

20th September 2024



Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

The third full week of term has flown by, reflecting the busy nature of our Crypt school life; I'm sure the same is true also for our Crypt parents and carers too.

Students should now be fully immersed in their academic studies and routines, such as learning to manage their A Level work schedules in year 12 or following homework timetables in year 7 for example. For our parents and carers, our curriculum offer is posted on the new school website, under the academic life of the school pages, where you will find what is taught in each curriculum area from years 7 to year 13 in the format of department programmes of study. Many parents and carers find it helpful, when supporting their child's education, to give themselves an overview of what their children are studying in their subjects, and at what point in the academic year particular topics, or units of study are being taught. Literacy is always a key focus of the academic life of the school, and I would encourage all our students to read widely, and to also develop greater fluency in their use of subject specific words, terms and concepts to support their progress in each subject and across the curriculum as a whole. Our school library is proving very popular this term, and it is very pleasing indeed to see so many of our younger students taking out library books and enjoying their reading.

Of course, and rightly so, school is about educating and developing each individual in a holistic manner; indeed, educating our students about their world is vital, as they grown up and develop their own informed views and evidence-based opinions, and in time move into the adult world themselves, In that regard, our personal development programme is a vital part of our curriculum, as is our tutorial and assembly programme. This week Mrs Hargraves led a very important assembly asking our staff and students to reflect on the summer riots which erupted across many English towns, and which I know worried many. Our Crypt community is a very inclusive, friendly and supportive one, and in her assembly Mrs Hargraves emphasised the need for that to remain the case, and reminded all that each and every one of our students and staff colleagues here at school, should feel a strong sense of belonging and identity to their school, its values, vision and mission: I hope that all students and staff feel strongly that this indeed the case.

In the context of a holistic educational approach, Mrs Hargraves used another assembly this week to introduce all students to our school counsellor, who, as part of our wider pastoral and wellbeing offer in school, is there to support students who need extra help at key moments in their school lives. To help support the personal development and wellbeing of our students, our clubs and activities started in earnest this week, and I was really pleased to see over 40 students attending my table tennis club on Tuesday, as well as many others who came to the sports hall to play badminton on that day. Lots of other clubs also take place across the week - please see our new website for details.



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The Crypt School
Educating students since 1539

On Wednesday of this week, I was delighted to welcome Old Cryptian and our former Head Girl Lacey Bradley into school to talk to those interested in applying to Oxbridge. Lacey is currently studying law at Oxford University, and her talk was very well received indeed, and perhaps inspired many to turn their plan to apply into reality this term; or, for those in years 11 and 12 who attended, in the near future. Today, many of our senior students are attending a visit to Oxford University led by our Oxbridge coordinator, and Oxford alumni Miss Parkin (MFL). I do hope that trip has inspired those who attended.

Indeed it is university application season, with our year 13 students being encouraged and supported to apply to their chosen universities, if that is the route they wish to pursue. Those applying for Oxbridge, medicine, dentistry, and veterinary medicine for example have an early deadline to meet, while all other applicants are encouraged to submit their forms well before the UCAS deadline in early January. Ms Glock (Director of Post 16 Education) will support all students in year 13 with their post-18 plans, with additional support and guidance offered by our careers team, tutors and other staff in school. Looking forward to the year ahead, there is a wide-ranging programme of careers talks and activities planned by Mr Germaine, our careers leader in school, which will support all students as they consider their future career pathways, which will be especially important to those in years 11, 12 and 13.

A few sports fixtures took place this week, such as the year 9 and 11 girl's netball and senior rugby against Cotswold School; I hope those fixtures, and all the practices that go on each week have progressed well for those involved. I was delighted to learn from Mr Howell (History & Politics) that we have secured additional places to enable all who want to attend the summer First World War Battlefields Trip for year 9 to do so. Some 80 students, accompanied by staff, will undertake a visit to the Ypres and Somme area of Belgium and northern France in the summer, to see for themselves the terrible impact that conflict had on the landscape and peoples of the time. 58 Old Cryptians died in the First World War, and we shall hopefully be able to visit some of the places perhaps where they are buried, and pay our respects to both them and to all the millions of others who lost their lives in that most terrible of conflicts.

