



Headmaster's Letter

2nd October 2026

Dear parents/carers and students,

I hope that this letter home finds you all well.

Academic update

The school is committed to encouraging all students to continue to enjoy reading - reading for its own sake, and as part of their academic studies. The library is always popular, although mainly amongst our younger students, and twice a week, tutors read out loud with their tutor groups in years 7-10. Room 25 is also available as a reading room each lunchtime, and that space is open to all year groups to come and enjoy their reading. I have just finished reading Dan Jones' biography of Henry V, which he writes - unusually, but very effectively - in the present tense. The book provided me with a fantastic insight into the man behind the throne and a counterpoint to the imagined Henry of Shakespeare's Henry V, one of my favorite Shakespearean plays.

Personal development and enrichment

Being a member of one of our five school houses is a very important part of being a Cryptian: House membership helps strengthen a sense of belonging and of identity to the wider school, and brings together both younger and older students in shared occasions, such as across this week in House assemblies, led by our sixth form House Captains. House assemblies are a small part of this year's House activities planned by Mr Hart; by example, last Friday saw a wonderful Just



"We are an outstanding co-educational grammar school which places the child at the heart of all that we do..."



Dance House competition held in the main hall, with Waboso House having the most students attend and being judged as the best dancers overall. Today at lunchtime, House cross country took place, with many students participating. From these and other activities, points are awarded towards the ongoing House Competition, with the Barton Shield awarded annually to the winning house.

Our Careers - Inspired Lecture Series - continued this week, with a fascinating talk on Cyber by Crypt parent Elyot Hoy - thanks to Elyot for giving up your time to attend school, and to give those who attended much food for thought.

On Thursday after school, our Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award participants gave their oral presentations to a gathered audience in the main hall, reporting back to friends, families and teachers on their expedition to Scotland, which took place in July. Thank you to Mr Howell and Ms Shaw for their leadership of this popular and important scheme in school.

Sport

Congratulations to our senior boys rugby players, who narrowly missed beating St Peter's School last Friday evening at a very competitive match played under lights at Old Cryptian's rugby ground. Crypt had a number of opportunities to win the match, but narrowly lost by just two points; however, their first competitive fixture of the season bodes well for the season ahead.

I am delighted to announce the return of our sports hall to full use next week: one half of the sports hall has been out of use for over a year now, due to water ingress which rendered part of the floor unusable and affected wider usage of that important space. However, that issue has been rectified and the full sports hall will shortly be open for student and staff use.

Student and Staff achievements

Congratulations to Deputy Headteacher Mrs Hargraves, whose article 'Finding fragments of change on Endell Street: an interdisciplinary approach' was published in the latest copy of the Teaching History magazine. Endell Street hosted a military hospital during the First World War and all the doctors, nurses and orderlies were female. Pioneering doctors Flora Murray and Louisa Garrett Anderson, established the hospital in Endell Street in 1915, and over the course of the war, the hospital treated some 26,000 wounded soldiers from France and Gallipoli. However, the hospital was closed after the war's cessation and their pioneering work was sidelined by the medical establishment. The original book, on which Mrs Hargraves' article is based, was published by Wendy Moore and offers a fascinating story of wartime London, the horrors of war and the

bravery and tenacity of an extraordinary group of women.



Congratulations also to Ella (head girl) who completed her delayed July (due to the heat in the summer) 22 miles run for 22,000 children who have lost their lives in the Palestine-Israel conflict. Ella's passion for humanity, strong sense of justice and leadership once again shone through in her resilience in completing her run, and in raising money to help support those children and their families affected by the conflict.



School Visitor

Thanks to Dame Fiona Reynolds, High Sheriff of Gloucestershire, who visited school on Monday, for lending her support to our vision to bring a new creative and performing arts centre to our Podsmead campus. Dame Fiona, pictured with student representatives Liv and Edgar, enjoyed an impromptu musical concert, before seeing for herself the tired and limited spaces that the music and drama departments have to work within.

