

31st January 2025



Dear parents/carers and students,

I do hope this letter finds you all well.

I was delighted to learn, amongst the many offers our year 13 students are receiving for university entry, of 6 offers from Oxbridge for a variety of courses - 3 from Oxford and 3 from Cambridge. Congratulations indeed to those students who have received these offers, as well as to all other students in year 13 who have received offers to study a variety of courses at a range of HE institutions across the UK. We now await outcomes of the apprenticeship applications that many students are currently making across a wide sector of industries. The 2025 deadline for all university and college application forms through UCAS fell on the 29th of January, and Ms Glock (Director of Post 16 Education) reports that over 150 forms have been sent off to UCAS since September. Many students in year 13 are also now applying for apprenticeship opportunities, with others looking at a variety of post-18 options, such as employment or gap years for example. My thanks to all my colleagues who have supported year 13 with their applications this year, enabling our senior students to make the strongest applications possible to university and for employment.

Year 13 mocks exams in the hall will commence at the beginning the 10th of February, and I know that students will be busy revising for these final mocks before their actual exams commence in May. I do hope that these mocks go well.

Many maths students enjoyed participating in the intermediate math challenge this week, an opportunity to test their knowledge and understanding in a timed environment undertaking more advanced level questions, in relation to their age group.

Staff meet together on Thursday after school, for one of our 'twilight' INSET sessions, with this one focussed on teaching and learning and careers education. The school always strives to provide the very best learning experience for the students and up-to-date and relevant careers advice; Thursday evening was an opportunity to develop our practice in both these areas further.



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The Crypt School
Educating students since 1539

It was good to see so many primary school children attend the KS1 Sports Hall Athletics event on Wednesday. Helping at that event were many of our sport leaders and Cheryl Stennett, GSSN Network Manager/School Games Organiser noted that, *"Your sports leaders were outstanding, enthusiastic, caring, and supportive of the primary children in their group. It was great to see them coming down to their level and connecting with them so well."* Good luck to our U16 netball squad as they head off tomorrow for their netball tour to Dorset - my thanks to Ms Leask and Ms Burnside for giving up their time to lead this weekend tour. Lots of other sporting fixtures occurred this week in many sports, involving students from across the school, including senior boy's football against Dean Close, where we welcomed back into school former director of sport Mr Bawden, who is now Director of Sport at Dean Close.

It was wonderful to welcome many primary school headteacher colleagues into school on Wednesday, who toured the school with their ex-pupils, who are now in year 7 and who enjoyed a lunch with staff afterwards. I am sure they must have been exceptionally proud to see their former pupils thriving at Crypt - indeed, great credit must be given to all the work primary schools undertake to support the personal and academic development of their pupils, who we are then fortunate to be able to teach and work with in Year 7 and thereafter.

Thank you to Ms Hall (physics) for once again organising the Famelab competition for year 9, which was an excellent experience for the whole group involved. Congratulations to Sahara the overall winner and Oliver the runner up, for their Fungi and Zombie presentations. Sahara will now represent the school at the regional final in Cheltenham later this year.

As many of our year 12 students are starting to drive, the school hosted the second part of the Driving Fit workshop, aimed at promoting safe driving amongst that age group. Any sixth former driving into school, must have a parking permit, available from the sixth form office.

Finally, thank you to all for raising money for the students' chosen non-uniform day charity Muslims Around the World.

With continued best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Dyer'.

Nicholas Dyer
Headmaster

School Dates

3rd February – Year 11 Information Evening 6pm

6th February – Year 10 Parents Evening Virtual

6th February – GCSE Music trip to Gloucester Guildhall

7th February – Year 10 Bath University Visit

10th February - **The Annual General Meeting of The Crypt School 4pm. Parents/carers are welcome to attend. For more information, please see the notice of AGM on the School's website.**

11th February – **CSPTA Meeting (6pm, S Block) All are welcome to attend. Further information including the agenda and minutes can be found [here](#)**

11th February – Dear Evan Hansen Theatre Trip

12th February – Y11 trip GCSE Poetry Live Bristol

14th February – Year 12 GE Aerospace RETHINK Day

14th February – Term 3 ends

24th February – Term 4 Starts

28th February – 6.15pm CSPTA Quiz

KS1 Sportshall Athletics



On Wednesday 29th January The Crypt School hosted a primary school sportshall athletics event. There were 8 events in total plus fun relays for them to enjoy. The day was organised by Cheryl Stennet the school sports coordinator but the day itself was run by a selection of Crypt's year 9 Sports Leaders. There were over 100 students enjoying the day all from KS1 and each year 9 had a school to look after. The event was a total success with many positive comments from staff and parents about how professional and encouraging our

sports leaders were. There will be a similar event in the summer and we have full confidence that our year 9 sports leaders will do another wonderful job.

