

28th November 2025

Dear parents/carers and students,



School Musical - Oliver! 28/29th November

Yesterday, the cast of Oliver performed to an excited primary school audience, having presented extracts of their show to the wider school in assemblies across the week. Those previews demonstrated the huge amount of effort that has gone into this production, the depth of talent on show, the collaborative nature of the production and the sheer pleasure that comes with being involved in a performance. Tonight the first of three performances begins, which culminates in the final show tomorrow evening. Well done and congratulations to all involved in Oliver - both the students and staff from across the school. Of course, a show of this kind could not happen without wide staff support and my thanks go to the following for their work in supporting head of drama and director of the Oliver, Alex Crozier:

Mr Whittaker, Mrs Banda and Mr Slemensek - music

Mr Walthew - Assistant Director

Mrs Evans and Mrs Williams - costumes

Mrs Watts, and students Paige and Vasilki - stage managers

Mr Bayliss, Mr Cresswell and Mr Halliday - set support

Mrs Wasley - tickets, programme and publicity

Ms Duxbury and Ms Perkins - supporting in rehearsals and taking photos.

CSPTA

The CSPTA Committee met on Tuesday and - as always - I am extremely grateful for their work in support of the school. The Committee kindly agreed to fund two projects at the meeting on Tuesday: one for the Library and the other to match funds from the school to create a sensory garden on the school site, to be a peaceful, relaxing and safe space for students to visit. The Committee are now in advanced planning for the annual Christmas Fair which is going to be held in school on Friday 5th of December.

Special Educational Needs (SEND)

The school's SEND department, led by SENDco Mrs Prout, Deputy SENDco Ms Hall and overseen by Mrs Hargraves, work hard on behalf of those students with education and health care plans, and others who have an identified special educational need. On Tuesday, parents and carers of students with an identified special educational need, were invited to attend an informal drop-in afternoon session with the team, and with educational psychologist Kate Billington. I hope that afternoon was useful to those who attended, and helpful in ensuring that each student is receiving the support they need to really thrive and flourish in their school lives here at Crypt.



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The Crypt School
Educating students since 1539

Sport

Although cold and wet weather have accompanied us throughout the week, many sporting events took place across a variety of sports and across all age groups. Matches included basketball against Sir Thomas Rich's School, netball against Farmor's School and Denmark Road and rugby union against The Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat School, Cirencester Deer Park and Holmleigh Park School. Tomorrow, another round of Saturday rugby fixtures are happening against Hereford Cathedral School. My thanks to all my colleagues who support school sport, and who make these fixtures and the practices possible; my thanks also to those parents/carers who support their child's participation in sports, through attending fixtures, collecting their child after a match by example, or through their financial support of the Sports Foundation.

The next few weeks of term will be exceptionally busy, with year 11 mocks taking place in the final two weeks of term, Christmas lunch happening across next week for all year groups, sporting fixtures continuing and various trips and visits taking place. Of course, Crypt school life is always busy and rightly so.

With my continued best wishes,



Nicholas Dyer
Headmaster

School Dates

29 November	School production Oliver! 2pm & 7pm
2 December	Y7 Christmas Lunch
3 December	Y8 & 11 Christmas Lunch
4 December	Y9 & 10 Christmas Lunch
4 December	Y9 GCSE Option Evening 5.40pm–8pm
5 December	Christmas Fair 6–8pm
11 December	Christmas Jumper Day
11 December	Sixth Form Christmas Lunch
15 December	CSPTA Meeting S1 6.30pm
18 December	Christmas Carol Service St Barnabas 6.30pm
19 December	Term ends 12.30pm

Oliver! Live at the Crypt School



Don't miss your chance to see Oliver! Tickets are still available on Eventbrite, but they're selling fast.

The evening will also include a fully stocked bar and refreshments. Both card and cash payments are accepted, though you may find it handy to bring some cash along.

Join us for a fantastic performance and a great night out!

Book tickets here -> <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/oliver-tickets-1832910818599>

Full Lockdown Drill Taking Place Wednesday, December 3rd at 9:00 AM

On Wednesday 3rd December 9am the school will be running a practice of our full lockdown procedure. Staff and pupils will be made aware of this very important drill at the beginning of next week. Expectations will be made clear about what everyone's responsibilities are if a lockdown were to happen. Pupils will be informed that they must not make any contact with home, by example, during the practice, and indeed, if it were for real. Pupils will get a briefing during a form period over the coming days. The practice will allow the school to check for any areas that we can improve on so that we can maintain a safe environment for all. A reminder will be sent to you all again next week.

Lunch Arrangements 2nd, 3rd and 4th December

For those not having Christmas dinner on 2nd, 3rd or 4th December the canteen will be serving pizza, pasta pots, sandwiches and baguettes from the deli bar or the pod. The sixth form cafe will run as usual.



CSPTA FAIR 5th December 6-8pm

Cake competition!

There will be a 'best decorated cake' competition at the Christmas Fair and we're looking for entries from both adults and children.

Prizes are on offer for the best entries and the cakes will then be sold on the cake stall during the Christmas Fair.

Please bring your cakes to reception from 1st December ready for the fair on 5th December.

Raffle tickets are available on ParentPay. 1st prize £100 and 2nd Prize is a Fantastic Family Christmas Hamper. Tickets are £1. Buying tickets is a great way to support the fair.

