



27th September 2024

Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

I hope this correspondence home finds you all well.

The awful weather on Friday caused some minor flooding in school, damage to our electrical systems and other minor issues; however, these have all been resolved and I'd like to thank our caretaking team for their work over last weekend in dealing with those issues. I hope that you were not adversely affected by that weather, although I know it was particularly bad in Gloucester and the surrounding areas.

Despite that, school was fully operational on Monday, and it has once again been a busy week. On Thursday, we celebrated European Day of Languages, with the canteen offering a European themed menu, and the MFL department hosting a number of events across the week to promote, not just the learning and practise of European languages, but of the many other languages that are spoken by students at our school. Indeed, the range of languages spoken by students in the school is most impressive and reflects the wonderfully diverse nature of school.

On Tuesday, many of our musicians visited Pittville Pump Room to give a concert to local elderly residents, which I know was very well received indeed by all present. That sense of care for others was also demonstrated today, when many staff volunteered to have pies thrown at them in the sports hall to raise money for Sunflower suicide prevention charity. I'll be 'pied' on Monday at break, as I was unable to attend today's 'fun'!

As part of our careers programme, the Army visited school on Monday to speak to those who might be interested in a career in the armed forces. I'd like to thank them for attending school on that day, and to Mr Germaine, our careers leader, for organising their visit as part of the very comprehensive career programme that we have on offer this year.

The year 7 disco, held in the sports hall on Thursday proceeded well, and was another occasion in which our new students could strengthen friendships, and have some fun together. Thanks to the year 11 netball team for organising that event for them. They raised just over an impressive £600.

As part of our personal development programme, we welcomed Chelsea's Choice production back to school today, watched by year 8 students. The production offers a powerful insight into the difficult choices that often confront our young people and is immensely educative in its narrative and storyline.



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

Sport, despite the ongoing rain, has featured strongly across the week, with both practices and some fixtures taking place. Football, netball and rugby fixtures occurred across the week - well done to all those involved in the rich sporting life of the school.

A number of students in year 8 have taken part this week in our Bikeability Scheme, in which those who cycle to school at that early age learn the necessary skills and awareness to ensure that they cycle safely when on our busy roads. In that context, please can I remind everyone to take extra care when crossing Podsmead Road, and indeed other local roads as they arrive and then depart from school each day. Podsmead Road and Cole Avenue are very busy at those times, and students often do not take the necessary care when crossing. Parents/carers should drop their children off at the turning circle in the morning, rather than on the opposite side of the school entrance.

Next week, on Thursday, we look forward to welcoming year 7 parents/carers into school for our pastoral evening - I hope that relevant parents/carers will be able to attend. Also happening on Thursday of next week, will be our whole school photo: please can all students ensure they look their very best in terms of uniform for that important occasion, which will capture for posterity their membership of our school community.

Please do read the rest of this newsletter.

With continued best wishes,



Nicholas Dyer
Headmaster

School Dates

30th September – 2nd October – Year 8 Residential to Croft Farm

3rd October – Whole School Photo (Y9 to attend in full school uniform and bring games kit)

3rd October – New Year 7 Pastoral Evening 6pm- 7.30pm please see information sent via ParentPay on 23rd September

7th October – Year 12 Geography Trip

8th October – CSPTA Meeting 6pm Sports Block all welcome

8th – 11th October – Y8 Bikeability

8th October – Y7 Cheltenham Literature Festival

9th October – Y7 Cheltenham Literature Festival

9th October – Y11/Y13 Apprenticeship Workshop

11th October – Gabrieli Choral Workshop with Charles Béquignon-MacDougall

11th October – Y7 & Y12 whole year group photograph

15th October – School early closure 1.10pm if your child needs to stay in school, please notify us by 1st October <https://forms.gle/gYKfy9t9QUxNKwTc7>

17th October – Harry Potter Quiz Evening

24th October – Autumn Concert

25th October – Non uniform day and end of term

6th November – Sixth Form Open Evening 5:00-8:30pm

Teaching Assistant Appreciation Day

We are grateful at The Crypt School for our dedicated SEN Team and the wonderful staff. 27th September is Teaching Assistant Appreciation Day so if you wish to, please share your appreciation here. You may name a Teaching Assistant or send a general message of appreciation to the team.

<https://forms.gle/HNZjy1VvmwXyjsW98>

We share this form in the spirit of our school values of respect, kindness and pride. Thank you.

