



28th March 2025

Dear parents, carers and students,

I hope this newsletter home finds you all well.

Congratulations indeed to the school's new head boy, Liam Page and new head girl, Tianna Klaric. Both students performed exceptionally well across the selection process, and I was delighted to announce their names at our whole school assembly held in school on Tuesday and present them with their badges. We expect a great deal from our student leaders in school, in particular the head boy and girl, and the wider student executive team, whose names were also announced at the assembly - well done to that group on their appointments and I very much look forward to supporting and observing their work across the coming year.

Our FI in Schools team left school on Tuesday afternoon, to attend the national finals of that prestigious and highly competitive event. They performed exceptionally well at the regional event in Bath and performed brilliantly in the national finals and performing highly in all areas, as Miss Hall sets out in this newsletter. Congratulations to all involved, and our thanks go to Miss Hall and Mr Baldwin who accompanied the six students involved in the team and who have given up significant time to support the team's work over the last few months and across last year too.

Year 10 geography students, led by head of department Mrs Brooks, enjoyed a field study trip to Gloucester City centre on Tuesday, as part of their GCSE studies. I hope that trip went well. On Tuesday evening, those present enjoyed a wonderful Spring music concert in the main hall, overseen by Mr Whittaker and involving students from year 7-13, and some former students as well. It was truly a celebration of musicality at Crypt, showcasing the depth and breadth of talent that we are fortunate to have here at our school. Well done indeed to everyone involved and to Mr Whittaker and his team for giving so much time to support the progress and development of our music students.

On the topic of school music, we were delighted to learn that our music department has been approved as the GSW (Gloucestershire, Swindon & Wiltshire) Lead School for Music. This is both a significant achievement for the school, and its music department, and a strong public recognition of the outstanding music provision offered at Crypt, to all students. It is also a



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The Crypt School
Educating students since 1539

huge vote of confidence in the work and professionalism of our music team here at school, led of course by Director of Music, Mr Whittaker. This new status will involve the school's music department supporting other Gloucestershire schools to develop their music provision, via CPD sessions with staff, visits and advocacy for music in the region. Well done indeed to Mr Whittaker for all his hard work in securing this status.

In June, about 90 year 9 students will be attending the First World War Battlefield trip, and on Wednesday evening Mr Howell (history and politics department) met with those attending and their families, to give a briefing with regards to that trip and our expectations of those attending. The school last visited the battlefields of the First World War in 2019, visiting the Ypres salient, where three significant battles took place, such as the third battle of Ypres - better known as Passchendaele - and the 1916 Somme Battlefield areas. It was a deeply moving visit, as I'm sure the June one will be as well.

I hope that our year 7 parents/carers and student consultation evening held in school last night was helpful to all in reflecting on each student's progress and personal development since they joined the school in September. Year 7 is a truly outstanding year group and I look forward to seeing them develop further over the years ahead.

I do hope those attending the GE Aerospace RETHINK Day today, the second of these visits, are enjoying their day out - our thanks to GE for allowing school to visit. We now look forward to the annual Old Cryptian Dinner, being held in school tomorrow evening - a wonderful occasion for many Old Cryptians to meet together, share memories of their time at school and to see what the school now has to offer to its current generation of students.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,



Nicholas Dyer
Headmaster

School Dates

7th April –Y12 UCAS Discovery Day Newport

8th April – Parent workshop with Educational Psychologist 2.30pm

8th April – CSPTA S Block 6pm All welcome to attend

10th April –Y7 and Y8 Disco

11th April – Lions at Large Non-Uniform Day

11th – South Africa Race Night

11th – April End of Term 4

Ceres Racing “Shine Bright” at the F1 in Schools National Final 2025

The Crypt School community is bursting with pride! Our incredible team, Ceres Racing, has just returned from the F1 in Schools National Finals. After a stunning victory at the regional level, the team faced off against the top 30 teams in the country, showcasing their exceptional skills and dedication during a 2 day event at Magna Science Adventure Centre in Rotherham supported by Mr Baldwin and Miss Hall.



