

23rd May 2025

Dear parents, carers and students,



I hope this newsletter home finds you all well as we now move into half term; it's been a very busy and productive term, but of course a very short one indeed.

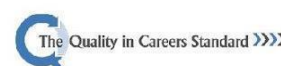
The Crypt School annual Founders' Day Service takes place at Gloucester Cathedral on the 26th of June; the service will start at 7.15pm and all students need to be at the Cathedral for 6.30pm to be registered by their form tutor. Our annual Founders' Day service is one of the most significant whole school events of the school year: at the service, we pay thanks to our school's Founders - John and Joan Cooke - as well as to those many others whose work and commitment to the wellbeing and life of the school has enabled The Crypt School to flourish for nearly five hundred years. Attendance at that service is expected by all students in year 7-10 and year 12. We hope they will feel that same strong sense of pride and belonging to the school that thousands of their predecessors also felt.

Of course, whilst normal school life continues, public exams proceed for our examination cohorts. On Wednesday, year 9 sat their GCSE RS short Course GCSE, with other GCSE and A Levels exams continuing for year 11 and 13. On Thursday, after their physics GCSE exam concluded, year 11 students enjoyed a very supportive English Language revision and exam preparation session, led by head of English, Mrs Hardaker, ready for today's English Language exam. Half term now awaits the examination candidates - a time to recharge their batteries and conduct further revision and preparation of the next stage of their public exams. Half term is also an occasion, for years 8 and 9 to prepare for the end of year assessment, which will occur in term 6.

I was delighted this week to receive a letter from Gloucestershire Careers Hub, part of the Career and Enterprise Company, to congratulate the school on its careers programme, and its meeting of the careers benchmarks which set out the criteria of what is considered an effective school careers programme. The Crypt School has fully met 6 of the 8 benchmarks, with strong progress in the other two benchmarks having been made. My thanks to everyone who contributes to our outstanding careers programme, and to our career's leader, Mr Germaine.

A few trips have taken place this week: members of year 10 enjoyed a trip to the coast for the water sports trip, with our year 12 geographers, visiting Birmingham to carry out field study work, as part of their A Level studies. The weather has also allowed some cricket matches this week, as well as other sporting activities, which I am sure we enjoyed by all involved.

Parental parking, whilst collecting students after school I have received some complaints from local residents and the local councillor, with regard to parents/carers (and some student parking) in the local area of the school, blocking residential driveways. Whilst parking in the local area is challenging, and space is limited at that time of the day, please can I urge all those who do collect



Headmaster: N C Dyer BA (Hons) MA NPQH
Telephone: 01452 530291
Email: enquiries@crypt.gloucs.sch.uk
www.cryptschool.org

Registered Office:
Podsmead Road, Gloucester GL2 5AE
The Crypt School: a company limited by guarantee.
Registered in England and Wales: Company No: 7489196

The Crypt School
Educating students since 1539

their child after school and who do park in the immediate vicinity of the school, to be mindful of the needs of local residents, whose driveways should not be blocked by other people's cars. Many thanks for your support.

Big Space Cancer Appeal - Lions at Large Led by Ms Medcroft (head of design and art) our four fantastic year 10 art students - Adelina, Clara, Holly and Nadia - have completed work on our little lion and what a fantastic job they have done. My thanks to all of them for their outstanding work and for the time and effort they have given to this project. Please do share our [JustGiving Page](#)



With best wishes

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

Nicholas Dyer
Headmaster

School Dates

23 rd May	End of Term 5
2 nd June	Term 6 Stars Week 1
5 th June	Staff planning day: school closed to pupils. GCSE and A level exams continue in school
11 th June	Year 10 Work Experience
10 th June	CSPTA AGM and meeting 6pm S Block All welcome
13 th June	Battlefields Trip

Careers Insight Talks Highlights

As part of our ongoing Careers Programme at The Crypt School, we continue to offer our students a rich and varied series of over 25 Careers Insight Talks throughout the summer term—designed to broaden horizons, spark curiosity, and inspire future pathways.

In our second week, students heard from Tom Goode, a Production Manager working locally in Lydney, who shared insight into manufacturing and operational leadership. We also welcomed back Sam Dean, a recent Crypt alumnus currently completing a degree apprenticeship in project management with Ward Williams Associates. Sam's talk gave a real-world perspective on balancing academic learning with industry experience.

Sam undertook his Year 12 work experience at Ward Williams Associates, where he made a lasting impression. So much so, they offered him a job, where he is thriving.

Another former student, Aaron Hegadus, joined us virtually from Budapest, where he works as a software engineer. His journey from top A-level results at The Crypt, to studying Mathematics at Oxford, to now working in Europe's tech sector, was a powerful reminder of how the foundations laid at school can open doors globally.

"A very insightful talk that highlighted the pathway from education into software engineering." Year 12 student.

We also had the privilege of hearing from Dr Caroline Lovell, Head of Research for the National Police Chiefs' Council. Dr Lovell spoke compellingly about the fast-paced developments in science and technology within the police force—and the exciting, often unexpected, career opportunities this creates.

