

21st November 2025

Dear parents/carers and students,



School Musical - Oliver! 29/30th November

Full rehearsals for our whole-school musical took place last Saturday, and will do again tomorrow, with students and staff from both the music and drama departments, supported by other departments such as art, design technology and our site team by example, working collaboratively to ensure that next weekend's performances are exceptions - which I am sure they will be. We hope for full houses for all three performances, with tickets on sale

[Oliver Tickets, Fri, Nov 28, 2025 at 7:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)



Academic update

Students are always busy working on their academic studies, and for year 13 and 11 this year is of particular importance with A Level and GCSE examinations beginning in May, 2026. To help support them in their work, and to assess their progress to date, important assessments and mock exams are, or will be taking place in school for these two year groups. Year 13 are currently undertaking in class assessments, and year 11 will have their formal mock examinations (held in the school hall) the week commencing the 8th of December, lasting for the rest of term 2. Information about year 11 mocks has already been communicated home and to students (that information is also on our website). The outcomes of these assessments will help inform teaching, interventions, and students' own revision planning across terms 3-5.

I do hope Year 11 parent/carers evening, held last night in school was helpful in parents/carers ability to both support their child with ongoing work, and to support their decisions regarding their post-16 destinations.

Each year group has now received a data/effort report home, with year 13 and now year 11 also having a parents/carers consultation evening. I do hope that those reports are useful to parents/carers in support of your child's education and progress in whichever year group they might be in.

Six students qualified for the next round of the Senior Math's challenge - the Senior Kangaroo - which was held on Wednesday. The students included one year 10, one year 11, three year 12 and one year 13 student; all exceptional mathematicians who enjoy being tested on their mathematical ability through these national competitions. I hope that challenge went well for them all.

Cologne Trip Year 9 and 10

40 pupils, accompanied by staff, and led by Mrs Thompson left for Cologne on the annual Christmas Market trip on Thursday after school and who will be away for the weekend. A long coach trip, but



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The Crypt School
Educating students since 1539

worth it to visit the historic city of Cologne, to practise their German and to enjoy the culture, food and Christmas festivities on offer.

Curriculum review and new Ofsted framework

As many of our parents/carers will have heard, a government initiated curriculum review was published last week, which sets out the pathway forward for England's curriculum. Of course, any changes need to be approved by Parliament, with any curriculum changes authored by Ofqual and the relevant examination boards. If these changes do come into effect, which we believe will be the case, the new national curriculum changes for KS3 (years 7-9) will come into effect in September 2028, and the changes at GCSE for September 2029. The impact of these changes will therefore fall upon students who have yet to enter the school. However, changes to how schools are judged in relation to their GCSE outcomes will affect the current year 8: therefore, the school will be considering the nature of the GCSE curriculum for that year group ready for their option choices in year 9.

The changes to the Ofsted framework have now come into effect; however, we do not expect an inspection until March 2027 at the earliest. However, we are reviewing the new framework and will continue to build our school improvement priorities around our own needs as a school, as well as the framework's areas of focus. Ofsted and the curriculum review have highlighted remaining barriers that affect some pupils more than others and which schools need to focus on to enable every pupil, regardless of the challenges they face to thrive; indeed, 'to flourish' whilst at school - and that remains our vision at Crypt: providing an education, culture and environment that enables everyone 'to flourish' whilst at school and in their later adult lives.

With my continued best wishes,



Nicholas Dyer
Headmaster

School Dates

25 November	SENDCo afternoon 2.30pm–4pm
25 November	CSPTA Meeting S1 6.30pm
28 November	School production Oliver! 7pm
29 November	School production Oliver! 2pm & 7pm
2 December	Y7 Christmas Lunch
3 December	Y8 & 11 Christmas Lunch

4 December	Y9 & 10 Christmas Lunch
4 December	Y9 GCSE Option Evening 5.40pm–8pm
5 December	Christmas Fair 6–8pm
10 December	Y13 Business trip Birmingham
11 December	Christmas Jumper Day
11 December	Sixth Form Christmas Lunch
15 December	CSPTA Meeting S1 6.30pm
18 December	Christmas Carol Service St Barnabas 6.30pm
19 December	Term ends 12.30pm

Parent Trustee election

Following the recent ballot, Ruth Burchell has been elected to serve as a Parent Trustee on The Crypt School Board of Trustees for four years. Ruth has had a long career in the higher education sector and has a strong professional interest in quality enhancement, student engagement and admissions. Our thanks go to everyone who voted and especially to all the candidates who generously offered their support to the School.

