



Headmaster's Letter

3rd July 2026

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

With school finishing next Wednesday at the usual time, this will be the last newsletter of the academic year. On that note, I would like to thank everyone connected to the life and work of the school - parents/carers, Governors, those who support our work, staff and of course, our wonderful students too - for all that you have so richly and generously contributed to our school life over the last year. I do hope that each student takes some fond memories of this school year into their summer break - of success perhaps in their academic studies; of enjoyment in friendships forged, or strengthened further; of fulfilment in their involvement in activities outside the classroom, of ambitions realised, and of personal growth and development.

Whatever the case, this year has once again been an exceptionally busy, productive and ultimately very successful year for our school and its community as we seek to help support all of our 1,100 students flourish in everything they do, and indeed seek to do as they develop into the young people they wish to become in our supportive, caring, inclusive and ambitious school community here at Crypt.

It has been a busy final full week in school, as this newsletter documents.

Founders' Day - Monday

We celebrated the school's founding in 1539 by John and Joan Cooke in the splendid surroundings of the Cathedral on Monday evening. The outstanding school choir and orchestra took centre stage on that night and my congratulations and thanks to them, as well as to Mr Whittaker and other members of the school music department, for all their hard work in making that annual event such a success. Thank you also to our guest speaker - Reverend Rosie Amess, who serves as the Chaplain of Cheltenham Ladies' College - whose address about the challenges we face, particularly with the rise



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



of AI, reminded us all of the beauty and joy that we can find in our own unique humanity. Thank you to those who so generously gave to the retiring collection which raised £580.07 for the Teenage Cancer Trust.



New Year 7 enjoy a day in school - Monday

It was great to see all our new year 7 students in school on Monday, for their induction day - they enjoyed some lessons, and equally important time with their tutors, head of year Mr Rausch and each other, forging friendships that will be strengthened further over the coming years. We now look forward to seeing many of them at our summer sports camp and of course in September as they officially join as our newest group of Cryptians.

Year 13 Leaver's Party - Thursday

As one cohort of students is set to join the school to start their Crypt School journeys in September, another now leaves: on Thursday evening, we bade farewell to our year 13 students at their leaver's party, held in the school grounds. The evening was a celebration of their time at school, a chance to say their thanks and goodbyes to the staff who have supported them over the last two years and an occasion for them all to be together as a year group, before they head off to begin the next stage of their lives. I wish them every success and happiness in the future, look forward to seeing them on A Level results day in August and hope that they will keep in touch with us all here at Crypt in the future.



Our new Grand Piano arrives in school - Friday

The new grand piano, purchased as a result of the generosity of many of our families at home, and OC Andrew Pitt, arrived in school on Friday. Well done indeed to all our piano students who made the purchase of this piano possible through their combined efforts during the recent 'pianothon' - keys for a cause - fundraising event. My thanks once again to everyone who so generously donated to the 'keys for a cause' fundraising event.



Student Academic and Personal Development

This week a number of activities took place in school enjoyed by many students across different year groups.

Years 7-10 enjoyed a talk from a visiting author Tamsin Winter on Tuesday, with some students also enjoying a creative writing workshop led by Tamsin, my thanks to her for giving up her time to inspire our students to enjoy reading and creative writing. Sporting fixtures continued this week in cricket and rounders by example, rounding off a really outstanding year of sport at the school. The year 7 and 8 musical showcase concert was a great success in the hall on Wednesday evening, and showcased the amazing talent we continue to nourish and help develop here at Crypt. Today, a large number of year 9s left for their outdoor activity trip to Corezze, France led by Mr Hart and tomorrow evening, students and families will be looking forward to the Cabaret Night, to be held in the school hall.

I hope that, after working hard in preparation for their LAMDA exams, that those many drama students who sat them in school yesterday and today performed well. I was also so pleased to see so many of our students enjoying celebrating their own academic and personal successes in our commendation celebration on Thursday.

Thank you to former Crypt student Alex Beer, who came into school on Monday, to speak with, and answer questions from, our year 10 Spanish GCSE students. Alex left Crypt after completing his A levels and is currently studying in Spain, and moving to continue his studies in Argentina for six months later in the year. What a wonderful role model he is for all of our GCSE linguists.

