for many young people, and this session served as a timely and memorable reminder that being a safe driver or a responsible passenger can be life-changing. We would like to thank Gloucestershire Police and our road safety partners for delivering such an engaging and important workshop.

Anti-Bullying Ambassadors



T H E
D I A N A
A W A R D

Last Achieve Diana Award Wellbeing Badge

We are incredibly proud to announce that our school's Anti-Bullying Ambassadors (ABAs) have successfully achieved the Wellbeing Badge as part of the Diana Award's Anti-Bullying programme. This national recognition celebrates the hard work, creativity, and compassion shown by our student ambassadors in making a real difference to the wellbeing of our school.

To earn the badge, the ABAs completed five meaningful actions that promoted kindness, inclusion, and positive mental health.

Here's what they achieved:

♥ ACTION 1: Thank You Postcards

Our ambassadors designed and distributed "Thank You Postcards" to all KS3 students, encouraging them to write messages of appreciation to friends, teachers, or any member of the school community. This simple but powerful activity spread positivity and kindness, helping to strengthen relationships across year groups and between students and staff.

🧠 ACTION 2: Neurodiversity Celebration Week Assembly

To mark Neurodiversity Celebration Week, the ABAs created and delivered a whole-school assembly to celebrate the strengths and diversity of neurodivergent individuals. By taking the lead, they helped raise awareness and understanding across the school, promoting greater empathy and inclusion for all.

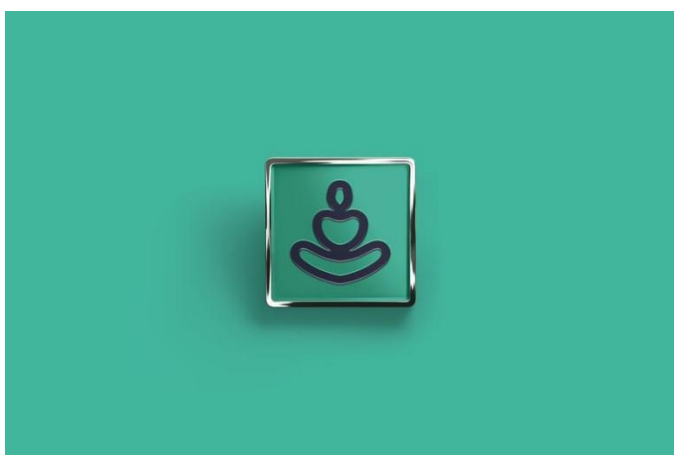
🔍 ACTION 3: Respect Scavenger Hunt

The team organised a fun and engaging scavenger hunt with the word "Respect" hidden around the school. This activity introduced the ambassadors to younger students and reinforced one of the core values behind their work. It was a creative way to spark conversation and connect with peers.

🗣️ ACTION 4: Lunchtime Drop-Ins

Recognising the importance of having safe spaces to talk, the ABAs launched daily lunchtime drop-in sessions, where any student can speak privately with an ambassador about concerns or worries. This action has helped build trust and ensured that support is always available to those who need it.

✉️ ACTION 5: Anti-Bullying Email



The ambassadors also set up a dedicated email address so students could report issues or seek help at any time. Though monitored by staff for safeguarding, the initiative came from the students themselves and has made support more accessible to everyone.

This outstanding work demonstrates our students' commitment to a kind, safe, and inclusive environment for all. Earning the Wellbeing Badge is a significant

achievement—and a reflection of the leadership, empathy, and initiative our ABAs show every day.

Congratulations to all of them on this well-deserved success!

We are now recruiting more Anti-Bullying Ambassadors - look out for an email from Mrs Hargraves with information on how to apply to join the team!

Music Newsletter

With one week to go for our Founders' Day service, we are in final preparations with the choir refining details in Byrd's Kyrie and Parry's I Was Glad. A rehearsal schedule has been shared with information on sectional and full rehearsals. Orchestra have been working hard with Strauss' Radetsky March and Mozart's Symphony No. 41 (1st movement). Our programme is shaping together nicely and we cannot wait to showcase our wonderful musical community.