Year 12 Students Take the Wheel of Road Safety

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In a bid to equip our young drivers with essential safety knowledge, Year 12 students recently participated in a Drive Fit workshop. This valuable initiative, delivered by Gloucestershire Fire & Rescue Service on Wednesday, 29th January 2025, aimed to raise awareness of the dangers facing young drivers and empower them to make informed choices on the road.

“This year, Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service has adopted a new, evidence-informed young drivers programme, DriveFit. This intervention was developed to improve young people’s attitudes and intentions towards safe driving and passenger behaviours. The ultimate aim of the intervention is to reduce deaths and serious injuries amongst this at-risk group. Our service proudly supports your students, and we encourage parents and carers to continue discussions around safe driving practices at home.” Emily Booker, Road Safety Lead, Gloucestershire Fire & Rescue.



Gloucestershire Firefighters, Mia and John who came into school to talk with Year 12

The Fatal Four: A Stark Reality

The workshop focused on the "Fatal Four" – four key factors that contribute significantly to road traffic accidents involving young people:

- **Speeding:** Exceeding speed limits dramatically increases the risk of accidents and the severity of injuries.
- **Drink and Drug Driving:** Impairing judgment and reaction times, even small amounts of alcohol or drugs can have devastating consequences.
- **Distracted Driving:** Using mobile phones while driving, whether for calls, texts, or social media, significantly increases the risk of accidents.

- **Not Wearing a Seatbelt:** Seatbelts are crucial safety devices, and failing to wear one greatly increases the risk of serious injury or death in a collision.

A Sobering Message

Gloucestershire Fire & Rescue Service personnel shared their firsthand experiences of attending road traffic accidents involving young people, highlighting the devastating impact these incidents can have on individuals, families, and communities. They emphasized the importance of responsible driving habits and the critical role that young drivers play in keeping themselves and others safe on the roads.

“Our thanks to Gloucestershire Fire & Rescue Service staff for visiting and talking to our year 12 students about road safety. Their messages are so important and I believe they have made our students really think about their own behaviours behind the wheel. We hope they continue to live up to our school value of 'responsibility' through safe driving practices, making the roads of Gloucestershire safer for them as well as the others around them.” Susan Glock, Deputy Head, Director of Sixth Form

Statistics Speak Volumes

It's crucial to remember that young drivers are statistically more likely to be involved in accidents, particularly around the time they pass their driving test. This workshop aimed to provide our students with the knowledge and tools to make informed decisions and drive safely.

Empowering Our Young Drivers

We believe that by equipping our students with this vital information, we can contribute to a safer future for all road users. The Crypt School is committed to fostering responsible citizenship and promoting road safety within our community.

We encourage parents to discuss road safety with their children and reinforce the importance of the "Fatal Four." Together, we can make a difference.

Music Newsletter

On Monday, Music Technology Club began looking into a sample of recording techniques for drums, with students learning sound concepts in stereo capture and methods to avoid phase cancellation. Next week, we will be building on this with amplified equipment and recording bass guitar. All our welcome!

Mrs Banda has been embracing the world of musical theatre in Young Voices with a medley of songs from Wicked being taught for our Spring Concert.

Year 7 student Oscar has begun coordinating a String Ensemble during Tuesday breaktimes, learning conducting techniques while directing Mozart's Eine Kleine Nachtmusik. We recommend anyone who plays a string instrument to attend these sessions for a sense of enrichment and community music-making.

Symphony Orchestra have been learning about Britten and began learning the notes to his Five Courtly Dances from Gloriana, with much gusto and vigour.

A Cappella Choir led by Mr Clark have been delving into Bohemian Rhapsody from Queen with energy and dramatic flair.

Our choir are putting in lots of work preparing for our Evensong appearance at Gloucester Cathedral on Wednesday 12th March. Letters will have been sent out and we would be grateful if these can be completed by next Friday 7th February as we need full attendance to best represent our school choir.



Finally, GCSE Music students and those considering in Year 9 have been selected to attend a concert by the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra at Gloucester Guildhall on Thursday 6th February. This is a very exciting opportunity to hear a full orchestra demonstrate KS4 level work for students to hone in their analytical skills. A letter has been sent through ParentPay and Mr Slemensek has provided a briefing for the event during the school day.

