

25th October 2024



Dear parents, carers and students,

Firstly, my sincere thanks for everyone's hard work and support of the school over the past eight weeks, that constituted term 1. I do hope that all our new students in years 7, 12 and in other year groups have now firmly settled in, have made friends, and are thoroughly enjoying their Crypt school lives, whilst also making strong progress in their academic work and personal development as young people. Of course, I do hope that is also the case for all other students across the school.

One of the highlights of the week was undoubtedly our careers convention organised by Mr Germaine and held in the sports hall, attended by all year groups. My thanks indeed to all those businesses and universities who attended the convention; with nearly 50 stands, there was an organisation for every student to talk with to find out more about the many and varied options that are open to them when they do come to leave school.

On Thursday, we welcomed many year 6 pupils and their parents, to our 'qualified cohort' event, which was aimed to help support decision-making regarding year 7 entry. Thank you to all those students who were involved in that event.

Year 11 students are enjoying and benefiting from an Elevate Exam Seminar held in school today, which seeks to offer them all support as they continue to study for their GCSE exams next summer. Thank you to our head of year 11, Mr Windsor for organising that supportive event for the students, which is part of our wider support programme for year 11, which includes careers advice and guidance, support and revision sessions and individual support as required. Indeed, and with that in mind, our Crypt Sixth Form Information Evening is being held on Wednesday the 6th of November; I look forward to welcoming everyone in year 11 and their families to that event, which is part of our post-16 guidance programme. Our sixth form, comprising nearly 350 students, offers an academic A Level pathway through the 16-18 curriculum, supplemented by a wonderful enrichment programme, expert careers advice and guidance, a supportive culture and many opportunities for personal growth and development. In their March 2024 report, Ofsted noted that "In the sixth form, students follow a programme of study carefully tailored to their needs and ambitions" and that "Students in the sixth form are well prepared to move into their adult lives." Ofsted graded our sixth form provision as "outstanding".



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The Crypt School
Educating students since 1539

On Thursday, our musicians enjoyed the opportunity of the Autumn Concert to perform in front of a live audience. Although I was sadly unable to attend due to another commitment, I know the evening was a great success, showcasing the great breadth and depth of musical talent here at Crypt, drawn from across the school. My thanks to Mr Whittaker, Ms Bander, Mr Slemensek and our peripatetic music teachers for making this all possible, through the work they undertake each day with our students and through the many opportunities they offer for musical education across the school. As ever, thank you to the CSPTA volunteers who provided refreshments and a wonderful raffle prize.



On Thursday evening, I was honoured to be present at Imjin Barracks, Gloucester, for His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant Awards Presentation Ceremony, where current year 12 student Yovan was appointed as a Lord-Lieutenant's Cadet. A significant honour and achievement for Yovan - many congratulations to him, and to his family who have supported him in his cadetship.

Of course, plenty of sporting practices and fixtures have happened this week, and indeed across the term involving hundreds of students. My thanks to Ms Leask and all staff involved with sport for making this possible.

Our final careers talk of the term was held today at lunchtime, with a focus this time on Clinical and Forensic Psychology, and which was well attended by many students. Thank you to psychology teacher Mrs Scott-Johnson for organising that opportunity for the students.

Today, it was great to see all students participating in the non-uniform day in aid of the charity, Breast Cancer Now and raising (so far) £1123. My thanks and well done to all: that money will help their important work, which is focussed on both supporting those who have breast cancer and undertaking research into treatments. Donations can still be made via ParentPay.

We now look forward to a week's break from school matters, and I wish all our students a good half term break and I look forward to welcoming all students back to school on Tuesday the 5th of November (with Monday the 4th being a staff training day).

My continued best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Nicholas Dyer

Headmaster

School Dates

4th November INSET day
5th November First day back for all pupils week 1
6th November Sixth Form Open Evening 5.30pm
12th November CSPTA Sports Block 6pm All welcome
15th November Non uniform day
18th -19th November Flu immunisations
20th-22nd November Y7 Residential
26th November Y9 Options Evening 5.40pm-8pm
28th November – 1st December Cologne Trip
28th November Teenage Voices Gloucester Cathedral
29th November CSPTA Christmas Fair

School Catering Aspens

Aspens

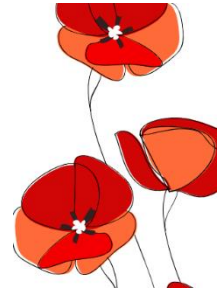


From 5th November 2024, the cost of a main school meal will increase by 10 pence to £2.80. The new price reflects a necessary adjustment to cover continued high food inflation and operating costs. We understand the financial concerns this may raise for some families and want to reassure you that this decision was made after careful consideration. Our school meal service remains committed to providing nutritious menus, catering for a wide range of dietary preferences while also ensuring good value for money.