You can still book for your little ones to see Santa on the night. We are very lucky he has found the time to visit! £5 on ParentPay and sign up here <https://forms.gle/hZtUAE7GbHS6KtZ27>

St Mary de Crypt Church

As many of you may know, a significant conservation project is underway at our school heritage site, St Mary de Crypt Church, to save its precious Tudor wall paintings. Historian Janina Ramirez has described these artworks as being of **world importance!**

To secure essential long-term funding from the Heritage Lottery, the church is currently raising vital match funding. We are thrilled that they have been chosen to participate in the **Big Give Christmas Campaign!**

Your Impact Will Be Doubled! For one week only, from **December 2nd to December 9th, every donation made to the project will be matched, effectively doubling its impact towards its £13,500 goal.** We would be incredibly grateful if you could help spread the word about this fantastic opportunity to support a truly historic local landmark during this special week.

A Big Thank You!

Thank you for the huge number of donations for the Monmouth flood appeal. Mrs Lowe delivered these to the community on Tuesday and they were very much appreciated. Great to see our school value of kindness in action!



Class of 2025 Students - Exam Certificates

If your child sat GCSE or A-level exams at Crypt in 2025 and is now studying or working elsewhere, they are invited to collect their exam certificates from Reception on Monday, 15th December, between 3.30 and 6pm.

If they are unable to collect them at that time or would like someone else to collect them on their behalf, they should email Mrs Coughlin at lcoughlin@crypt.gloucs.sch.uk to arrange an alternative solution. Anyone collecting certificates (student/ parent/friend) will need to bring a form of photo ID.

Clinical Psychology Guest Speaker for Sixth Form Students

Our Year 12 and Year 13 Psychology and Sociology students will be taking part in a special talk on **Thursday 4th December at 1:30pm**. We are delighted to welcome a Clinical Psychologist who will share insights into his career, the realities of clinical practice, and the pathways available to students interested in this field.

This is a valuable opportunity for our Sixth Form learners to deepen their understanding of the subject, make meaningful links to their studies, and hear first-hand about a highly competitive profession.

We are really pleased to offer experiences like this to enrich our students' learning and broaden their aspirations.

Köln Weihnachtsmarkt – Cologne German Market Trip



Last weekend the students of year 9 & 10 were so lucky to go to visit the Christmas market in Cologne – which was great fun.

All the students loved experiencing the German tradition, such as the German Christmas market, meeting Nikolaus on the river Rhein cruise, eating a Spaghettieis at the ice cream Parlor even when it was -1 degree outside and visiting a traditional Brauhaus, where the students ordered in German and ate typical German food as well as soaked up the atmosphere (without the beer). All the students were a credit to the school and had a great time.



Relationships & Consent: A Key Topic in PED

Most year groups have been exploring healthy and unhealthy relationships in PED this term. Healthy relationships are built on trust, respect, and communication, and consent is part of our everyday lives, and it lays the groundwork for healthy, safe relationships from childhood into adulthood. Brook Health has resources for parents and carers to guide conversations at home about consent.

Should you wish to read it, please see this link - <https://www.brook.org.uk/blog/how-to-talk-to-your-child-about-consent/>

How You Can Build Resilience in Your Child

Live Parent Webinar: How You Can Build Resilience in Your Child

Elevate Education, who already work closely with our students on study skills and wellbeing, are hosting a free parent webinar on Resilience on Tuesday, December 2nd, from 6:00–7:00 pm (GMT).

Learn practical strategies to help your child bounce back from setbacks—whether it's a disappointing grade or a slip-up.

What you'll learn:

- Managing responses to setbacks.
- Building resilience both in and out of school.
- Overcoming the 'fear of failure.'

Budget Bites: Year 12 Cooks Serve Up Masterful, Affordable Meals



Year 12 students have continued to excel in their food enrichment; they were tasked to plan a meal on a budget. Students worked in small groups to present a final dish 'Masterchef' style. There were much enjoyment and excellent teamwork.

The winning dish was Chicken and gnocchi soup.

Music Newsletter



This week has been filled with festive energy and musical achievement across our community. The Symphony Orchestra have been spreading Christmas cheer in rehearsals with their lively selections of A Christmas Festival and Sleigh Ride, both of which promise to bring sparkle and joy to our seasonal celebrations.

Our choral groups have also been exceptionally busy. Cantores Cryptienses are deep in preparation for the upcoming Carol Service on Thursday 18th December, polishing a rich programme that includes Rutter's Shepherd's Pipe Carol, Gauntlett's Once in Royal David's City, and Joubert's Torches. We are particularly delighted that a dedicated group of our Young Voices will be joining the main choir this year, adding a fresh and vibrant dimension to the performance.

Meanwhile, excitement is building for the opening of our production of Oliver!, which begins its public run this evening. Students and staff alike have invested countless hours into bringing Lionel Bart's beloved musical to life, and we cannot wait to share the result of their hard work, talent, and enthusiasm.

Thank you to everyone involved for making this a truly memorable week of creativity and community spirit.

Attendance - The Crypt School

Notifying of Absence

We have 4 different forms to cover different types of absences.

- Is your child too unwell to attend today?
- Please submit a [Daily Absence Request Form](#) (please submit before 8.30AM)
- Does your child have an appointment that affects their school day?
- Please submit a [Medical Absence Form](#) (with as much notice as possible and attendance is requested around all appointments)
- Is your child taking a music or drama exam? Do they need to attend a family funeral? Are they undertaking a sporting commitment such as a county match?
- Please submit a [Non Medical Absence Form](#) (with as much notice as possible)
- Will your child need to miss school in exceptional, unavoidable circumstances?
- Please submit an [Absence in Exceptional Circumstances Form](#) (with as much notice as possible)

Our Registers are taken at 8.35am and 12.15pm

If your child has an appointment and needs to leave after the register is taken, their attendance percentage is unaffected.

Our school attendance target is 97%

We appreciate your support in securing the highest levels of Attendance.

