

27th June 2025

Dear parents, carers and students,

I hope this letter home finds you all well.

Our annual Founders' Day Service was held last night in the magnificent surroundings of Gloucester Cathedral. Founders' Day is always a highlight of the school year, and the school choir and musicians, led by Director of Music Mr Whitaker, were truly wonderful and made a very special whole school occasion, even more so. Thank you to them, and to those who attended for making last evening's service of thanksgiving to our Founders - John and Joan Cooke - and to everyone else since who have worked so hard and given so generously to ensure the longevity and success of the school since its founding in 1539. Thank you also to Canon Nikki Arthy and Dean of Gloucester Andrew Zihni for welcoming us so warmly into the Cathedral last evening



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.
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The Crypt School
Educating students since 1539



Many prospective year 12 students, from both Crypt's year 11 and from other schools and colleges in the area, attended our annual Year 12 Summer School, held on Monday and Tuesday of this week. The summer school grants students an opportunity to see what studying A Levels at Crypt will be like, an opportunity to find out what else we offer to them across years 12 and 13, such as enrichment, opportunities for personal development and post 18 careers advice and support, whilst also acting as an occasion to make new friends. Thank you to the sixth form team, led by head of year 12 Miss Parkin, and other colleagues, as well as to our student executive team, for organising those two days. We now look forward to welcoming our new year 12 into school on GCSE results day in August, and formally in September.

Open day was held on Wednesday, and my thanks to everyone at school, and members of the CSPTA for making that morning such a success. School welcomed hundreds of prospective parents and students from years 4 and 5 into school, and my thanks must also go to our year 7 student speakers, our head boy and head girl and prefect team, as well as our year 7 and year 8 tour guides for making our visitors feel so welcomed.

I was delighted to welcome members of the Old Cryptian Centenary Bursary Fund Committee into school today, to enjoy a lunch with both them and this year's recipients of bursaries, generously donated by the Committee. The Centenary Bursary Fund was established in 2000 to raise money to support current students in a variety of areas, and to offer one off bursaries to students who are undertaking a particular project, or commitment by example, but who need some additional financial support to enable them to successfully complete it. This year bursaries were awarded to:

Ben Y12 6th Form Academic
Connor Y10 Drama
Samuel Y10 Music
Shivani Y7 Art
Joshua and Jack Y13 Engineering
Max KS4 Academic
Reuben KS3 Academic
Liam Y12 Computer Science/AI
Sophie Y11 Sport

James Y12 Sport

Zack Y7 Discretionary OC Bursary Chess

Sports day is being held today, another wonderful whole school event which sees athletes from across the school compete in individual and house events. Thank you to Mr Hart, the PE department and our A Level sports students for making sure this day ran so well.

On the theme of sports, well done indeed to our Year 10 Handball team who competed in the national finals in Nottingham on Tuesday and reached the quarter finals-finals only to be defeated by one goal in the last minute.

Well done also to the Script editorial and writing team, under the direction of Mr Cobb in producing another fantastic edition of the student magazine - which is on sale now.

Staffing update

As many of you will already know, a small number of valued colleagues are leaving school at the end of this term. I would like to thank them all for everything they have so richly contributed to the life and work of the school and wish them every success and above all happiness in the future. The following colleagues are leaving:

Mrs Paulina De La Fuente (SLT/Economics)

Mr Oliver Antonious (Inclusion/ Second in Dart)

Mr Matthew Peake (Art)

Mrs Kate Stobo (Psychology/sociology)

Mr Luke Smith (Site team)

Mrs Hannah Quinn will be leaving school this month to go on maternity leave, and we wish her and her family best wishes as they look forward to the birth of their second baby.

With best wishes,



Nicholas Dyer

Headmaster

School Dates

30 th June	Musical Theatre showcase 6-7pm
1 st July	Y8 drop down day p3-5
1 st July	Y9 DTP/Men Vaccinations 8AM-1pm
1 st July	South Africa Information Night 6-7pm
2 nd July	Lions at Large VIP Event Hartpury College
3 rd July	Leavers Evening
4 th -6 th July	D of E Silver Walking
7 th July	Drama Trip London Evening
7 th July	Music Alton Towers
7 th July	Post 18 Parents Information Evening
7 th July	Y12 Teambuilding

Glorious Sunshine and Golden Effort: DofE Gold Practice Expedition

Over the weekend of **Friday 20th to Sunday 22nd June 2025**, a group of determined and enthusiastic **Year 12 students** took part in their **Duke of Edinburgh's Award Gold Practice Expedition**—and they couldn't have asked for better weather.

With the sun shining brightly across Herefordshire and the Wye Valley, teams gathered at **Hereford Rowing Club** on Friday morning to meet their instructors and carry out final kit and route checks. Spirits were high, sunscreen was applied generously, and the teams launched confidently into their guided canoe journey down the River Wye to the first night's stop.

