

24th January 2025



Dear parents/carers and students,

I do hope this letter finds you all well.

Our student heads of house have given assemblies to their houses across this week, which is very good to see, granting senior students an opportunity to practise their public speaking skills, and deliver key messages to their houses; the five school houses act to bring students from across the school together for occasions such as assemblies, competitions and other events, while developing a shared sense of identity and belonging. On Wednesday, period one was suspended whilst all students engaged with our third community hour of the year, with this one focusing on careers for most year groups, with year 11 focussing on revision techniques and year 13 on post 18 pathways. Thank you to those who contributed to the career talks and to Ms Glock (Director of post 16 Education and of Student Personal Development) and Mr Germaine (our careers leader) for organising that community hour, through which students across the school could gain a fuller understanding of the diverse range of careers that might be available to them in the future, and the skills they need to develop to enable access to them.

Chemistry students in year 13 faced the academic challenge of the Royal Society of Chemistry's Olympiad on Thursday, organised by our head of chemistry Ms Gee. The demands of the papers are considered to be beyond A Level standard, and act as a good challenge for students as they head into the final stages of their A Level studies. In the context of academic work and challenge, year 8 have started their mid-year assessments this week: an important exercise for them, testing their understanding and knowledge of work studied across the curriculum to date and an occasion to become used to answering questions under time constraints.

13 Year 12 A Level sport studies students, accompanied by Mr Windsor, enjoyed a trip to the University of Gloucestershire on Wednesday, learning more about their subject and the varied opportunities available to study sports and related degree programmes as an undergraduate. Today, some 30 year 7 students are attending a day at GE Aerospace - Rethink Day - which is focussed on developing their employability skills through activities whilst also offering them an insight into the careers that are available in this and wider STEM sectors of the economy. Thank you to head of physics, Ms John, for organising this trip. Tomorrow, Ms Hardaker, head of English, is with students at the national Cambridge Union debating competition in Bristol; winners of this stage of the competition will travel to Cambridge for the national final later in the year.



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The Crypt School
Educating students since 1539

On Wednesday evening year 9 musicians and singers enjoyed a concert in the main hall, organised by the music department, and attended by many families. Unfortunately, I was not able to attend but understand that it proved to be a most enjoyable occasion, and showcased the breadth and depth of musical talent we are fortunate to have in that year group. I'm sure many of those performed will go onto study GCSE music next year and continue to develop their musical interest further through the GCSE course, and through participating in the diverse music programme offered to all students in school. My thanks to Mr Whittaker for organising that event, and to Mrs Duxbury head of year 9, for her attendance. Sporting fixtures featured for many students this week, in football, netball, rugby and basketball. It's so pleasing to see so many students involved in sport, in music and in a wide range of other activities that make up the rich and varied life of the school.

Finally, congratulations to Ms Leask, who has been appointed as our permanent Director of Sport. As many will know, Ms Leask was head of girls' sport until August 2024 and was appointed as Acting Director of Sport this September. She has now been confirmed in that role, which encompasses giving vision and leadership to our PE and games programmes, to the GCSE and A Level sport studies curriculum, directing the girls' programme and working with our heads of boys' sport to ensure a comprehensive and varied programme runs for them across the school.

With continued best wishes,



Nicholas Dyer
Headmaster

School Dates

29th January – Year 12 Drive Fit PED

31st January – Non uniform day and cake sale in aid of Muslims Around the World Project

3rd February – Year 11 Information Evening 6pm

6th February – Year 10 Parents Evening Virtual

6th February – GCSE Music trip to Gloucester Guildhall

7th February – Year 10 Bath University Visit

11th February – CSPTA Meeting (6pm, S Block) All are welcome to attend

11th February – Dear Evan Hansen Theatre Trip

12th February – Y11 trip GCSE Poetry Live Bristol

14th February – Year 12 GE Aerospace RETHINK Day

14th February – Term 3 ends

24th February – Term 4 Starts

RSC Chemistry Olympiad - Thursday 23rd January

Today, all Y13 chemistry students sat the 2 hour challenging RSC Olympiad paper. This competition is renowned for being fiendishly difficult and requires our students to apply their knowledge of A-level chemistry to unfamiliar and novel questions. The students benefit greatly from the experience as one of their A-level papers will contain a lot of synoptic and application-based questions, and it is a good opportunity for them to practise different question styles and challenging new content.

The students demonstrated many skills from resilience to analytical reasoning, and we are very proud of them for accepting the challenge so positively. They showed true grit and determination, great Crypt values. We look forward to marking the papers and hopefully, we may even receive a few awards!



Music Newsletter

Choir rehearsals are well underway for our Evensong performance, with students from all year groups making strides with the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis. We have been concurrently learning the Kyrie from The Hired Man for our Spring Concert. Mr Clark has also resumed the A Cappella choir, taking on Si njay njay njay, a Zulu traditional piece arranged by Alexander L'Estrange. Our music room is truly filled with glorious voices this week!

Orchestra have resumed the West Side Story suite and putting in extra detailed refinement with dynamics and articulation.