Act of Remembrance

The school act of remembrance will take place on Friday 8th November.

Staff and students will be able to buy poppies in school on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday morning in preparation for the service. Cash only please.



Year 11 Mock Exams December

Year 11 will sit mock exams in December. Their timetable is [here](#)

Students with extra time as an agreed access arrangement will follow a slightly different timetable and these have been emailed to them individually.

Year 13 Mock Interviews - October 2024

In our long-standing initiative designed to equip students with essential skills for their future endeavours, Year 13 students at **The Crypt School** participated in a series of mock interviews. These simulated job interviews provided a valuable opportunity for students to practice their communication, problem-solving, and interpersonal skills in a realistic setting.

Over 30 local employers generously donated their time to conduct the mock interviews. These employers, representing a diverse range of industries, were carefully matched with students based on their future aspirations and areas of interest. This ensured that students had the opportunity to interact with professionals who could provide tailored feedback and guidance.



During the mock interviews, students were questioned about their career goals, academic achievements, and relevant experiences. The feedback provided by the employers was invaluable in helping students identify areas for improvement and build confidence in their abilities.

Benefits of Mock Interviews

- **Improved Communication Skills:** Mock interviews help students develop effective communication skills, including the ability to articulate their thoughts clearly and concisely.
- **Enhanced Problem-Solving Abilities:** Students are often presented with hypothetical scenarios during mock interviews, which allows them to practice their problem-solving skills and demonstrate their ability to think critically.
- **Increased Confidence:** Participating in mock interviews can boost students' confidence in their abilities and help them feel more prepared for future job interviews.
- **Networking Opportunities:** The mock interviews provided students with valuable networking opportunities, allowing them to connect with professionals in their desired fields.

"It made me realise that I had other career options I hadn't considered based on our discussion afterwards. It made me confident about answering questions, but also asking questions" Will

The mock interviews were a resounding success, and the students who participated in them have expressed their gratitude for the experience. By providing students with the opportunity to practice their skills in a simulated job interview environment, **The Crypt School** is helping to prepare them for a successful future.

Chris Germaine, Careers Leader, commented "The experience for our students is invaluable. To be able to practice answering questions before you attend a real interview, is of real benefit. Students go in feeling nervous and unsure of what will be asked of them,

but come out beaming. I would like to thank all of the interviewers for giving up their time to help our students develop this very important life skill."

"My interviewer delivered constructive criticism in a way that didn't undermine my successes and left me feeling more confident than when I came in." Izzy

The mock interviews form part of our stable careers programme that is embedded across the school. Events happening after half term include two further instalments of our Inspired Lecture series; [Science & Technology](#), on 13 November and [Entrepreneurship](#) on 21 November. Each delivered by experts in their field, they have been designed to introduce students to issues that will impact their wider careers.

'It was my third year doing the mock interviews at Crypt and the students are always a joy to work with. The students always come prepared with excellent personal statements allowing for great conversations which I hope give them the confidence for interviews they will face going forward'. Sian Pressey, Prima Dental

200 Club Raffle is Open

The 200 Club is a monthly raffle open to all and it particularly suits parents and carers who want to support the CSPTA but live just too far away to help out at sales and functions. Numbers cost £1 each and there is no restriction on how many you can buy. Half the monthly takings are paid out in prizes. Club fees are made via Standing Order and the form is available on the CSPTA section of the school website. Remember, the money raised all goes to benefit Crypt students. To join our 200 Club please email: cspta.200club@cryptschool.org

Please note, prospective new members are only included in the draw once they have paid. We have some new joiners who have set up a standing order but no funds have been received. If you would like to be included in the draw, please activate the standing order with your bank.

House Pumpkin Carving Competition



Remember that the popular House Pumpkin Carving Competition is live, so any pictures please email to me of any carved pumpkin projects over the holidays, so they can be judged on our return.