Unfortunately, the year 7 and 12 group photos have been delayed until later in the term due to unforeseen circumstances (not I should note of the School's making!).

Do enjoy a very pleasant weekend.

With continued best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'N. Dyer'.

Nicholas Dyer
Headmaster

School Dates

23rd September – Year 12 Information Evening

23rd September – Army Careers Visit lunchtime

24th September – GCSE Musicians Pittville Pump Room Concert

24th – 27th September – Y8 Bikeability

25th September – Maths Olympiad for girls

26th September – Year 7 & 8 Disco 4pm

27th September – Y8 Chelsea's Story pd5

30th September – 2nd October – Year 8 Residential to Croft Farm

3rd October – Whole School Photo

3rd October – New Year 7 Pastoral Evening

7th October – Year 12 Geography Trip

8th October – CSPTA Meeting at 6pm

8th – 11th October – Y8 Bikeability

8th October – Y7 Cheltenham Literature Festival

9th October – Y7 Cheltenham Literature Festival

9th October – Y11/Y13 Apprenticeship Workshop

11th October – Gabrieli Choral Workshop with Charles Béquignon-MacDougall

11th October – Y7 & Y12 whole year group photograph

Meet the School Counsellor



This week our school counsellor, Fi, introduced herself to the school community in a remote assembly. She talked about how some people may internalise their feelings, and even get physical symptoms of stress or anxiety. Counselling may help students deal with feelings of sadness, anxiety or overwhelm, and become more resilient to the challenges they may face in life. Students can self-refer or parents can contact Form Tutors or Heads of Year if they feel their child may benefit from talking to a professional. Fiona is in school on Tuesdays and Thursdays and works from a light and discrete office near the library.

Main Open Event – early school closure

The school's main open event will be held on Wednesday, 16th October. To prepare for this important day, the school will close early on Tuesday, 15th October, at 1:10 PM.

For students who need to stay until the usual end of the school day to wait for the school buses, the school will remain open. The canteen will provide a reduced menu, and students will have access to study facilities after lunch.

If your child will be staying at school until the normal time, please let us know, by 1st October, [here](#).

Working at The Crypt School

We are recruiting for the following Professional Support Staff Vacancies:

Pastoral Support Worker – Closing date 2nd October 2024

Language Assistant (native German) – closing date 1st October 2024

PE Assistant & Sports Coach (Girls' Sport) – closing date 9th October 2024

Lunchtime Supervisor – closing date 9th October 2024

Cleaners x2 - (one with deep clean in the holidays and one without deep clean) – closing date 9th October 2024

If you know anyone who may be interested in applying, full details are available on the school website <https://cryptschool.org/explore-our-school/work-with-us/>.

Contact: Sharon Bailey, HR Support on sbailey@crypt.gloucs.sch.uk

Podcast Recommendation for Parents

In January, Matt Pinkett (author of several books on education and teenage boys) came to school to deliver a workshop to all students year 9-13 on misogyny and sexual harassment, as well as staff training.



This week he was interviewed on a podcast called “What do parents know” about toxic masculinity. He talks about challenges boys and men face today, masculinity and why he is driven to work with schools to tackle the issues we face. He directly addresses the appeal of Andrew Tate and how to challenge this.

The podcast can be accessed here: <https://whatdoparentsknow.buzzsprout.com/#> and also available on Spotify, Apple and many other podcasts platforms. Please note there is some colourful language in the interview so we do not recommend listening with your children!

Music

With a generous invitation from Cheltenham Music Festival Society, our Year 11 students have been given the chance to perform at the Pittville Pump Room. This gives a stunning platform to hone their performance prowess in advance of the GCSE assessment next spring and very excited to see our group excel.