The Cryptain 2025-26

Just to let you know that the 2025-2026 edition of The Cryptian has now been published on the website. My thanks to our new editorial team - Debbie Jordan and Lizzie Chilman - for their outstanding work in putting this splendid edition of the Cryptian together.

https://issuu.com/thecryptschool/docs/the_cryptian_2025-2026

Finally, I wish everyone a good summer and encourage our students to enjoy time away from school. The summer holiday is long, so I will also advise students to keep up their academic work over the summer, especially students in year 10 and 12, who will face public examinations next year. For all students however, enjoy some reading, get involved in helping to support others, and do look forward to coming back to school in September to continue your onward educational and personal development journeys with us here at Crypt.

With my continued best wishes,



Nicholas Dyer
Headmaster

Dates For Your Diary

4th July	Cabaret Night 6.45pm
6th July	Post 18 University and Employment Workshops 6 - 7:30pm
8th July	Girls into Electronics University of Bath
8th July	Term 6 Ends 3.15pm
1st September	School Inset day
2nd September	Y7 Induction Day
3rd September	Y12 Induction Day
4th September	All Students Return

Year 11 Prom 2026

On Friday 26 June we celebrated the culmination of the GCSE exams at the Year 11 prom. Following the heatwave students and staff gathered on the lawn at Hatherley Manor hotel for some refreshments and ice creams, before sitting down for a wonderful three course meal. Next came speeches from Mr Dyer and Mr Windsor, as well as an awards ceremony led by prom committee members, Safa & Neeharika.

The night was concluded with a disco, with many students defying the heat to dance the night away until their carriages came to whisk them away. It was a fantastic celebration of the end of exams and the end of five years of hard work in the lower school. We look forward to seeing all of the Year 11s on results day. Special thanks goes to Mrs Wasley and her team for organising the event, Mr Ludlow (photographer), the staff who supported the event and Hatherley Manor for making the night so memorable.



L3Harris Technologies Workshop — 19th June 2026

We were delighted to welcome Philip and his colleagues from L3Harris Technologies to The Crypt School for a full-day STEM workshop delivered to our year 12 students. L3Harris, based in Tewkesbury, is a global technology and defence company who gave their time completely free of charge as part of their STEM outreach programme.

What Did the Students Do?

Students took part in a hands-on session using ScratchVHDL — an innovative tool that introduces the principles of hardware programming and FPGA (Field-Programmable Gate Array) engineering. This is the kind of cutting-edge technology used in real-world defence and communications systems.

Working in pairs with specialist laptops and development boards provided by L3Harris, students were immersed in an experience far beyond the standard classroom curriculum — one that brings professional engineering directly into school.

Our Thanks

We are extremely grateful to Philip and his team at L3Harris for the care, expertise, and generosity they brought to the day.

Partnerships with industry professionals like L3Harris are a vital part of preparing our students for the world beyond school. We hope this is the first of many collaborations, and we look forward to hosting more events like this moving forward.

Mr James Rice - Director of Digital Strategy



Mia Serves Up Wimbledon Success

We are delighted to share the fantastic news that Mia has qualified for the Play Your Way to Wimbledon National Finals after winning the 14U County Finals at Oxstalls.

Mia showed great determination, composure and skill throughout the competition, producing an excellent performance to win a thrilling final. This outstanding achievement means she will now go on to represent Gloucestershire at the National Finals at Wimbledon this August.

We are incredibly proud of Mia's dedication, hard work and sportsmanship, and wish her every success as she takes to the court on such a prestigious stage.



'Queen of Teen', Tamsin Winter visits The Crypt School

Tuesday 30th June saw us welcome award-winning author, and 'Queen of Teen', Tamsin Winter to The Crypt School. What a fantastic day it was!

Tamsin first spoke to years 7,8 and 9 about her career, writing and ways to generate ideas, whilst also introducing us to the characters that she has created over the last decade. Tamsin then presented writing tips and advice to Year 10, who took the opportunity to ask questions about planning and narrative structure ready for their exam preparation next year. We also held two writing workshops with Tamsin for students from Year 7 and the school's creative writing teams. Look out for the next edition of The Script who interviewed Tamsin to find out more about her writing style and favourite fictional characters.

Students listened, asked questions and wrote avidly during the day and our Crypt School community has learnt so much about not only the world of writing, but also how to find inspiration and the confidence to follow our dreams. Tamsin brought with her the 11 (!) drafts of her latest novel for students to see, illustrating brilliantly that resilience, hard work and a reflective approach are key to success.

Tamsin has kindly gifted the school a full set of her signed novels which will be available in the library before the end of term. We hope that all students have been inspired by her enthusiasm for writing and love of reading as a way to open a world of opportunity. Thank you, Tamsin, for a truly fantastic day.