The closing date is Wednesday 6th November. Email name, house and year group.
Good Luck! Mrs Door

Parent Trustee/Governor Vacancy

A vacancy has arisen for a Parent Trustee/Governor to serve on the Board of Trustees of the School. We aspire to have a Board that reflects the diversity of our school community and encourage any parent or carer who wishes to be involved to put themselves forward. For more information and the nomination form, please visit the Governors section of our website.

One of our current Governors, Suzanne Aspden, writes here about her experience of taking on the role:

"The opportunity to become a parent governor arose when my son was in year 7. I didn't think long before I decided to go for it. To me, it was a great opportunity to get involved in an institution that will have a significant impact not just on a formative stage of my son's life, but on those of many other young people.

I ended up not being elected as a parent-governor but was co-opted anyway. As my background is in the university sector, some of the issues and priorities for The Crypt were familiar to me, but secondary and grammar school education are also worlds of their own.

Now I am in my second year as a governor, serving also on the Admissions and Pupil Welfare committees, I feel I am getting the hang of the annual cycle of monitoring and reporting, and there's plenty of training and support.

Because The Crypt is a single academy trust, strategic oversight from the governors is particularly important. That oversight is certainly enhanced by having governors with a diverse array of expertise and from diverse backgrounds. That diversity lies not only in our career paths, but in our experiences within education and with our kids' education. When I was co-opted, one of the things the then-chair of governors, Richard James, said to me was that it was important not to allow our personal experience of The Crypt as a parent to sway our decision-making as governors. That's true; but we're also privileged as parents to sometimes see things from the student's perspective, which is undoubtedly valuable too."

Harry Potter Book Day Quiz

We had a very enjoyable Harry Potter Book Day Quiz on 17th October. Over 70 students took part in this global annual event. Lots of chocolate frogs, cheering and waving of wands happening throughout the evening.

The winners of the quiz, showing their magical knowledge were –

1st – The Potion Master and his Friends

2nd – Griffinhawk

3rd – Spew

Congratulations to Amelie 7WEH for guessing the nearest number of jellybeans in our sweet jar. ***The amount was 575 Amelie guessed 573.*** Hope you enjoy those sweets.

Thank you to the wonderful kitchen staff that helped with the pizzas, enjoyed by many – possibly helping brain power for the questions.

Thank you to Mrs Perkins and the CSPTA for their help in marking the quiz questions and serving refreshments throughout the event.

Professor Slughorn (Mr. Bowen) did amazing tricks enthralling the students at half time.

Here's to a magical year and next October we will do it all over again.

Professor McGonagall (Mrs. Jordan)



The winners of the fancy dress competition
1st place – Dobby
Runners up Hagrid and Bellatrix Lestrange



*Professor Slughorn creating magic, amazing
the students of Hogwarts*

School Calendar

The school website has a calendar page that you can visit to view upcoming events. Occasionally we will need to move events; the calendar will be updated, and upcoming events are always publicised in the head's weekly letter. You can view the calendar here <https://cryptschool.org/news-and-events/school-calendar/>

All sporting fixtures are on the main school calendar, but far more sports information can be found here at [Crypt Sport](#)

Mira Showers Open Evening

5.00-7.00pm 28th November 2024 and 16th January 2025

This year we are recruiting for L4 Project Managers (post A Levels or equivalent), L3 Engineering Technicians (post GCSE) and a L6 Manufacturing and Design Degree Engineer (post A Levels or equivalent). All our apprenticeships will continue to benefit from a rotational program whereby students can experience several departments within their chosen function as well feel supported by a dedicated apprentice manager.

If you would like the opportunity to find out more by speaking to our current and past apprentices as well as our management team, please come along to one of our Open Evenings bookable via the link below. If you would like a site tour, we would urge you to book a slot as soon as possible. [Mira Showers Open Evening Booking Form](#)

If you have any questions, please email earlycareers@mirashowers.com and we will be happy to help you.

Gloucestershire County Council

They are in the process of recruiting volunteer Panel Members to assist with virtual School Admission Appeals. They are particularly in need of Parent Members (those with children currently in education).

If you are interested here's the link to the relevant page on the Gloucestershire County Council website:

[Apply to become a volunteer school appeals panel member | Gloucestershire County Council](#)