A final call out for Founders' Day responses as the form will close on Friday to finalise the list. Thank you to everyone who has completed this. We have a record number of participants in the choir and orchestra and look forward to filling the Cathedral with delightful music.

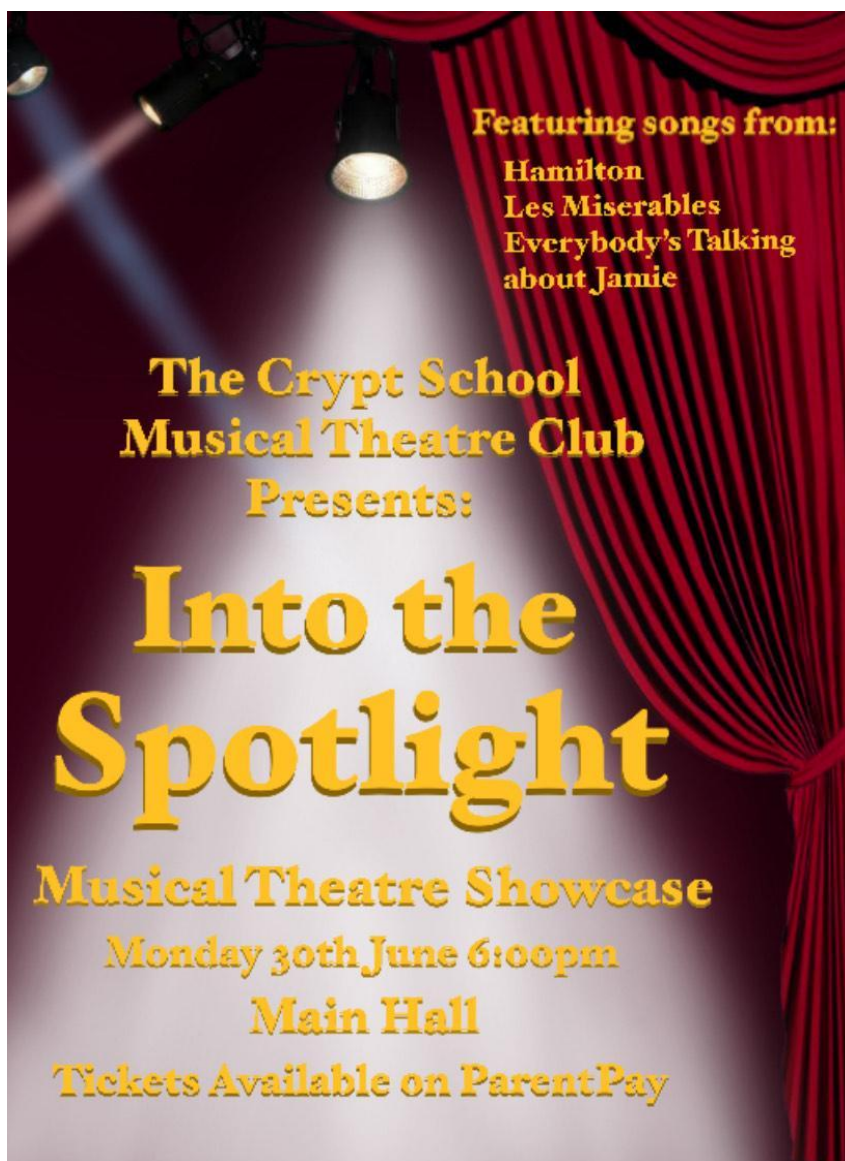
Thank you to all the students who attended the auditions for our Autumn production of Oliver! We were very impressed with the level of talent and preparation in the room. Mrs Crozier will be issuing an update next week.

A letter has gone out to Year 7 parents and those involved in the Year 7 and 8 Showcase on Wednesday 9th July. Please can you confirm your child's availability before next Wednesday.