Staffing news

On Thursday of next week, Mrs Alex Crozier (head of drama) leaves school for her maternity leave: we wish her every best wishes and we look forward to hearing of the safe arrival of her second baby. Replacing Mrs Crozier as acting head of drama, will be Mr Duncan Walthen, who has a long track record of both teaching drama and leading school drama departments in the past; Mr Walthen has also taught both drama and English at this school in previous years.

Finally, congratulations to the music department for all the amazing work they do in school, which has been recognised in the award of the Music Mark Recognition for Ambition and Quality.

Nicholas Dyer
Headmaster

Dates For Your Diary

6th October	6-7.15pm Y7 Meet the Tutor
8th October	Harry Potter Book Night 3.45pm-6.15pm
9th October	Hello Yellow Mental Health Awareness
13th October	Early Closure for all students 1.15pm
14th October	Open event for Y4 and Y5 students
16th October	Y13 Mock Interviews
20th October	Autumn Concert 7-9pm
21st October	Careers Conventon
22nd October	Y13 Parents/Carers Evening in school
23rd October	End of term

Harvest

This Harvest, Gloucester Foodbank has invited us to be Savoury Rice Champions!

We currently have 15 packets on the Crush Hall table, so we're setting everyone a weekend shopping challenge – let's see how many packets of savoury rice we can donate. If you're out shopping this weekend and can add a packet or two to your shop please do. All donations should be placed on the Crush Hall table ready for collection on Monday 12 October.

Library News

It has been lovely welcoming students back into the library after the summer break. Lots of students have been recommending books and telling me about what they enjoyed reading over the summer.

Our new Year 7 students have quickly settled into the library and are already very enthusiastic about reading and getting involved in the activities and events we have planned.

We recently celebrated Percy Jackson's August birthday with a special library quiz. Congratulations to Elaina, who was our winner and received a Percy Jackson prize. Everyone who took part also received merits.

Space Week – from 5 October

To celebrate Space Week, there will be a library quiz based on this year's theme, 'Rocket Revolution'. Everyone who takes part will receive merits, so come along to the library and have a go!

Harry Potter Book Day Quiz – Thursday 8 October



We will be celebrating Harry Potter Book Day with a special after-school quiz, open to students from all year groups and staff.

The quiz will take place in the Canteen area, with pizza available from 3.30pm before the quiz begins at 4.00pm.

- Thursday 8 October
- 4.00pm–approximately 6.15pm
- Teams of up to six
- Open to all year groups and staff
- Fancy dress is optional
- Science magic during the interval
- Refreshments will be available to purchase throughout the event
- You are welcome to bring your own food if you prefer
- Pizza prices will be confirmed shortly

To register your team for the quiz, please come and see Mrs Jordan in the library.

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs Jordan at djordan@crypt.gloucs.sch.uk.

Hello Yellow

Pupils are encouraged to wear yellow accessories to school on Friday 9th October! Staff and pupils are invited to wear yellow accessories - socks, scarves, earrings, hats... to raise awareness for Young Minds and mental health support.

At school we have Pastoral Support Workers, kind and approachable Heads of Year, a School Counsellor, School Nurse and lots of spaces to take time out or talk.

Donations can be made via ParentPay or the YoungMinds website <https://fundraise.youngminds.org.uk/fundraisers/gemmahargraves>



#HelloYellow

M&S | YOUNGMINDS

Music Newsletter

Gabrieli Roar — Final Chance to Sign Up!

This is your final opportunity to sign up for the exciting Gabrieli Roar project, taking place on Wednesday 25th November. We would love to see as many students as possible involved in this fantastic musical experience.

Teenage Voices Project

Letters will soon be sent to students in Young Voices, inviting your child to take part in the Teenage Voices Project at Gloucester Cathedral on Thursday 19th November. We are delighted to be able to offer our young singers this wonderful opportunity.

Senior Piano Recital

Our Senior Piano Recital takes place next Thursday 8th October. Tickets are £10, available through ParentPay.

The recital will celebrate the unveiling of our new grand piano and will feature performances from our advanced-level piano students. We look forward to sharing this special occasion with you.