These talks remind us of the importance of keeping an open mind when it comes to careers. Pathways are rarely linear, and exploring a range of industries and professions helps our students make informed choices. We encourage all students to continue researching options thoroughly, ask questions, and consider how their skills and interests might align with evolving opportunities in the world of work.

“Week 2 of our Careers Insight Talks has showcased the breadth of opportunity open to our students—from local industry to international tech, and from policing to project management. It’s been a fantastic reminder of the importance of keeping options open and being curious about where your strengths can take you.”

Chris Germaine, Careers Leader.

Bronze DofE Practice Expedition: A Weekend of Adventure and Growth

On the weekend of 10th–11th May 2025, our Bronze Duke of Edinburgh’s Award participants took part in their eagerly anticipated practice expedition across the beautiful Gloucestershire countryside.

The expedition began on Saturday morning with a staggered drop-off at Selsley Common and Leonard Stanley. From there, teams embarked on a supervised hike, guided by instructors who provided training and support along the way. The route led students through scenic landscapes to their respective campsites: Penn Wood Scout Camp and Woodchester Park.



Once at camp, students set up their hiking tents and prepared their evening meals using Trangia stoves, gaining valuable experience in outdoor cooking and campcraft. The atmosphere was one of camaraderie, determination, and growing confidence as participants settled in for a well-earned rest under the stars.

On Sunday morning, after cooking breakfast and packing up, the teams completed a remotely supervised hike back toward the finish. Along the way, they demonstrated developing navigation skills, teamwork, and resilience. The expedition concluded with a staggered pick-up between 3:30 and 4:15 PM at Selsley Common and Leonard Stanley, where proud parents and carers welcomed back their adventurers.



A final debrief with instructors allowed students to reflect on their experiences, strengths, and areas for development ahead of their assessed expedition.

Well done to all participants for their fantastic effort and positive attitude throughout the weekend — and a huge thank you to the staff and volunteers who made this memorable experience possible.

Silver DofE Groups Complete Memorable Canoe Practice Expedition on the River Wye

On the 16-18th of May several groups of Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award participants took on a three-day canoeing expedition along the River Wye, paddling from Whitney-on-Wye all the way to Hereford Rowing Club. The adventure covered more than 40km and gave everyone a chance to learn new skills, grow as a team, and enjoy the outdoors.



The expedition started with a focus on teamwork and safety. Before getting on the water, the groups spent time practicing paddling techniques and learning how to help each other in the event of a capsize. These rescue skills gave everyone a boost of confidence and set a positive tone for the trip.



Once the training was complete, the teams set off down the river. Day one offered calm conditions and some beautiful scenery—rolling fields, wooded banks, and plenty of wildlife. It was the perfect setting to settle into the rhythm of paddling and begin working together as a group.

Day two brought more of a challenge. Stronger winds and faster-flowing sections of river meant communication and teamwork were more important than ever. There were a few wobbles and even a capsize or two, but every group handled the day with determination and good humour. That evening, they set up camp near Preston-on-Wye, cooked their own meals, and shared stories from the day around the fire.



By the third day, it was clear how much each group had grown. Paddling felt smoother, navigation was sharper, and the teamwork was second nature. Spirits were high as the finish line approached. When the teams spotted the spire of Hereford Cathedral in the distance, the sense of achievement kicked in—and they powered through the final stretch to reach Hereford Rowing Club.

It was a brilliant few days on the river. Everyone showed great resilience, supported each other through tough moments, and made memories that will stick with them for a long time. The practice expedition was more than just a physical challenge—it was a chance to build confidence, independence, and friendships.

Well done to all the participants on completing your Silver practice expedition—you should be really proud!

Golds at Buckingham Palace

On Friday 11th May our most dedicated adventurers swapped walking boots for best dress as they attended the national Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award celebration at Buckingham Palace.

- Eight Year 13 students made the journey straight after their final morning in school.
- They were joined by three alumni who completed their awards two years ago and returned to share the moment with friends and staff.



The highlight came when Green Team were invited to chat with HRH Prince Edward, the Duke of Edinburgh, who congratulated them on their commitment and asked about their most testing expedition moments.

Standing among hundreds of other Gold Award holders in the Palace gardens, our students reflected on the years of volunteering, skills, physical challenges, and expeditions that led to this point. The occasion was a fitting tribute to their resilience, teamwork and leadership—qualities they will carry into life beyond The Crypt.

Congratulations to every one of our Gold recipients. You have set a shining example for younger year groups and shown what can be achieved through perseverance and adventurous spirit. We could not be prouder!



MFL news Fastnacht and Easter

Our year 7 German groups were very busy before the Easter break and learnt a great deal about German culture.

They learned about the tradition of 'Fastnacht' in the southern parts of Germany. This custom is celebrated for two reasons:

1. To enjoy good food before most people start lent in preparation for Easter!
2. To scare the winter away by dressing up with scary masks





Our year 7 enjoyed making scary masks in class and learning about this tradition.