The A Cappella choir and members of the Jazz Band will be performing selections at the open morning next Wednesday 25th July. As we are rehearsing throughout the day for the Founders' Day service, students will need to note the times on the schedule to move between sessions.

Tickets are available on ParentPay for our musical theatre showcase Into The Spotlight on Monday 30th June at 6.00pm. Your support will help provide funds for our performing arts community to upgrade their resources for future productions.

Musical Theatre



The Musical Theatre club are looking forward to their showcase, which is being held in the main hall at school on Monday 30th June 6-7pm.

We would like to invite our school community to come and watch and support all of the hard work of our performers and pit band; tickets can be purchased via Parent Pay and are £5 each (free for under 16's).

Any questions, please email Mrs Crozier
acrozier@crypt.gloucs.sch.uk

Webinar - Understanding and Safeguarding Children's use of AI Chatbots

Internet Matters are putting on a free webinar for parents to examine their findings in their latest report about how children in the UK are engaging with AI chatbots including the risks and opportunities. This should be a really worthwhile webinar for parents/carers to attend, it will be taking place on 17th July at 1100 and parents can register here: [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

The Crypt School's World War One Battlefields Tour

Students from year 9 had the profound opportunity to step out of the classroom as 85 pupils took part in a three-day battlefield tour of the Ypres Salient. Exploring the memorials, cemeteries, and preserved battle sites of the First World War, the trip offered a deeply moving and educational journey through one of the most significant and tragic chapters of modern history.

The tour included visits to Tyne Cot, Essex Farm, Caesar's Nose, Hill 60, Hill 62, Vimy Ridge, and the German cemetery at Langemark. Each site gave students a unique window into the lives and deaths of those who fought. At Tyne Cot, the largest Commonwealth war cemetery, the sheer scale of loss became heartbreakingly clear. In contrast, the simplicity and haunting stillness of Essex Farm—where John McCrae composed *In Flanders Fields*—allowed for quiet contemplation.



The preserved landscapes of Hill 60 and Hill 62 brought the brutal conditions of trench warfare to life. Walking among the craters, bunkers, and trenches, students were able to appreciate the terrifying and claustrophobic reality of frontline life. These visceral experiences, paired with the human stories behind them, made the past feel powerfully present.

A particular honour of the tour was the chance to remember and pay tribute to the 58 Old Cryptians who lost their lives during the First World War. Pupils paid their respects at Tyne Cot and Essex Farm, remembering the Old Cryptians who had been before them. The most solemn moment came at the Menin Gate, where two of our students laid a wreath during the Last Post ceremony—an act of remembrance that brought home the significance of their visit.

This battlefield tour was far more than a school trip: it was a journey of understanding, reflection, and respect. By walking the same ground as those who served, students gained a deeper appreciation of the cost of war and the importance of remembering its lessons.





Athletics update

As we approach the end of the athletics season I can give an update on how well we have done again. This Saturday we have 3 students competing for Gloucestershire in Exeter. Enrico is in the 300m and hopefully triple jump, Kim is in the 800m and James is in the 100m. We wish them all the very best.

On Monday 16th and Tuesday 17th June our inter girls and inter boys competed in the 2nd round of the schools cup.

The Inter girls team competed in the B final on Monday in Nuneaton. Due to several circumstances the team only had 9 competitors making it very difficult as a team. However, there were still some really good individual performances. The aim is to get over 30 points for the 2 events they compete in the following achieved that:

Tabby - 35 points

Rayna - 38 points

Erin - 44 Points

The team scored 244 points for 7th place

The inter boys made it to the A final which was a great achievement. Again there was some outstanding performances, with the following gaining over 30 points:

Harrison - 31 points

Will - 31 points

Rick - 32 points

Andrew - 37 points
Emmanuel - 43 points
Enrico - 54 points

The team score of 395 placed them 8th.

Thank you to Miss Leask, Mr Atkinson, Mr Jakes for all their help.

Social Media: Keeping Our Children Safe in a Digital World

Let's face it – social media is here to stay. Whether on TikTok dances, Snapchat streaks, or Instagram reels, young people are growing up in a digital world. And while there are many positives – creativity, connection, and even a good laugh – there are also some serious concerns we all need to be aware of as parents and carers.