Library Newsletter

As we come to the end of another school year, many students have been asking if they can borrow books over the summer holidays. The answer is a definite yes!

It is wonderful to see so many students enjoying reading and making the most of the wide range of fiction available in our library. We hope they continue to discover new authors, explore different genres and enjoy some great stories over the summer break.

Our George Orwell Quiz was a great success. Congratulations to Fliss (7JC), who was the winner drawn from all the correct entries. Fliss has received a National Book Token to help grow her own book collection.

Our Carnegie Reading Group has now completed this year's reading challenge and voted for their favourite book. The overall winner, announced on 23 June, was *Wolf Siren* by Beth O'Brien. Although our group had a variety of personal favourites, they agreed that *Wolf Siren* was a deserving winner.

A huge thank you to everyone who took part in the reading group:

Zack (9JM)

Arlo (8JC)

Amrita (7RR)

Deekshita (7RR)

Isabel (9JC)

Sherlin (7RR)

Andrea (7JM)

Kiril (7JM)

Lily (7RR)

Elliott (8WHE)

Annabel (8WHE)



I would also like to thank our fantastic student librarians, who have worked so hard throughout the year to help keep the library running smoothly. Your support has been invaluable.

Wishing everyone a happy and relaxing summer holiday. Enjoy a well-earned rest, keep reading, and remember—a good book can take you anywhere.

Mrs Jordan



Music Newsletter

As we reach the end of another highly productive and rewarding term, I would like to thank all of our pupils, staff and supporters for their dedication, enthusiasm and commitment to music throughout the academic year.

A particular highlight was our magnificent Founders' Day Service on Monday 29th June. Our 70-piece orchestra produced a truly majestic sound in performances of the March from Carmen, Prince of Denmark's March, featuring an outstanding trumpet solo from Monty, and Crown Imperial, all performed to an exceptional standard. The choir looked magnificent on the tiered platform, more usually associated with the prestigious Three Choirs Festival, and sang beautifully, delivering moving performances of Locus Iste and Greater Love Hath No Man.

On Wednesday 1st July, our Year 7 & 8 Showcase celebrated the enthusiasm and talent of our younger musicians. Year 7 brought great energy and commitment to their performance of Giant Slayer by Margaret Carpenter, and congratulations go to all of our soloists, the Junior Jazz Band, the Year 7 Brass Project and Young Voices for their excellent performances.

We waved goodbye to our faithful Bluthner piano on Friday after an incredible 38 years of service and inspiration. With all your help in supporting the Keys For a Cause campaign, we have ushered in a Yamaha C6 concert grand piano which will now be the centre of our school events in the main hall. Once again, thank you to all our wonderful piano players and all who supported the fundraiser.

We now look forward to our final musical event of the academic year: Cabaret Night on Saturday 4th July, presented in collaboration with the Drama Department. The cast, crew and musicians have been outstanding in their teamwork and preparation, and audiences can look forward to an entertaining programme featuring songs from The Greatest Showman, SIX, Wicked and The Phantom of the Opera. Tickets are available via TryBooking in the link below, and we hope to see many of you there as we round off another fantastic year of music-making.

<https://www.trybooking.com/uk/events/landing/114006>



Gloucester Schools Athletics Championships

The Crypt School enjoyed an outstanding day at the recent Gloucester Schools Athletics Championships, with students from Years 7-10 competing across a wide range of track and field events.

Despite having a smaller student on roll than many of the other Gloucester schools, our athletes delivered exceptional performances throughout the day. The results speak for themselves: 3rd overall in the Girls' competition, 2nd overall in the Boys' competition, and 2nd overall across the combined Boys' and Girls' standings. This is a tremendous achievement and a testament to the commitment, determination and talent of our students.

There were many outstanding individual performances. Congratulations to Ollie T, who won the Year 9 boys' 1,500m, and Jimmy G, who claimed victory in the Year 10 boys' 1,500m. Jimmy was also part of an impressive Year 10 distance double as Harrison finished second in the 800m.

Our sprinters were equally impressive. Eva B won the Year 9 girls' 100m, Erin K took first place in the Year 10 girls' 100m, and Enrico S was crowned Year 10 boys' 100m champion.

A special mention must go to our exceptional Year 10 boys in the 300m. Enrico S stormed to first place in an outstanding 37.66 seconds, closely followed by Monty, who finished second in 37.90 seconds. It was a superb one-two finish and one of the highlights of the day.