A Visit from the High Sheriff

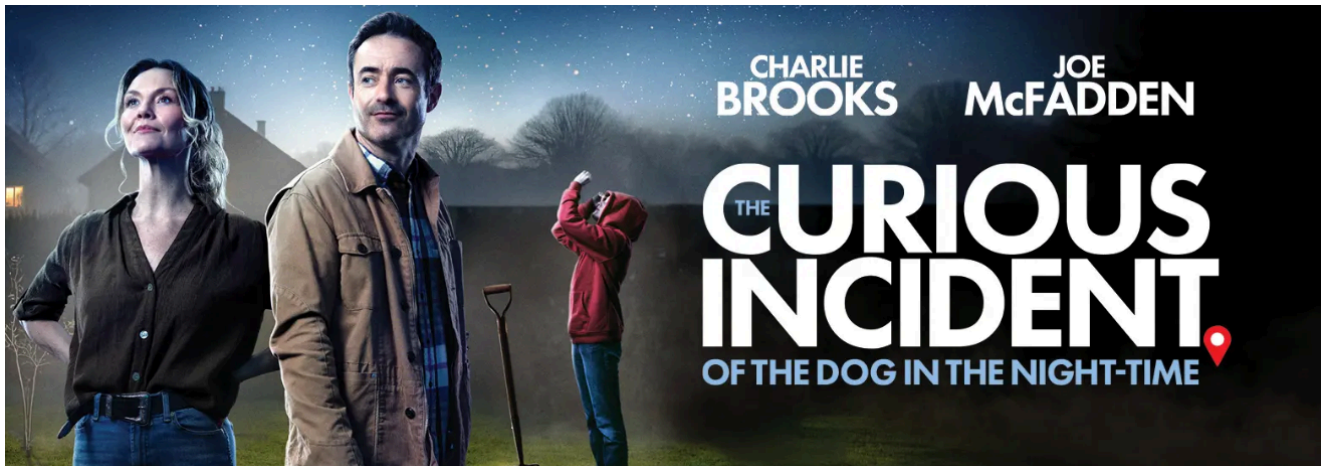
On Monday, we were delighted to welcome the High Sheriff of Gloucester. Our visitor was treated to an entertaining programme featuring our student-led vocal quartet, The Magnificats, performances from our A-Level musicians, and even an organ solo!

A huge well done to all of the students who performed and represented our music department so brilliantly.



Theatre trip – January 2027

We are delighted to be able to offer student's the opportunity to see 'The Curious Incident Of The Dog In The Night Time' on Tuesday January 19th, 2027 at The Everyman Theatre in Cheltenham. A letter with more details and payment link has been placed on all student's Parent Pay accounts - please note that spaces are limited so these places are available on a first come first served basis.



Inspired Lecture: From Movie Myths to Real-World Hacks

Our latest Inspired Lecture gave students an insight into the world of technology and cyber security, with a little help from Hollywood.

Entitled “From Movie Myths to Real-World Hacks”, the session looked at how realistic some of the technology we see in films actually is. From hacked cash machines and cloned contactless cards to compromised smart devices and spoofed security systems, students were asked to consider: “What is actually possible?”

Using examples from films alongside real projects from the world of technology and cyber security, the lecture showed that, although Hollywood may make things happen much more quickly, some of the ideas we see on screen are not as far-fetched as they might seem. In the real world, however, making these things work takes time, knowledge, research, experimentation and teamwork.

Students were encouraged to be curious about the technology around them: to ask how things work, what else they could do and what happens when you experiment and test ideas. Elyot also talked about the range of careers available in electronics, embedded software, engineering, cyber security, research and development and innovation.

The session gave students a chance to look behind some of the technology they use every day and see how curiosity and an interest in how things work can lead to future study and careers.

And perhaps the message to take away: keep asking “what if?” – and maybe keep watching the movies for inspiration!

Our thanks to Elyot Hoy for giving his time to share his knowledge and experience with our students.





THE CRYPT SCHOOL



SENIOR PIANO RECITAL



TO CELEBRATE THE
UNVEILING OF OUR NEW
PIANO

8TH OCTOBER
2026



TICKETS THROUGH
PARENTPAY
ADULTS - £10
UNDER-12S - FREE

Thursday | 6.30PM

Main Hall