Music Technology Club has recommenced with a good turnout eager to learn how dynamic and condenser microphones can affect the tone of recording vocals. Thanks to Amelia for providing her voice to the sound of Somebody Told Me by The Killers. Sessions will continue on Monday and all are invited.

On Wednesday, musicians in Year 9 provided a wonderful showcase to friends and family in the main hall. The programme featured a vibrant range of styles from Bach to Radiohead, even a marimba arrangement of our school song!



We would like to congratulate the following students for all their hard work, preparation and professionalism: Reuben, Calvin, Evie-Joy, Holly, Hannah, Joshua, Julian, Areeba, Ossian, Monty, Ashwika, Konadu, Beatrice, Elsie, Daniel, Maddie, Faye, Jasper, Finley, Nathen and Sam. We would also like to extend our thanks to all the parents and guests who came along to support our talented students who we believe will excel in future musical endeavours at GCSE and beyond.



Teacher Taster Day at Crypt

Are you interested in a career in teaching? Find out if it's the career for you at our Teacher Taster Day -

- Thursday 13th February 2025, 9:15am to 2:45pm

Come along and join us to:

- Talk to experts, current teachers and trainees.
- Discover the teacher training options available in the county.
- Talk to teachers about real life in the classroom
- Hear the advice & experience of current trainees

Whether you're ready to apply to do a PGCE or starting to explore options, make the most of this opportunity to find out more about teaching in person. If you have a friend or relative considering a teaching career please let them know. To book a place, email Sharon Bailey at sbailey@crypt.gloucs.sch.uk

Interested in a Teaching Career?

Teaching Taster Day at The Crypt School

Thursday 13 February 2025
9.15am to 2.45pm



Whether you're ready to apply to do a PGCE or starting to explore options...

Join us for this unique opportunity to:

- Talk to experts, current teachers & trainees
- Discover training options in Gloucestershire
- Talk to teachers about real life in the classroom
- Hear the advice & experience of current trainees

If our Teacher Taster Day interests you, please get in touch. **See post for more details.**



We look forward to hearing from you!



Library Newsletter

In the library we have displays for student to browse through and encourage them to take a book with a different genre they usually read. We have two new displays. A collection of books written by lots of different authors and a variety of genres which all have a green cover.



This is proving to be popular with students having a good look at the display and choosing something different.

We also have a display to mark 27th January is Holocaust Memorial Day. The date is the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau. The day is to commemorate the millions more people murdered through the [Nazi persecution of other groups](#) and in the [more recent genocides recognised by the UK government](#), and the [genocide in Darfur](#). We have a variety of fiction and non-fiction which the students can borrow.

We have an Amazon wish list on the Crypt School website which is regularly updated with books we would like for the main library and if you have one of these books collecting dust, we would love to give it a new home, or if you would like to buy a book in honour of someone special in your life, we have bookplates to make sure their name is immortalised in The Crypt School library. You can find the wish list on by clicking on Learning at Crypt from the menu, then The Library, Reading and Literacy. This link is in our article. We are very grateful for the contributions we have already received this year -so thank you.



From Friday 24th January we are starting to have a game club at lunchtime in the library. This is the chance to enjoy a board game like chess or card game like Uno in the library to start the student's weekend. The students can still come to the library to read and choose new books.



We hope the students will enjoy the opportunity to have a relaxing lunch break before the end of their week.

February Half Term Bikeability Courses



February Half Term Bikeability Courses

Bikeability courses give children and young people the skills and confidence to make journeys by bike.

Tuesday 18th to Friday 21st February 2025

Skillzone, Tuffley Lane, Gloucester, GL4 0AS

Courses delivered by friendly, experienced and fully qualified Cycling Instructors

Small group sizes

£8 for a 4-hour course

Ages 9 to 14 (Level 1, 2 & 3 Bikeability available)

For a booking form and further information please email thinktravel@gloucestershire.gov.uk



**Gloucestershire
Fire and Rescue Service**
Working together for a safer Gloucestershire

Cyber Boot Camp

February 17th – 21st



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 :



Parents need to know about Squid Game

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one app of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents Need to Know about SQUID GAME

AGE RESTRICTION
15+
Suitable only for 15 years and over.

With themes of horror and violence, it's important for parents and carers to understand the potential risks posed to young audiences by the nine-episode Netflix-exclusive TV show, Squid Game. The series, rated 15+, is about a world where contestants who are deeply in debt play children's games in order to win cash prizes. The losers, however, are violently killed. The show's popularity has meant it has spread in various guises across online platforms, with a heightened risk of children and young people potentially viewing unsuitable content. That's why we've created this guide to help parents and carers understand exactly what Squid Game is all about.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some might argue that Squid Game contains content that might not even be suitable for older teens, let alone young children. Characters are brutally tortured and killed through stabbings or getting shot as a result of rules developed and enforced by a masked game master. The show also features sexual content and threats of sexual violence, as well as a strong theme of gambling that runs throughout the whole show.