On Monday, we introduced a new lunchtime session to provide skills development in music and audio production. Sound design is becoming more integral to the portfolio of the working musician and it was wonderful to see the enthusiasm. Students were presented with a task to remix Shivers by Ed Sheeran utilising Pro Tools, and will learn concepts in EQ, compression and synthesis. We look forward to listening to the efforts and how their creative ideas flourish.



Our Young Voices group are working on This is Me from The Greatest Showman arranged for two-part choir and led with spirit by Mrs Banda. We encourage all new Year 7s to get involved and sing for fun, and provide more opportunities to sing in our main choir.

Symphony Orchestra has recommenced for the Autumn season and we began with a medley from West Side Story. We were highly impressed with the level of

attainment and dedication from our new Year 7s and cannot wait to get underway with our Autumn concert programme.

Year 8 have been learning melodic writing through the use of fanfares. Our maestro of trumpet Mr Storer came into the class to demonstrate military announcements to the commanding officer and to wake up the infantry. The students then learned how to play broken chords on the keyboards utilising the rhythmic qualities of fanfare playing.

Following the esteemed Dr MacDougall's guest appearance on Speech Day, we are looking forward to a partnership with Gabrieli Roar over the coming months, culminating in a mass ensemble performance at St. Mary Redcliffe in Bristol on Wednesday 11th December. Dr MacDougall will be returning on Friday



11th October to run a choral workshop with our choir and we have begun to learn the elegant Georgian carols. The first rehearsal of the term had a huge turnout, and we were pleased to welcome many new members. If you are considering and want to participate in the Gabrieli project the deadline is next Friday 27th September.

On Thursday, we teamed up with the drama department for Musical Theatre Club, led by Mrs Crozier, with the aim of singing and acting through a variety of classic and contemporary songs from the West End stage. Our first ensemble piece is Seasons of Love from Rent, a modern adaptation of Puccini's La Boheme. A poignant piece which reflects on how our lives change within every second of a year. We have more exciting news to announce soon.

Inspired Lecture Series

We are delighted to launch a new Inspired Lecture Series for the new academic year. Designed around topics such as Artificial Intelligence, Leadership and changes in Science & Technology, the lectures are open to all students in all year groups. This year we launch our series on Monday 30 September, when Rich Whincup, lecturer at Hartpury University will visit school to talk about Sports Marketing, a topic that sees constant change and the need for creative minds.

These will be followed by:

11 October - Artificial Intelligence

13 November - Science & Technology in the Police service

21 November - Entrepreneurship

To register a place for 30 September, students need to complete the [Google Form](#), which has been emailed to them, or scan the QR code.

"Is my child too ill for school?"

Improving attendance is a joint responsibility. As a school we have an attendance target of 97% and ask that each student strives to achieve or exceed this. Students in school receive excellent face to face teaching, which helps to support their learning and enhances their outcomes. We acknowledge that there are times when a student is unwell and unable to attend. Deciding if a student is too unwell to attend can be a difficult decision and so the NHS has helped by offering guidance under "[Is my child too ill for school?](#)"

This includes advice regarding:

Coughs and colds - students can attend school unless they also have a temperature.

Covid - students with mild symptoms (runny nose, sore throat or slight cough) can attend school. If they have a temperature or do not feel well enough to attend they should stay at home. There is no requirement to test and attendance should be based on individual symptoms. If a test is taken and shows a positive, the student must remain at home for 3 days.

Sore throat - students can attend school unless they also have a temperature.

Vomiting and diarrhoea - students should stay at home until 48 hours after the last episode.

In summary, if your child has a high temperature we ask that they stay off school and rest at home to aid their recovery. Please complete the daily absence form ([here](#)).

If they have mild symptoms and do not have a temperature please send them to school. If your child requires pain relief during the day, our office will contact you for your permission or ask you to collect your child if they become too unwell.