Full Lockdown Procedure

On Wednesday 3rd December 9am the school will be running a practice of our full lockdown procedure. Staff and pupils will be made aware of this very important drill at the beginning of next week. Expectations will be made clear about what everyone's responsibilities are if a lockdown were to happen. Pupils will be informed that they must not make any contact during the practice, and indeed, if it were for real. Pupils will get a briefing during a form period over the coming days.

The practice will allow the school to check for any areas that we can improve on so that we can maintain a safe environment for all. A reminder will be sent to you all again next week.

School Improvement Plan 2025-26

A summary of the School's improvement priorities for this year is available to read on the [website](#). The 2025–26 plan reinforces The Crypt School's commitment to excellence, equity, and opportunity. It seeks to empower staff and students alike, ensuring the school continues to provide a challenging, inclusive, and forward-looking education for every learner.

Last Chance To Book! – Christmas Lunch 2025

We're delighted to invite students to our Christmas lunch this December! **To reserve a spot, parents and carers must pay £3.50 via ParentPay.** This fee is non-refundable, and students with Free School Meals must still book a meal through ParentPay.

Christmas Lunch Dates:

- Year 7: 2nd Dec
- Years 8 & 11: 3rd Dec
- Years 9 & 10: 4th Dec
- Sixth Form: 11th Dec.



Payment deadline: Sunday 23rd November.

Unfortunately, it will not be possible to pay or book after this date.

Crypt School PTA Christmas Fair

Join us for the Crypt School PTA Christmas Fair on Fri 5th Dec (6-8pm).



Entry to the fair is £1 for adults (children free) and don't forget to bring loose change for your entry and for the stalls (we have card readers for refreshments).

For your little ones book Santa's Grotto here!

<https://forms.gle/YjggTSHcezfEjqXG9>

Raffle tickets are available now via ParentPay for £1 and can also be bought on the night.

First prize £100, Second Prize A Family Christmas Hamper and many more prizes including a boiler service by PBT Installations.

Children In Need



A big thank you to everyone who donated to children in need last Friday for our non-uniform day. There were some fantastic outfits, and thanks to your generosity, we raised a remarkable £1470 for those children.

Thank you!

Your Voice Matters – Help Us Review Our Careers Provision

At The Crypt School, we are proud of our strong Careers provision, which was recognised with the **Careers Mark Award in 2024**. As we work towards **reaccreditation in 2026**, we remain committed to continuous improvement and to ensuring that our students receive the very best support as they plan for their futures.

As part of this process, we are inviting parents and carers to share their views on our current Careers education and guidance. While in previous years feedback was gathered through a small **parental focus group**, this year we would like to hear from a **wider cross-section of our parent community**.

We are therefore asking parents from **all year groups** to complete a short [Google Form](#) to provide feedback on your perceptions of the Careers programme and how it supports your child. The survey contains a small number of questions and should only take a few minutes to complete.

Although we regularly gather feedback from our students, it is equally important that we hear from parents. Your insights will help us to reflect on our provision and identify ways we can further enhance the Careers experience for all Crypt students.

We would be very grateful if you could complete the [form](#) by **Friday 28 November 2025**.

Thank you in advance for your time and continued support of our Careers work at The Crypt School.

Drama department - Woman In Black trip

We still have a few places left on the drama trip to see The Woman In Black (Tuesday, January 27th 2026) in Birmingham. Please book a ticket for your child if they are interested in seeing it by next Friday, November 29th, as we need to know final numbers before purchasing our tickets from the theatre. The letter and link are on your Parent Pay account.

Music Newsletter

The Music Department is buzzing with energy as we move into the festive season. The Symphony Orchestra and Cantores Cryptienses choir are sounding absolutely wonderful as they prepare for the Carol Service on Thursday 18th December. The orchestra is playing with warmth and precision, while the choir's rich, blended sound is growing more expressive with each rehearsal. Their commitment is clear, and the service promises to be a truly special event.