Teacher Taster Day at Crypt

Are you interested in a career in teaching? Find out if it's the career for you at our Teacher Taster Day -

- Thursday 13th February 2025, 9:15am to 2:45pm

Come along and join us to:

- Talk to experts, current teachers and trainees.

- Discover the teacher training options available in the county.
- Talk to teachers about real life in the classroom
- Hear the advice & experience of current trainees

Whether you're ready to apply to do a PGCE or starting to explore options, make the most of this opportunity to find out more about teaching in person. If you have a friend or relative considering a teaching career please let them know. To book a place, email Sharon Bailey at sbailey@crypt.gloucs.sch.uk

Interested in a Teaching Career?

Teaching Taster Day at The Crypt School

Thursday 13 February 2025
9.15am to 2.45pm



Whether you're ready to apply to do a PGCE or starting to explore options...

Join us for this unique opportunity to:

- Talk to experts, current teachers & trainees
- Discover training options in Gloucestershire
- Talk to teachers about real life in the classroom
- Hear the advice & experience of current trainees

If our Teacher Taster Day interests you, please get in touch. **See post for more details.**



We look forward to hearing from you!



GE Aerospace RETHINK Day

On 24th January, a group of 30 Year 7 students attended a RETHINK day at GE Aerospace in Cheltenham. The event is designed to inspire students, particularly

those who have backgrounds traditionally underrepresented in STEM careers, to learn more about what it is like to work in engineering.

Students worked in groups with pupils from other local schools and rotated around three activities. They took part in a tower-building challenge and had to unlock clues to progress with the task. The flight simulator was a hit, with students working in pairs to land their plane on a challenging air strip in the mountains. They also programmed a snake game using Python, with one of our students achieving the top score of the day. Throughout the tasks, students were supported by engineers that work at GE Aerospace and learned about their roles.

We look forward to three further event days this year, with Year 12 attending the next event on 14th February.

CSPTA Quiz Night!

A vibrant poster for a Quiz Night event. The background is a deep red with a subtle pattern. At the top center, the words "QUIZ NIGHT" are written in large, bold, yellow and white letters, framed by a glowing yellow border. Below this, the text "Show off your knowledge and have fun in a friendly competition with quiz host Simon!" is written in white. Underneath, the ticket prices "£5pp/£2.50 for under 18s" are listed, followed by "Plus Raffle!" in a playful, yellow font. The date and time "FRIDAY 28TH FEB 2025 from 6.15pm for a 7pm start" are prominently displayed in white, along with the location "AT THE CRYPT SCHOOL". A box at the bottom left provides booking information: "Book via ParentPay or email cspta@crypstschoo.org". In the bottom right corner, the text "LICENSED BAR, SNACKS & PIZZA!!" is written in a bold, yellow, slanted font. Several large, yellow question marks are scattered around the poster, adding to the quiz theme.

QUIZ NIGHT

Show off your knowledge and have fun in a friendly competition with quiz host Simon!

£5pp/£2.50 for under 18s **Plus Raffle!**

Teams up to 6 people (8 max if including children) - or you can be added to a team on the night.

FRIDAY 28TH FEB 2025
from 6.15pm for a 7pm start
AT THE CRYPT SCHOOL

Book via ParentPay or email
cspta@crypstschoo.org

**LICENSED BAR,
SNACKS &
PIZZA!!**

Join us for the CSPTA Quiz Night! 💡

Test your knowledge, compete with friends and family, and support a great cause all in one go!

Every ticket purchased helps raise funds for the CSPTA, so your participation directly benefits our school community. 🤝🌟



Mark your calendars and purchase your tickets via ParentPay.

February Half Term Bikeability Courses



February Half Term Bikeability Courses

Bikeability courses give children and young people the skills and confidence to make journeys by bike.

Tuesday 18th to Friday 21st February 2025

Skillzone, Tuffley Lane, Gloucester, GL4 0AS

Courses delivered by friendly, experienced and fully qualified Cycling Instructors

Small group sizes

£8 for a 4-hour course

Ages 9 to 14 (Level 1, 2 & 3 Bikeability available)

For a booking form and further information please email thinktravel@gloucestershire.gov.uk



**Gloucestershire
Fire and Rescue Service**
Working together for a safer Gloucestershire

Cyber Boot Camp

February 17th – 21st



Interested in Cyber & AI?

Interested in starting your own business one day?

Aged 16 – 18 & live near Cheltenham?

Join us for a week of hands-on activities to learn about:

- Using Artificial Intelligence to build systems
- How businesses really work – HR, finance, legal
- How to build your own business
- What it's like to work in technology & cyber
- What career paths are available
- Life skills & new experiences



CYNAM

Sign up :