With regard to other absences, please ensure that all medical appointments are arranged for outside of school hours or within the school holidays whenever possible. Please ensure students attend school both before and after medical appointments so that the impact upon their attendance is minimised. For unavoidable medical absence please complete the medical absence form ([here](#)).

Holidays must be taken outside of term dates. There are 14 weeks of holiday between now and next September, please ensure all family trips and holidays are contained within these. If there are genuine exceptional circumstances please request this absence for consideration using the absence in exceptional circumstances form ([here](#)).

Can I also please remind you of our school value of integrity. We ask for clear and honest communication from you if your child is not in school so that our registers accurately reflect

the reasons for absence. This removes the likelihood of potentially awkward situations where conflicting information is given to the school.

Together we need to ensure that students have access to the full time education to which they are entitled and absence from school is kept to a minimum.

Apprenticeships

As students return to the routine of study, some are thinking about apprenticeships as a route after The Crypt. Information for parents and students will be published over the coming months. [Amazing Apprenticeships](#) have published their [September Choices Magazine](#), which is aimed at parents and carers in supporting their child gain an apprenticeship.

For those interested in gaining an apprenticeship with the BBC, there is a webinar on 22 October 2024 starting at 3.30pm to find out more. You can register for a place [here](#).

For those who want to get ahead and start looking now, here is a [step by step guide](#) on how to register for an apprenticeship.

As a school we will be providing support to students who are seeking an apprenticeship. More information will follow.

Library

The year 7's are settling in well, enjoying visiting the library and choosing books. I have had a lot of students asking for recommendations which is always very encouraging to see students trying new genres.



We are running the Bookbuzz this year. The programme is run by Booktrust, see link below.

This gives us the chance to offer all year 7 students a free book from a choice of 14 available to them. During an English lesson they watch small video clips describing the books by the author and then choose a book they would like to own. All books are free to the students. We will have all the book titles available in the library for them to read once we have all year 7 choices.

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/what-we-do/programmes-and-campaigns/bookbuzz/>

The students are now enrolling to take part in the Harry Potter Book Quiz event which is on 17th October afterschool. If anyone is interested, please come and see me to become part of this very exciting event. Posters are around the school plus information is on the Daily News for tutor groups.



The event is being supported by the CSPTA

The quiz will be in the Canteen area with pizza available from 4.00pm to enjoy before the quiz begins

Fancy dress is optional

Science magic in the interval

A choice of pizzas and prices will be coming soon. You can bring your own food if preferred.