What the Law Says

Did you know that most social media platforms, including TikTok, Instagram, and Snapchat, have a minimum age requirement of **13**? This isn't just a guideline – it's there for a reason. These platforms are not designed for younger users, and early exposure can lead to risks such as cyberbullying, inappropriate content, and contact from strangers.

Time for a Talk

As awkward as it might be, regular, open conversations with your child about their social media use are essential. Ask them what apps they're using, who they talk to, and how they decide what to post. Keep the tone light – it's not about snooping but about keeping them safe and helping them build good habits.

Check and Control

It's absolutely okay to check your child's phone and online activity. You wouldn't let them wander the streets alone at night – the internet can be just as risky. There are also **parental controls** available on most devices and apps that can help filter content, limit screen time, and flag up anything worrying. Think of it as putting up a digital safety gate.

A Word on School Identity

Please remind your child not to post images or videos that include the **school badge** or uniform in a way that could be mistaken for an official school account. Even well-meant content can be misinterpreted, and it's important that school representation online stays clear and appropriate.

We all want the best for our children – and that includes guiding them through the digital maze. A few simple steps now can help them enjoy the positives of social media while staying safe and responsible online.

Let's work together to keep our children safe – both in the real world and the digital one.

Year 12 Become 'Money Smart' with HSBC

Over the past two terms, **Year 12 students at The Crypt School** have taken part in the **Money Smart Programme**, a practical financial education initiative designed to equip young people with vital life skills. Delivered in partnership with **Scott Schofield**, Manager at **HSBC Cheltenham Branch**, the programme consisted of two engaging workshops:

- **Improving Your Credit Score**
- **Understanding Income and Tax**

Both sessions were tailored to help students understand the real-life importance of managing finances. Learning how credit scores influence future opportunities—like getting a mortgage or taking out a loan—and how income and tax work in everyday life has empowered students to think ahead and make informed financial decisions.

Scott Schofield shared his thoughts on the programme, "I've really enjoyed coming into The Crypt and working with such bright, motivated students. Financial awareness is so important - it's a life skill that gives young people confidence and independence as they move into adulthood."



Scott presented the **Money Smart Award** to **Mrs Wasley** recognising the school's commitment to preparing students for life beyond the classroom.

Chris Germaine, Personal Development teacher, also expressed his thanks, "We're incredibly grateful to Scott for the time he has spent working with our students. His sessions have been insightful and engaging, and they've had a real impact on how our students view money and financial planning. It's been a fantastic addition to our Personal Development curriculum."

The Crypt School remains committed to developing students' life skills and financial literacy and looks forward to continuing this successful partnership with HSBC in the future.