Ceres Racing's journey to the nationals was nothing short of remarkable. Their expert marketing and enterprise team secured an unprecedented amount of sponsorship, demonstrating their business acumen. Meanwhile, their design and engineering team meticulously crafted not one, but two identical cars, engineered for consistent, high-speed performance within the strict F1 in Schools regulations in just two weeks. Powered by compressed gas, their cars zipped down the 20-meter track, with Joshua's lightning-fast reaction times propelling them to a phenomenal 3rd place on the leaderboard!

But F1 in Schools is about more than just speed. The team also meticulously compiled detailed portfolios for Enterprise & Marketing and Design & Engineering, which were rigorously scrutinised by panels of judges. Their interactive pit display, built from scratch in a mere two weeks between Regionals and Nationals, was a testament to their resourcefulness and creativity. Finally, their professional verbal presentation, delivered flawlessly by all team members, sealed their reputation as a top-tier team.

The judges' feedback was overwhelmingly positive. They consistently praised Ceres Racing's exceptional teamwork, their professional-level enterprise endeavours, and their innovative car design. The pit display, with its intricate details and interactive elements (and beach balls), was also a highlight.

The entire racing and awards ceremony, hosted by the charismatic Radzi Chinyanganya, was streamed live on YouTube, allowing everyone to witness Ceres Racing's stellar performance. A particularly moving moment was Radzi's personal commendation of Joshua's passion, sportsmanship and the sense of team he displayed, calling it a "special moment" and Joshua a "true inspiration". The heartfelt shout-out during the awards ceremony was a testament to the whole team demonstrated through the competition when the cameras were on and off.



All of Ceres Racing's hard work culminated in a well-deserved victory in the Project Management award category. A huge boost for Jack and his excellent leadership. He stated "I'm incredibly proud of everyone, of how far we've come, and how we've come together as a team through this whole competition". They were also nominated for the prestigious Portfolio award, further solidifying their position as a formidable competitor.

Up against the best of the best, Ceres Racing stuck true to their motto and did "Shine Bright". We are immensely proud of their achievements and the way they represented our school. Congratulations to every member of Ceres Racing! Your hard work, dedication, and passion have truly paid off. You are an inspiration to us all.

Jack - Team Principle & Head of Design and Engineering

Joshua - Head of Enterprise

Dylan - Head of Graphics

Michalina - Head of Marketing

Orson - Design and Engineering

James - Design and Engineering

***Y7 and Y8 Disco – Y11 netball team fundraising for South
Africa Kit***

Year 7 & Year 8 end of term disco.

After a great disco earlier in the year, we are hosting another for the end of term! When-
Thursday 10th April 2025

Where- School Hall (not the sports hall this time)

Time: 16:00-17:30

(Join us for a kahoot quiz once you're changed from 15:30-16:00)

Cost: £5 to include squash and a snack (payable via parentpay)

BRING CASH FOR THE TUCK SHOP!!!

CSPTA

Crypt School Parent Teacher Association

EASTER RAFFLE

**WIN AN EASTER EGG HAMPER
ONE WINNER PER YEAR GROUP**

TICKETS £1 ON PARENTPAY UNTIL 12PM ON 8TH APRIL

DRAW ON 9TH APRIL 3:30PM AT THE CRYPT SCHOOL

**PARENTPAY RECIEPTS ARE YOUR TICKETS AND CONFIRM YOUR ENTRY
INTO YOUR CHILD'S YEAR GROUP PRIZE DRAW. WE WILL ALLOCATE A
TICKET NUMBER TO EACH TICKET PURCHASED.**

**Promoter Hazel Wasley
Crypt Parent Teacher Association
The Crypt School, Podsmead,
Gloucester, GL3 5AE
Registered Charity No. 280200**



DofE Celebrating Our Adventurous Students and Honouring Mrs Peake

On Thursday 22nd March, our school hall was filled with excitement and pride as three groups of students who undertook their expedition in July 2024 in Scotland shared their experiences. These intrepid explorers navigated the stunning Great Glen Canoe Trail along the Caledonian Canal, Loch Ness and other waterways and their presentations to parents, carers, and staff were nothing short of inspiring.

Each group recounted their journey, highlighting the challenges they faced, the teamwork they displayed, and the breathtaking landscapes they encountered. Their stories were a testament to their resilience and the invaluable life skills they gained through this adventure.