Music

Our Cantores Cryptensies Choir are progressing very well with the magnificent project for Gabrieli Roar on Wednesday 11th December. We are taking 65 students to be a part of this fantastic set of works including 13th century piece Veni Emanuel and The People That Walked in Darkness by John Hill. A wonderful effort by all! If you would like to be a part of this, please



make sure they can make each rehearsal at Wednesday lunchtime and Thursday tutor time. We have had great attendance for rehearsals and look forward to further progress. Charles Béquignon-MacDougall will be returning on 11th October to host a full day choral workshop in preparation for this event.

On Tuesday, students taking Year 11 GCSE Music excelled in their performances at Pittville Pump Room. They demonstrated

an extraordinary display of talent, commitment and joy to the challenge, while showcasing instruments from violin, flute, clarinet and piano. The programme drew from a wide range of composers including Bach, Vivaldi, Daimler and Charminade. They had a well deserved round of applause from a supportive audience and look forward to working with Cheltenham Music

Festival Society again in the future.



Year 10 are looking ahead to their own turn at composing and learning techniques in melodic writing. Using a defining feature, whether it be a given rhythmic device or an interval, students have written some interesting motifs that could be used to form a larger body of work.

Grade 5 Music Theory classes have commenced for students needing to take exams to progress in their chosen instruments. This is particularly useful for those progressing to university and wishing to accumulate UCAS points from upper grade exams.

Other groups that are flourishing in our department include Symphony Orchestra who are continuing with West Side Story suite and Mozart's Symphony No. 40. Music Technology have learned how to take audio samples and repurpose into new rhythmic and melodic passages. Jai is doing tremendous work leading the Samba Band and encouraging rhythmic development. Also, Mr



Rushton has returned to lead the Jazz Band, performing Tenor Madness, Lady Bird and Blue Monk. Young Voices have been learning Go The Distance from Disney's Hercules and demonstrating confident performing and harmonic strength.

Aspens – Our School Caterer



Anyone with a
PEANUT ALLERGY
should not consume any products
containing or may contain
MUSTARD.

**Please check with the catering
staff who will be able to help you.**

In light of the recent urgent Food Standards Authority Statement Urgent Allergy Advice regarding all people with a Peanut Allergy should avoid any product that now contains Mustard, Aspens are issuing updated guidance to outline how we are managing this issue and ensuring the safety of our clients.

The following steps have been taken to mitigate any potential risks:

- We have identified all ingredients in our supply chain that contain mustard.
- None of the recipes in our Primary Core Menus include mustard.
- We have informed all units and catering managers of this advisory.
- There is document advising those with peanut allergies to avoid mustard on all

tills at school.

- We have compiled and shared a list of mustard-containing ingredients across our supply chain with all units.
- Our standard robust procedures for manually completing daily allergen matrices for all cooked dishes remain in place.

Additionally, we have consulted Worcestershire Environmental Health Officers (EHO) through our Primary Authority Partnership for further advice and updates. We will continue to monitor the situation closely and provide updates in line with government guidelines. The safety of the children we feed remains, and will always be, our top priority.

Library

The new student librarians are settling in well, learning the duties of a librarian and helping with enthusiasm. They all receive merits for their efforts and are very interested in learning as much as they can to be involved with the library.



The students are now enrolling to take part in the Harry Potter Book Quiz event which is on 17th October after school. If anyone is interested, please come and see me to become part of this very exciting event. Posters are around the school plus information is on the Daily News for tutor groups.

The event is being supported by the CSPTA

- **The quiz will be in the Canteen area with pizza available from 4.00pm to enjoy before the quiz begins**
- **Fancy dress is optional**
- **Science magic in the interval**
- **A choice of pizzas and prices will be coming soon. You can bring your own food if preferred**
- **Refreshments by the CSPTA will be available to purchase throughout the event**
- **Teams of no more than 6**
- **Starting at 4.30 till 6.30 (approx.)**
- **To register to take part in the quiz please come to see Mrs Jordan in the library**

All year groups are asking about the event and signing up with their team. If there are any students who would like to take part but don't have a team, that is not a problem. We can link them with a team. It is a very competitive event, we have teachers as well as students taking part, so as you can imagine they do want to beat the staff.



All the year 7 students have now made their choice for their FREE book from Bookbuzz. The programme is run by Booktrust. Lots of the students found it difficult to choose just one, we will have all the choices available to borrow within the next couple of weeks.