Year 7 German students have also been learning about Easter in Germany and discovered how important Easter decorations are for Germans. There are so many beautiful hand crafted and hand painted easter eggs which are hung on a bush to get your house ready for the festive seasons. Our year 7 had great fun painting and decorating easter eggs within this tradition.

Music Newsletter



We have been fortunate to have many wonderful opportunities come our way.

On Sunday 4th May, the Jazz Band gave a tremendous performance at the Cheltenham Jazz Festival led by Mr Rushton. Thank you to all those who attended and gave their support.



Mr Partington and Miss Llewelyn-Jones of Gloucester Cathedral recently hosted a choral workshop with the aim of recruiting new singers for their St. Benedict's (Years 4-9) and Trinity Singers (Years 9-13) choral groups. Auditions will be held on Saturday 5th July from 11am to 12pm. If you would like to know more information, please speak to a member of music, or contact the Cathedral direct.

Carducci Quartet provided an appraisal and workshop of our Year 10's compositions for their competition. It was a delight to hear our students' work played by a professional string ensemble with many useful techniques that will help to enhance their coursework going into Year 11.



Founders' Day rehearsals are progressing really well, with choir members giving a triumphant blend of sound with Parry's I Was Glad and our orchestra matching the standard with Walton's Crown Imperial. Letters have been sent out to parents through ParentPay for all those participating in the musical proceedings of the service.

Mrs Crozier will have sent out a letter with exciting details for our school production Oliver!, which will be held on Thursday 28th, Friday 29th and Saturday 30th November. Thank you to all those who have signed up for what promises to be a magnificent show run. Audition packs are now available with the auditions being held on Monday 16th June.

We would like to remind those learning instruments in school to notify your peripatetic teacher if you have an assessment during a planned lesson time. If a teacher is not notified about this, you may still be charged a full lesson. Please check your child's upcoming assessments and email your instrumental teacher in advance to rearrange any times.

Our international tour to Belgium has been launched with many wonderful opportunities for choral concerts and performances. Thank you to everyone who has submitted the form. We do have enough places now to make the trip possible, and the form is now closed.

We wish you all a wonderful half term break and look forward to our spectacular run of events in the summer term!

Year 12 A Level Geography

The A Level geography students completed their final field trip of the year earlier this week when they visited central Birmingham. The students explored areas of the city that have undergone extensive redevelopment and collected information relevant to one of their case studies.



The second part of the day was spent conducting questionnaires and investigating pedestrian safety with all the data being collected digitally on mobile phones. Students worked cooperatively in small groups to ensure that good quality data was collected which will now be analysed back in the classroom.

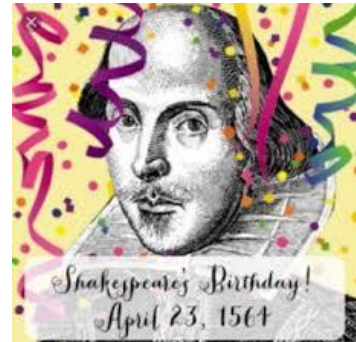
The geography department would like to thank all the students for the excellent behaviour and enthusiastic participation on this trip as well as those earlier in the year to Swanage and Northleach.

Library Newsletter

After the Easter holiday we held A Be William Shakespeare Quiz to celebrate his birthday, which was over the break.

Congratulations to Leo from 7RR, who received a book voucher. All students who took part received merits.

Our next quiz will be based on The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins. This is to mark the day of Reaping – 4th July. After the quiz which will run for 2 weeks we will have a celebration on Friday 4th July in the library at lunchtime.



We do have a wide variety of books fiction and non-fiction. It is that time of year to have a good look at a new genres, series and titles available in the library. We also have a Fast Fiction section in the library for students who want a quick read, with a wide variety of genres.

Are you having a Spring clean? If so, I would like to mention that we are always pleased to receive any book donations you may have. Please always think of the school library if you come across any books you would like to get rid of. Teenage fiction or non-fiction are always welcome. Have a wonderful half term break.

Themed Menu

John Dory GETS Loaded!

Tuesday 17th June

- JD Loaded Cheesy, Bacon, BBQ & Chive Chips
- JD Loaded Cheesy, Bacon, Crispy Onion & Chive Chips
- JD Loaded Chicken Curry, Crispy Onion & Mint Yoghurt Chips
- JD Loaded Katsu, Veggie Finger, Red Onion Chips

Aspens

John Dory GETS Loaded!

Loaded Chips are here with tastes from far and near...

Come and Choose your Favourite Combo!

WE'VE GOT THEM COVERED... IN LOTS OF GOOD STUFF!

Aspens

Formation Dance Team



Charlotte Year 10 (right below with partner Lily) and her team, has been training hard for a year with her formation dance team, 'Pulp Fiction', with Dance Crazy Studios. They have been competing in March, April and May in the Welsh, UK, European and World Formation Dance Titles. They have had a very successful season, awarded 3rd in the World Championships.