The evening was also a special occasion to honour Mrs Peake, who will be retiring in April. Mrs Peake has been the cornerstone of our Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, guiding countless students over the years. Her dedication and leadership have left an indelible mark on our school community.



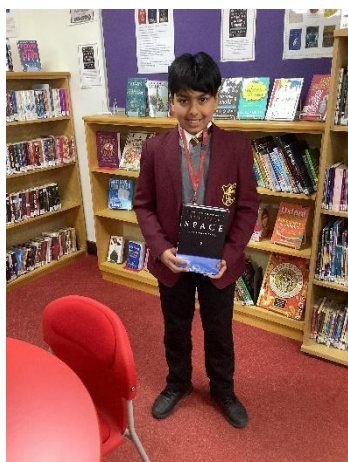
Mrs Peake has instigated the Peake Award, which recognises a student each year who has completed their bronze, silver, and gold awards. This year, Mrs Peake awarded it to two deserving students - Eva and George. The award will be officially presented at the prize-giving ceremony in September.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Mrs Peake for her unwavering commitment and wish her all the best in her retirement. Her legacy will continue to inspire future generations of students to embark on their own journeys of discovery and growth.

Following the evening's presentations five of our Y13 students have now completed their Gold DofE Awards - Eva, George, Poppy, Will and Max. Congratulations to them all, we hope you get your invitations to the award ceremony at Buckingham Palace soon!

Thank you to everyone who attended and supported our students. Your encouragement and enthusiasm make all the difference.

Library



Over the past week we have been celebrating British Science Week. In the library we have had a display of fiction and non-fiction books along with running a quiz.

The Winner of the quiz was Vihaan 7JM who received a copy of Space by Tim Peake. Runners up were Sophie 7WEH and Lily 7JC who received a science book. Congratulations to everyone. Everyone who took part received merits.

During the open morning on 19th March the library was open for parents, careers and future students to come and have a browse to see what we have to offer. The overall reaction was very good, the young students were eager to see what the library could offer them. Lots of questions, giving me the opportunity to recommend books and encourage future students to enjoy the space.

The Word of the Week is becoming popular. This gives the students the opportunity to use a word they have never used before in a piece of schoolwork. They show me in the library and receive merits. The word of this week was Doppelganger. Well done to all who have taken part.

The Carnegies

We are running the Carnegie Medal shadowing awards this year. This is a shadowing group of students who read the nominated books for the medal. The students read the books and put a review on the Carnegie site. They are invited to vote for their favourite book in June.



Music



On Tuesday, the choir and orchestra delighted the school community with our Spring Concert. Strengthening our chosen theme of Connection, and how music continues to inspire our students to grow and flourish, our Symphony Orchestra led by Mr Whittaker gave a dramatic introduction to the proceedings with the first movement of Mozart's Symphony No. 1.

Year 11 student Erika played a majestic rendition of the second movement of Beethoven's Pathétique, with flawless note accuracy and great attention to detail. Mrs Banda led the Young Voices to the front of the orchestra, with the Year 7s singing a jazz-infused performance of The Heavenly Aeroplane by John Rutter. They have really grown in confidence this year and we expect great innovations from them in the future. Mr Storer led the Brass Group with Andy Norman's Highland Farewell and Guava Guy, with great expression and rhythmic drive.

Year 10 student Jai followed with an introduction to his Percussion Ensemble. He had arranged the main theme from How To Train Your Dragon by Samuel Kim, and spent the last few weeks coaching KS3 students on how to utilise instruments such as the marimba, xylophone, bass and snare drums to give an atmospheric and powerful rendition of the animated score. Very well done Jai!

We also had another inaugural ensemble performance, thanks to Oscar in Year 7 with his directorial debut. The Junior String Orchestra provided a strong performance of the first movement of Mozart's Eine Kleine Nachtmusik, with a good sense of rhythm and note accuracy. We look forward to seeing this group evolve even further.

Year 11 student Aleksia played an elegant rendition of Bach's Concerto for Two Violins, alongside Mr Klein and accompanied by Mr Whittaker. Both soloists complimented each other with technical precision and expression. Mr Rushton then led the Jazz Band with rhythmic excitement and grooves with the pieces Cantaloupe Island by Herbie Hancock and Doze Kwela by Doze.