Meanwhile, the Jazz Band has begun work on a lively selection of festive music with a jazzy twist for the Christmas Fair on Friday 5th December. Their programme is full of sparkle and swing, ensuring a cheerful and uplifting atmosphere on the day.

Alongside all this musical preparation, the cast, crew, and production team for Oliver! have been working incredibly hard in the build-up to their performances, the first public show next Friday 28th November. From rehearsing musical numbers to perfecting choreography, refining technical elements, and putting the finishing touches on the set, everyone involved has shown outstanding dedication. It's shaping up to be a fantastic production, and we are excited to share the results of their hard work with the school community.

Run The World Update

I wanted to give you all an update on our progress in the Run the World Challenge. Our original goal was to complete the challenge within a week, which we now realise was a little ambitious! Thanks to everyone's hard work, we've covered 17,836 miles, taking us all the way to Denver, Colorado.

We've decided to continue the challenge until Christmas to see if we can reach our full target of 24,901 miles. To help us get there, we're inviting parents and other adults to join in. Please use this link to upload any miles you complete to support our goal.

I'd also like to make a plea for increased donations to Talk Well. So far, we've had 162 donations, raising almost £5,000, which is fantastic. However, many students who have completed miles may not

yet have collected their sponsor money. Our JustGiving page will remain open until Christmas, so there is still plenty of time to add to our total.

Thank you all for your support — together, we can make a real difference

Mr Hart

Tianna Nominated for Young Sportsperson of the Year



Congratulations to Head Girl Tianna who has been nominated for Young Sportsperson of the Year at the Inspirational Youth Awards - Good luck!

Monmouth Appeal

Due to the recent impact of Storm Claudia, Monmouth has suffered devastating flooding after the River Monnow burst its banks, causing severe damage. The scale of the flooding has overwhelmed local communities, and many people need help.

To support those affected, our school is organising a toiletries and cleaning products collection. We will take donations in the crush hall until the end of the school day on Tuesday 25th November.

The following toiletries and items would be very welcome

- Toothpaste & toothbrushes
- Hairbrushes
- Nappies
- Socks
- Shower gel / soap
- Shampoo & conditioner
- Deodorant

- Sanitary products Wet wipes
- Hand sanitiser
- Towels

Cross Country Results

Well done to everyone who took part in the District Cross Country at Plock Court on Thursday 13th November. We had lots of keen students wanting to test themselves against the best in the District. As you will see below we had some wonderful individual performances with 10 students qualifying for the Country Cross Competition in Newent. And all teams managed to achieve a top 3 team place.

Y7 boys Lucas H 9th

Y7 girls Joanna Y 7th, Neha P 9th

Y8 / Y9 boys Ollie T 1st

Y8 / Y9 girls Kim H 2nd

Y10 / Y11 boys Andrew C 1st, Harrison M 3rd, Monty Cs, 5th and Ethan N 6th

Y10/ Y11 girls Tilly F 4th, Faye G 8th

Good luck to all those in the next round.





The Crypt School Parent Teacher Association

Parents, Teachers and Friends

cspta@cryptschool.org

Our next meeting to be held on
Tuesday 25th November 2025 at 6.30pm

Venue: Sports Classroom 1, Sports Block, The Crypt School

**This is a group open to all parents and
carers and all are welcome to attend
and support meetings/events**

Agenda

1. **Present**
2. **Apologies**
3. **Treasurer's Report**
4. **Bids**
Sensory Garden Proposal Follow Up
Library Bid
5. **School Report**
6. **Events and Staffing**
Succession Planning – Steve (Treasurer) and Tracy (200 Club)
Oliver 28-29th November
Christmas Fair 5th December
7. **School Clothing Sales**
8. **200 Club**
9. **Dates of next meetings**
Monday 15th December
Tuesday 27th January
Tuesday 24th February
Monday 23rd March
Tuesday 28th April
Monday 18th May
Tuesday 30th June
10. **AOB**
Supplies Checklist
Hygiene certificates for working in the school kitchen
2nd hand textbook sales

Chairman: Mike Byfield Vice Chairman: Tracy Scott
Secretary: Sharon Byfield Treasurer: Steve Scott
Web: <http://www.cryptschool.org/association-aims/> Email: cspta@cryptschool.org

The Crypt School Association, Podsmead Road, Gloucester GL2 5AE
The Crypt School Association is a registered charity dedicated to supporting the school, registration number 280200