The Year 10 boys continued their dominance in the 200m, where Monty claimed first place in 23.83 seconds, with Rick taking second in 23.93 seconds, another outstanding one-two finish.

Our relay teams also produced fantastic performances. Congratulations to the Year 7 boys' relay team of Simon, Sam, Will and Dylan, who secured first place. The Year 10 boys' relay team also claimed victory, while the Year 10 girls and Year 9 girls both earned excellent second-place finishes in their respective relay events.

In the field events, Izzy E enjoyed a brilliant competition by winning the Year 10 girls' discus and shot put, while Charlotte G finished second in the discus to complete another excellent one-two finish for The Crypt.

Our jumpers also impressed throughout the championships. Jack J and Alan S finished first and third respectively in the Year 8 boys' long jump. Eva B added another title to her successful day by winning the Year 9 girls' long jump, while Erin K also claimed victory in the Year 10 girls' long jump.

Congratulations also go to Elijah B, who won the Year 9 boys' triple jump, and Enrico S, who added another title by winning the Year 10 boys' triple jump.

These are just some of the standout performances from a day filled with success. Many more Crypt athletes achieved second and third-place finishes, with every student contributing to the school's impressive overall results. Throughout the championships, our athletes represented The Crypt School with pride, determination and outstanding sportsmanship, demonstrating the values that make our school community so special.

Finally, a huge thank you goes to Mr Hart for all of his hard work in organising the athletics programme, selecting the teams and supporting our students throughout the season.

Congratulations to everyone involved on a fantastic championships. We look forward to another successful athletics season next year!

A40 Over Bridge refurbishment

We are aware the A40 Over Bridge refurbishment is impacting journey times for some and is likely to continue to have a significant impact next academic year. We understand this may be stressful for you and your child but unfortunately it is beyond school control. Our Chair of Governors is communicating with key agencies to express our concerns and discuss anything that could be done to make the commute easier for all. The National Highways advice is to seek alternative routes, especially during peak times. Parents/ carers are advised to contact bus companies directly with any concerns, and if these concerns continue they should be raised with local councillors.

We are grateful to parents for being respectful to school staff during this stressful time. We are liaising with the Local Authority for support in this area.

School Retains Prestigious NACE Challenge Award

We are delighted to announce that The Crypt School has once again been successfully reaccredited with the NACE Challenge Award, recognising our continued commitment to providing high-quality challenge and opportunities for all students.

The award is a nationally recognised accreditation, celebrating schools that demonstrate excellence in teaching, learning and the provision made for more able learners, while ensuring every student is encouraged to achieve their very best.

This achievement reflects the hard work and dedication of staff across the school. Particular thanks go to Mr Higgs, whose leadership of the reaccreditation process was exceptional. His commitment, organisation and passion for ensuring the very highest standards played a significant role in securing this excellent outcome.

We are proud to remain part of the NACE Challenge Award community and look forward to building on this success over the coming years.





Free Bikes for Local Residents

If you live in the **Podsmead, Barton or Tredworth areas of Gloucester** you may be eligible to receive a free bike as part of Pedal Together Gloucester, an exciting new pilot programme that aims to support people to get pedalling.

For more information about the project and to find out if you are eligible, see overleaf.



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We understand that buying an e-scooter can be tempting, especially as you can get them from many popular retailers.

However the current law is clear

You can buy one but you can't ride it on a UK public road, cycle path or pavement. The only place an e-scooter can be used is on private land.

Why is this?

E-scooters are classified as Personal Light Electric Vehicles (PLEVs), so they are treated as motor vehicles and subject to the same legal requirements, such as: MOT, Licensing, Tax and Insurance.

What happens if I am stopped by Police?

Section 165A of the Road Traffic Act 1988, allows the Police to seize any motor vehicle being used on a road which does not have the required documentation, which includes a driving licence for that class of

vehicle. Once seized by the Police it can be disposed of in accordance with force policy. The rider of the E-Scooter will also be liable for prosecution which can result in a fine, points on a driving licence or both.

Section 59 of the police reform act allows police to issue a warning if a vehicle is being used in a manner which may cause alarm, distress or annoyance. Being issued with this warning does not stop the e-scooter being seized.

Police can seize any private scooter with the likelihood the E-scooter will be disposed of accordingly if they are being used on a public road or footpath and the rider may also be liable for prosecution for traffic offences.

For more information please contact your local Neighbourhood Team or visit: www.gloucestershire.police.uk