Summer Term Parent Support Series

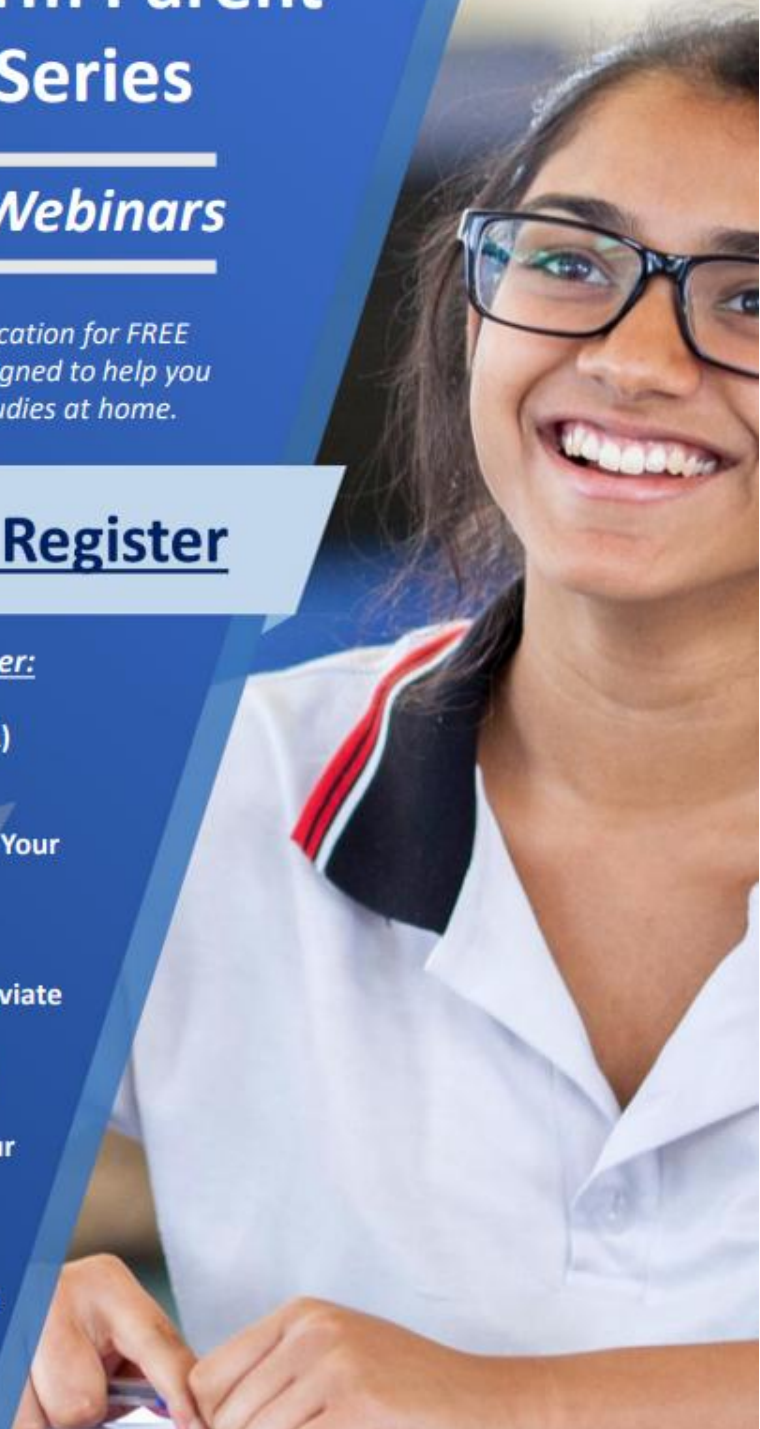
Free Parent Webinars

*Join us and Elevate Education for FREE
60- minute webinars designed to help you
support your child's studies at home.*

[Click here to Register](#)

In the Summer Term, we'll cover:

1. **Ask Me Anything (Live Q&A)**
- 6th May @6:00pm (BST)
2. **How You Can Help Improve Your
Child's Memory**
- 20th May @6:00pm (BST)
3. **How to Help Your Child Alleviate
Stress**
- 17th June @6:00pm (BST)
4. **How to Get (And Keep!) Your
Child Motivated**
- 1st July @6:00pm (BST)
5. **How You Can Set Your Child
Up for Success**
- 15th July @6:00pm (BST)



**PRAY FOR
SCHOOLS**

**EVERY
SCHOOL A
PRAYED FOR
SCHOOL...**

Wednesday 25th June

7:30 - 9:00 pm

St Barnabas Church

Gloucester

Do you pray for your child's school?
Are you a teacher or member of staff, praying for your school?
Come along and meet others who pray for our schools.

The evening will provide an opportunity to meet other people
praying for your school and network with other groups.

Guest speakers will help us understand that knowing that
people are praying for your school really makes a difference.

refreshments provided

For more details contact Helen Champion at hchampion@glosdioc.org.uk

A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN...



WWW.PRAYFORSCHOOLS.ORG

IF YOU SEE SOMETHING THAT DOESN'T FEEL RIGHT

**Tell security or report
at gov.uk/ACT**

We'll handle the rest

In an emergency, call 999