Arriving at **Tresseck Campsite in Hoarwithy**, the students pitched their tents and embraced the true DofE experience—cooking dinner over Trangia stoves under a blazing blue sky. With barely a cloud in sight, the evening was a perfect setting for some team bonding and a well-earned rest.

Saturday brought another glorious day, and after breakfast, the groups set off again on their paddle toward **Ross-on-Wye Rowing Club**. With instructors offering remote supervision, participants were encouraged to take more responsibility for their navigation and teamwork. The warm sunshine accompanied them throughout, and the sense of progress and accomplishment was clear to see.

On Sunday morning, after another camp breakfast, the teams tackled the final stretch of their river journey, heading toward the **public landing steps near Monmouth Rowing Club**. Parents gathered at the collection point in the late afternoon, where tired but triumphant students arrived, having successfully completed their Gold practice expedition.

The expedition was a real test of resilience, teamwork, and outdoor skills—but the glorious summer weather made it a memorable and thoroughly enjoyable experience for all. We look forward to seeing

these students take on their **qualifying expedition** with the same commitment and positivity. Well done to everyone involved!



Celebrating Pride

On Thursday 19th June 2025, we held our annual Pride Community Hour - a morning dedicated to celebrating identity, belonging, and the diversity within our school community. The event was not only a recognition of LGBTQ+ Pride Month but also a reflection of the values that underpin our school ethos.

The day began with a whole-school assembly delivered by Mrs Hargraves, Deputy Head, and Mrs Hayes, Inclusion Lead, which talked about how we should all be proud of who we are as individuals and as Cryptians. The story of Bayard Rustin and his role in the US Civil Rights movement was also discussed as an intersectional example and someone who made a real difference for the most vulnerable in society. Students also watched a specially created video featuring members of the student executive team and staff sharing their heritage, identity and what they are proud of.

During Period 1, tutor groups engaged in a variety of activities exploring the theme of pride - what it means to be proud of who we are, where we come from, and what we stand for. These discussions were thoughtful, inclusive, and inspiring, helping students make meaningful connections between personal identity and our wider community.

While the day was part of LGBTQ+ Pride Month, it also encouraged students to consider pride in all aspects of their lives and linked closely to our school values: Integrity, Kindness, Respect, Responsibility, and Pride. The event also supported our wider aim of helping students develop a strong sense of identity and belonging, preparing them to flourish not only at school but in their lives beyond it - happy, confident, and socially responsible.

We are incredibly proud of our students for the maturity, openness, and enthusiasm they brought to the day, and for helping make The Crypt School a place where everyone can feel seen, valued, and celebrated. This "Community Hour" follows time earlier in the year devoted to Black History month, anti-bullying and careers.



Year 10 Geography Field Trip June 2025

Last week, 93 GCSE geography students were able to enjoy the warm weather by visiting Blackpool Brook in the Forest of Dean. This trip provided students with experience of collecting physical geography fieldwork which is required as part of their GCSE geography course.

Students worked in small groups to collect data on the width, depth, velocity and size of pebbles at three locations along the river. They displayed excellent teamwork and paid careful attention to completing the measurements accurately so that good quality data was collected.

Whilst in the Forest of Dean, students also gained experience of other fieldwork techniques including measuring gradients and vegetation density. They also were able to view some of the river landforms that have been studied in lessons recently.

Year 10 demonstrated an excellent work ethic whilst on this trip and the geography staff, as well as Mr Howell, would like to thank them for their mature approach on these visits.



Donate your old books



We are collecting books from 30 June - 4 July to donate to the Children's Book Project charity. Any books in good condition, aimed at children aged 0-14, would be welcome and the charity will share them with disadvantaged children and families. Books should be placed on the bench in the Crush Hall - thank you. This reinforces our value of kindness.

Tennis club - donations requested

Ahead of the annual Wimbledon focus on tennis, we are delighted to let you know that our tennis club at lunchtimes is thriving! Our courts are full of students enjoying the game, improving both their sporting and social skills. It has been great to see students enjoying social time together and being active during lunchtimes.

We are however lacking sufficient decent tennis kit to support the growth of this club. Our racquets are particularly old, some have broken strings, others have lost their grip and some have been misshapen over time.

If any parents/ carers could donate a new or nearly new racquet this would be much appreciated! Racquets can be donated at the PE Office - thanks in advance

MFL Visit from Former Student

Year 7 language students were treated to an engaging talk from former Cryptian, Liam Fleet this morning. Liam is a very talented musician who learnt German at The Crypt school 7 years ago. Since then, Liam has studied at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire and taken advantage of the opportunity to study for a semester in The Netherlands. Liam talked about the advantages of learning other languages and the year 7 pupils were very enthusiastic to learn about how they can help you in life socially as well as in a career path.

A Wild in Art event



Find the Pride of Gloucestershire this Summer with our roarsome Art Trail!

Find over 30 large lion sculptures in Cheltenham and Gloucester from 11 July to 14 September 2025.

Visit our website:

lionsatlarge.co.uk



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