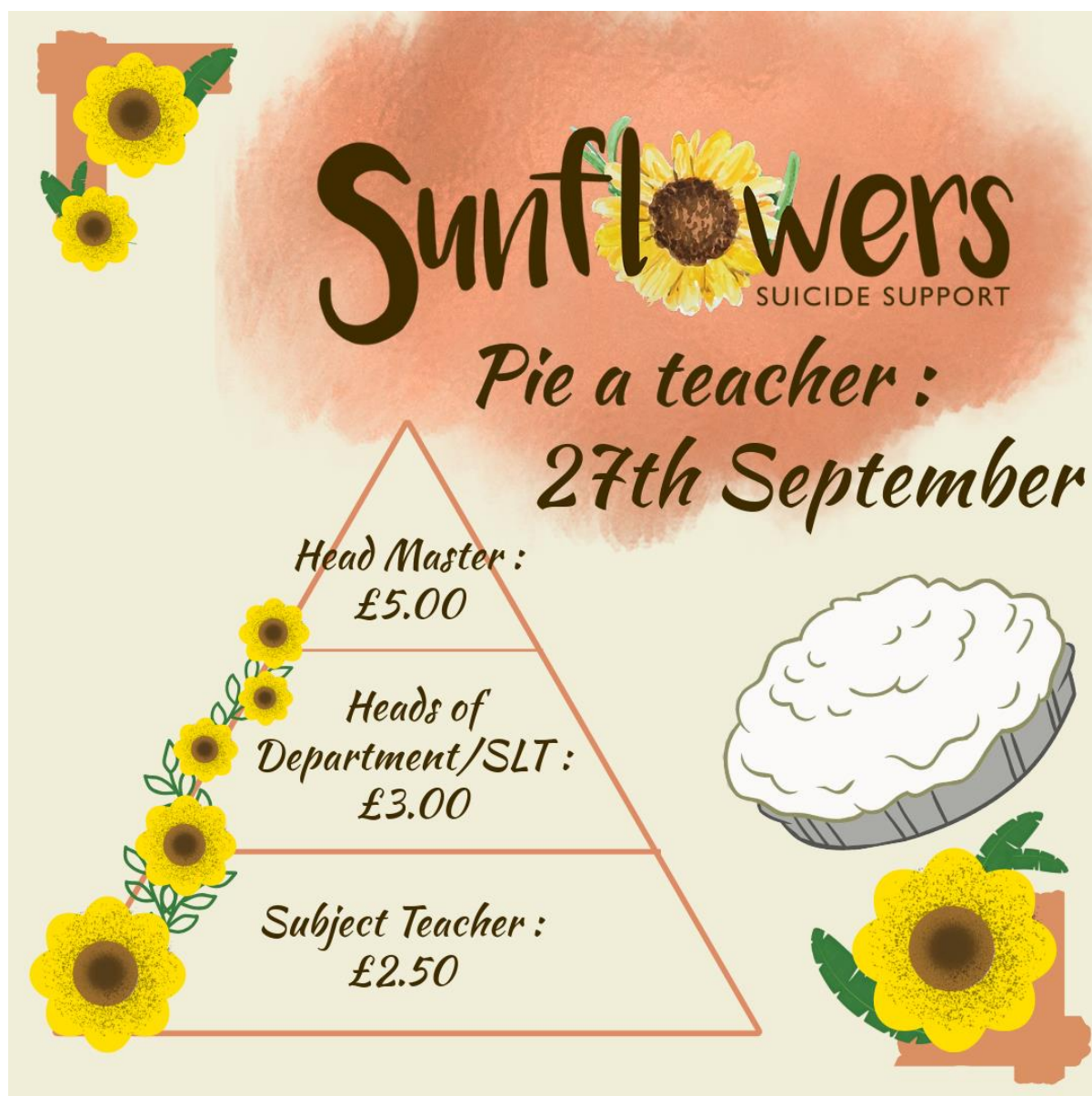
Refreshments by the CSPTA will be available to purchase throughout the event

Teams of no more than 6

Starting at 4.30 till 6.30 (approx.)

To register to take part in the quiz please come to see Mrs Jordan in the library

Charity Event



For a focus on local charities that affect Gloucestershire, The Crypt School are organising a charity event supporting the Sunflower Suicide Support charity based in Stonehouse. The charity offers a range of trauma-informed interventions, catering to the needs of children, young people, and adults bereaved and affected by suicide. Run by the student executive team, the event will take place on the 27th September at lunch time, with pricing starting at £5 for the headmaster, £3 for Heads of Department / SLT, and finally £2.50 for subjects, teachers and members of staff.

LONGLEVENS RFC U13'S



ARE YOU LOOKING TO JOIN A RUGBY TEAM?

PLAYED BEFORE OR NEW TO RUGBY

NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY

ALL ABILITIES WELCOME

DEVELOP INTO A RUGBY PLAYER

WITH OUR EXPERIENCED COACHING TEAM

NEW PLAYERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

We encourage the core values of rugby.

**Team Work, Respect, Enjoyment, Discipline,
Sportsmanship and Fun.**

Sunday Mornings

PLAYING and TRAINING

ORGANIZED HOME and AWAY FIXTURES

**Come along and join a family friendly rugby club and
become a team player.**

LONGLEVENS RUGBY CLUB U13'S

For further information contact; U13 Team Admin.

email: elliottfortey101@gmail.com or mobile: 07561 174967

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