Communication



To help us respond to or action your emails, we kindly ask that you include your child's full name and form (which can be found on MCAS) in all communication with the school. Thank you for your help!

U16s County Netball Tournament



Congratulations to the U16 netball team for their outstanding performance at the County tournament this week. They played eight matches against Dean Close, Cheltenham College, Pates, Cheltenham Ladies College, Denmark Road High School, Farmors, Stroud High School and Kings Gloucester. They were unbeaten in all the matches with some very

convincing wins. The team played brilliantly both individually and as a team. We are so proud of the U16 team and winning the County competition three years in a row. Good luck in the next competition which is Regionals.

Elevate Education

We're excited to announce that Elevate Education will be hosting a free webinar for our parents on **time management** on October 1st. Elevate works with our students, delivering high-impact workshops on study skills, motivation, wellbeing, and exam preparation. By tuning into their webinar series, you'll learn **how you can help support your child at home by reinforcing the skills they're learning at school.**

Sign up for the session below to learn how you can help your child to **balance their priorities and stay on top of their workload.**

How You Can Help Your Child Manage Their Time

Tuesday 1st October 6:00-7:00pm (GMT)

[Click here to register for free](#)

In the session we'll discuss how you can:

Align expectations on homework with your child

Help your child **balance their schoolwork and social life**

Set up a **weekly planner tool** with your child

Cyber First Girls

We are excited to invite your Year 8 daughter to participate in the CyberFirst Girls competition, a fantastic opportunity to explore the exciting world of cybersecurity.



Last year, our school was thrilled to be the winners of the CyberFirst Girls competition in the South West! This included some amazing prizes and a gala celebration.

The CyberFirst Girls competition is a fun and engaging challenge that introduces girls to the basics of cybersecurity. Participants will learn essential skills such as problem-solving, critical thinking, and teamwork. The competition is designed to be accessible to girls of all backgrounds, regardless of their prior experience with technology.

We hope that your daughter will consider joining us for the CyberFirst Girls competition, it was attended last year by over 20 year 8 girls. For more information, please visit the official site. <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/news/girls-gear-up-for-codebreaking-showdown>

Registration is open now for groups, consisting of a maximum of 4, and the competition dates are from the 18th of November for 10 days. Facilities are available for use in school during lunchtimes and the girls can also work through the online challenges at home. To register a team, they just need to see me in room 15 on the 1st October or let me know via email.

Thank you for your support. James Rice (Director of Digital Strategy)

Black History Month 2024

Black History Month is an important occasion to recognise and celebrate the invaluable contributions of black people to British society. However, as a school we feel that it is important that black history is taught all year round - not just during Black History Month.

This year's theme for Black History Month is "Reclaiming Narratives," and marks a significant shift towards recognising and correcting the narratives of Black history and culture. By emphasising "Reclaiming Narratives," we shine a brighter light on stories, allegories, and history.

This theme underscores a commitment to correcting historical inaccuracies and showcasing the untold success stories and the full complexity of Black heritage. It's about taking control and honouring our heroes while challenging the narratives that have often overlooked the contributions and achievements of Black individuals both in the UK and globally.

The journey of reclaiming narratives is not just a theme for Black History Month; it's a movement towards acknowledging and appreciating the myriad contributions of Black individuals throughout history.

#ReclaimingNarratives (<https://www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk/>)

To acknowledge the beginning of Black History Month here at The Crypt, during tutor time on **Tuesday, 8th October 2024** members of our school multicultural society will lead a virtual assembly celebrating the invaluable contributions of black people to British society. This will then continue into lesson 1 where students will be off timetable focusing on several different resources celebrating black history.

We are passionate about ensuring that all members of our school community are represented in the daily life of the school and in doing so, we enhance students' understanding of the diversity of our school community and that of our wider society, to which we all belong.

Black History Month is a wonderful opportunity for our school to acknowledge the contributions that black people have made locally, nationally, and internationally throughout history.

iPads

We've had a number of students visiting the IT department recently with water damaged iPads. We would highly recommend that students keep their iPads safe by either putting them in a plastic pouch/bag or having a waterproof rucksack.

Gloucester Climate Change Strategy Consultation

We have been asked to circulate this link to student and families who may wish to comment on the draft of the Gloucester Climate Change Strategy:

<https://strategiclocalplan.govocal.com/en-GB/folders/gloucester-climate-change-strategy>