Following the interval, our orchestra brought the world of Broadway to the concert with a selection of pieces from West Side Story. Year 10 student Tifaine gave a brilliant performance of Wishing You Were Somehow Here Again from The Phantom of the Opera, accompanied by Mr Whittaker.

Mr Clark led the A Cappella Choir with a Zulu traditional piece called Si njay njay njay. The sense of community and strength from this song was uplifting and even received praise from a parent who grew up within the Kwazulu-Natal community. Year 11 student Robin gave a virtuosic run of Andante et Scherzo by Louis Ganne, accompanied by Mr Boodle. Mrs Banda brought the Young Voices for an encore performance of All Things Bright and Beautiful by Philip Stopford, which was sung with great warmth and soul. For one final time, the orchestra were seated to give a rousing rendition of Radetsky March by Johann Strauss, encouraging a lively audience participation of clapping along.

To conclude the events, the choral suite of The Armed Man was delicately and graciously sung by our main choir. The work was commissioned by the Royal Armouries to mark the transition from one millennium to another. It reflects on the passing of 'the most war-torn and destructive century in human history' and looks forward in hope to a more peaceful future.

The Armed Man is dedicated to the victims of the Kosovo conflict, whose tragedy was unfolding as it was being composed. It was first performed in 2000 by the London Philharmonic Orchestra and the National Youth Choir of Great Britain, conducted by Jenkins himself.

The selections performed were the Kyrie, Sanctus, Benedictus and Agnus Dei. We would like to thank all the instrumentalists who accompanied the choir and a special mention to Rafael in Year 7 for his outstanding cello solo.

We were really blessed with such stunning work from our staff, students, caretakers and support from our wider school community of parents and carers. We now look forward to preparing for the Founder's Day events. This concert represents all we aim to achieve as a music department - an inclusive and high standard community of music-makers. We are thrilled to announce that we have been selected as a Regional Lead School with the GSW Music Hub, and will play a pivotal role in elevating music education standards, providing specialised professional development, and championing music-making throughout our communities. This will strengthen our connection with communities in Gloucestershire, Swindon and Wiltshire as a department with outstanding achievement and ambition and really excited about how this develops over the next year.



Parent workshop with Educational Psychologist

Due to the success of our SENDCo afternoon in November 2024, our Educational Psychologist Dr Kate Billington will return to deliver a parent workshop on **8th April 2025**.

The aim of the workshop is to offer *study skills and strategies to help with engagement* which can be implemented at home for your child.

The session will take place at **2.30pm - 3.30pm**. Please sign in at reception where you will be met by a member of the SEND team. Refreshments will be available on arrival. Miss Hall (Deputy SENDCo), Mrs Dutton (in charge of KS4 & 5) and Mrs Watts (in charge of KS3) will also be available during this time. If your child will remain in school after 3.15pm to travel home with you, they should go to Homework Club in Room 24 until 3.30pm at which point you can meet them in Reception.

If you would like to attend the session please complete the google form which can be found here: <https://forms.gle/ch6EsQAzk2H6snQz8> no later than **Friday 4th April**.

Trustee vacancies at The Crypt School

The Crypt School is seeking to appoint two new Trustees (Governors) to the Board of the School, starting in summer or autumn 2025, with skills/experience in one or more of the following areas:

- Secondary education
- Financial management/accountancy/audit & risk management
- Communications/marketing/PR
- Property/building development or management, health and safety

More information on the role and time commitment and how to apply may be found on the [school website](#). The role of Trustee is voluntary (unpaid).

If you would like to find out more or speak to a current member of the Board about the role, please contact Mrs Nicola Donlon at clerk@crypt.gloucs.sch.uk Applications should be made via application form (available on the website) by **Monday 31 March**.

IT Online Shop

The iPad accessory store where you can buy items such as pencils or replacement cases at a discount will be now open and will close at the end of March. Once the store is closed all orders will be shipped to the school for distribution to the students.

<https://store.albion.co.uk/the-crypt/>

There is also a link on the iPad page of the website (under our parents)

Aspens Menu Change