APPEAL TO YOUNG PEOPLE

Whilst the content is very much adult-themed, some features of the show seem to appeal to young children at face-value. The name "Squid Game" may be interpreted as a programme aimed at children rather than adults. The content itself, such as the bright and childish aesthetics, may also appeal to young children, particularly as there's a focus on playground games to go with it.

SIMILAR CONTENT SUGGESTIONS

When using social media and streaming sites, content is recommended based on what is the user has consumed i.e. what they have watched or searched for. Therefore, there is a greater chance of your child being exposed to similar violent or horror-themed content on social media after watching a show like Squid Game.

VIRAL SPIN-OFFS

As well as Netflix, Squid Game has grown in notoriety and prevalence on other platforms, like TikTok and YouTube, with clips of the show going viral. On YouTube Kids, a number of successful channels have taken advantage of the Squid Game trend, creating content such as "How to Draw Squid Game Characters" videos. Its popularity has also led to the creation of app games that put the player in the role of a contestant who is killed if they lose a game.

SCENE RE-ENACTMENTS

Squid Game's pervasive presence on social media has encouraged many content creators to re-enact scenes from the show, which has led to reports of children wanting to also imitate those scenes displayed on social media at home and in school. Much of this content stems from the "Red Light, Green Light" game from the first episode, where contestants attempt to make it past a giant animatronic girl before she shoots them.

Advice for Parents & Carers

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Netflix has easily accessible built-in parental controls that allow you to set up a profile for your child with a specific age rating, block them from watching certain shows and even lock their account so it can't be accessed by anyone else. Netflix also allows you to access your child's viewing history to make sure they're not watching anything inappropriate for their age.

CHECK AGE RATINGS

Age ratings on TV shows and films are a way to gauge what is suitable for audiences of different ages. If you are unsure about the content your child is watching, check the age rating to see if the TV show or film is deemed suitable for their age group. If not, try watching the show yourself or talking to other parents who have seen it before to get a better understanding of why it's been rated a certain way.

MONITOR ONLINE ACTIVITY

Squid Game has become a social media craze and it's possible your child will see some content related to the show on various platforms. Therefore, it's important to be aware of which websites your child has visited on their smartphone, tablet or laptop, and to also keep an eye out for which accounts they are following on social media platforms, such as Instagram and TikTok.

HAVE OPEN CONVERSATIONS

Making sure your child is comfortable talking you about what they see online can go a long way to ensuring you are kept in the loop about their online use. Showing an interest in what your child is doing online gives you the opportunity to discuss what is and is not appropriate for their age group, and how they might recognise their own feelings towards content they see.

MONITOR BEHAVIOUR

Due to the viral nature of the show, even if your child has not seen Squid Game, it's important to keep an eye on their behaviour. There have been reports from schools of children "playing Squid Game" in the playground and acting aggressively towards the losers as a way to replicate the consequences of losing in the TV show. Viewing content that makes your child feel uncomfortable could also cause them to feel distressed or distracted, so it's important you can easily spot the signs.

WATCH THE SHOW

If you're trying to figure out whether you should let your child watch Squid Game, it might be a good idea to watch the show yourself first. Doing so will allow you to get a better understanding of the show's content and themes, as well as help you decide if this is something you'd feel comfortable with your child being exposed to.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced and highly respected freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant. Previously the editor of tech tabloid THE INQUIRER, Carly now works as the news editor for Computer Shopper and IT Pro and writes for a number of publications including Forbes, TechRadar, Tes, The Metro, uSwitch and WIRED.



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

Sources: <https://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2021/oct/17/english-sound-urges-parents-not-to-allow-children-to-watch-squid-game>
<https://help.netflix.com/en/node/2641> <https://www.inrob.com/aw/10598420/parenting-urges-not-to-allow-children-to-watch-squid-game>



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Vacancy: School Administration Assistant – Closing in 5 Days!

New Vacancy

20 hrs per week, Term Time only over 5 days

School Administrative Assistant

Closing Applications: Noon, Wednesday 29 January 2025

Interviews: Thursday 6 February 2025



The Crypt School is seeking a skilled and experienced administrator to provide essential support across various key areas of the school, including the main office, sixth form, and other departments. This role also carries significant responsibility for overseeing first aid provision.



Read the post for more details & how to apply

We have an exciting opportunity for a **School Administration Assistant** to join our team. This is a part-time role (20 hours per week, over 5 days, term time only).

The role involves supporting key areas of the school, including the main office, sixth form, and the other regions, as needed. It also carries significant responsibility for first aid provision, so confidence and comfort in handling medical situations are essential.

We are looking for someone who is proactive, personable, and flexible and can manage a variety of tasks efficiently. A commitment to professional development, including participation in training, is also required.

Full details and an application form can be found here: <https://cryptschool.org/explore-our-school/work-with-us/>.

If this sounds like the role for you or someone of interest, we'd love to hear from you!



January Hamper Appeal – THANK YOU!!

Thank you so much for the donations for Poet's Pantry. The donations were collected yesterday, and they were thrilled with everything there was to fill the January hampers.