



Headmaster's Letter

6th February 2026

Dear parents/carers and students,

Year 11 update

I do hope that the year 11 information evening, held remotely on Monday evening, was useful, as parents/carers of students in Year 11 continue to support their child with ongoing preparation for their GCSE examinations, and their post-16 choices.

The school has now received nearly 750 applications from year 11 students across the county for places to study in year 12 from September, reflecting the continued and indeed growing popularity of our sixth form here at Crypt. It is worth remembering that all Crypt year 11 students are guaranteed a place in year 12, subject to them meeting our entry requirements, with any places that remain after the allocation of places to Crypt year 11 students, offered to external candidates who meet our entry requirements.

As we move towards the end of term 3, I urge all students in year 11 to continue to work hard across their subjects; of course, they should use half term to rest but also to carry out some academic work and revision.

Academic update

This week data from the year 10 January exams and from the year 7 mid-year assessments have been sent home to help inform parents/carers of the progress of their children. Year 10 outcomes were I thought very encouraging indeed for this stage in their GCSE journeys. Year 12 will have another data report issued in due course, based on their ongoing work in class. To help support

students in years 10 and 11 with their study of Jekyll & Hyde, a touring company performed their version of that famous



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



book in the hall on Tuesday; all students in both year groups attended the production, which was extremely well performed and very helpful in supporting students' work towards and revision of that text. A wonderful afternoon.

Personal Development

The year 9 Fame Lab Crypt School final took place in the main hall on Thursday and once again the presentations from our year 9 students were outstanding. This competition is really valuable, as it not only engages students with science and technology but also develops research and presentation skills. My thanks to Ms Hall, for once again organising this event.

Today, year 10 students are visiting The University of Bath to explore what life and study at an HE institution might be like, as they continue to think about their future plans, as part of our extensive careers guidance programme, led by careers leader Mr Germaine.

Sport

Lots of fixtures have continued across the week, with results available to view on the school website <https://www.cryptsport.co.uk/Calendar.asp?Id=376>

It has been great to see all our year groups, using the new 3G football pitch at Blackbridge Community and Sports Hub, just across the fence from our school campus at Podsmead. This wonderful new facility opened last April, and houses a 3G pitch and other facilities in a brand new building, including a gym and fitness area. The school fields are currently so wet and muddy, that only partial use of them is possible, which has led to our use of the new pitch at Blackbridge. However, hiring that pitch each afternoon comes with a cost attached: we certainly wish to continue to use that facility in the future, but will require the support of all our parents/carers to do so through your generation contributions to our school fund, which enables this kind of opportunity, which all our students benefit from.

Parents/carers survey

Thank you to those parents/carers who have already completed the survey, which was sent home via parentpay on Monday. I encourage everyone to complete the survey, which will provide very useful and helpful feedback to the school as we seek to improve our education offer still further. The deadline for competing surveys is Tuesday 10th February 2026.

2026 - The Year of Reading

This week Mrs Hargraves has led a number of assemblies on the issue of first aid/ allergy awareness, to help ensure all students understand the importance of not bringing certain items - such as nuts - into school. However, at the end of her assemblies this week, and in line with our work to promote literacy and reading in what is the Year of Reading, she read this powerful poem out to the students, which I have included below.

A poem by Daragh Fleming

If I ever have boys they'll be dangerous men
They'll smile at dogs and children and be a tonic to friends
They'll send flowers to their mother just because and they'll be a shoulder
for many when the world is too much
My boys will know that vulnerability is strength
They won't bottle anger, they'll learn how to express
They won't let pride be the reason they hide, wearing masks while they're
hurting inside
My boys will be dangerous men
They won't stay silent even when it's uncomfortable for them
They'll learn that their actions are more effective than words
but they'll use their voices to amplify the unheard
They'll know that love isn't something to perform
They'll see beauty in all of its forms
My boys won't grow learning to emotionally hide
They'll reshape masculinity into something they like,
make it softer to touch
They'll know that who they are is more than enough
They'll know that being a man doesn't mean carrying the burden alone
They'll learn that an emotional man is a man fully grown
They won't settle everything with violent swings
They'll live in truth even when that truth stings
So yeah, if I ever have boys they'll be dangerous men
but the danger they'll be won't be the one society meant

Nicholas Dyer
Headmaster

Dates For Your Diary

Wednesday 11th February	Even Song Gloucester Cathedral
Thursday 12th February	Y12 Parent/carer evening (Online)
Friday 13th February	Alex Macintyre - Gloucester MP Visit
Friday 13th February	End of Term 3
Monday 23rd February	Term 4 Starts - Week 2

Looking Out, Looking Back

On Thursday 22nd January, 60 Year 11 students were nominated by their Physics teachers to attend a session delivered by the National Space Academy, titled, 'Looking Out, Looking Back'.

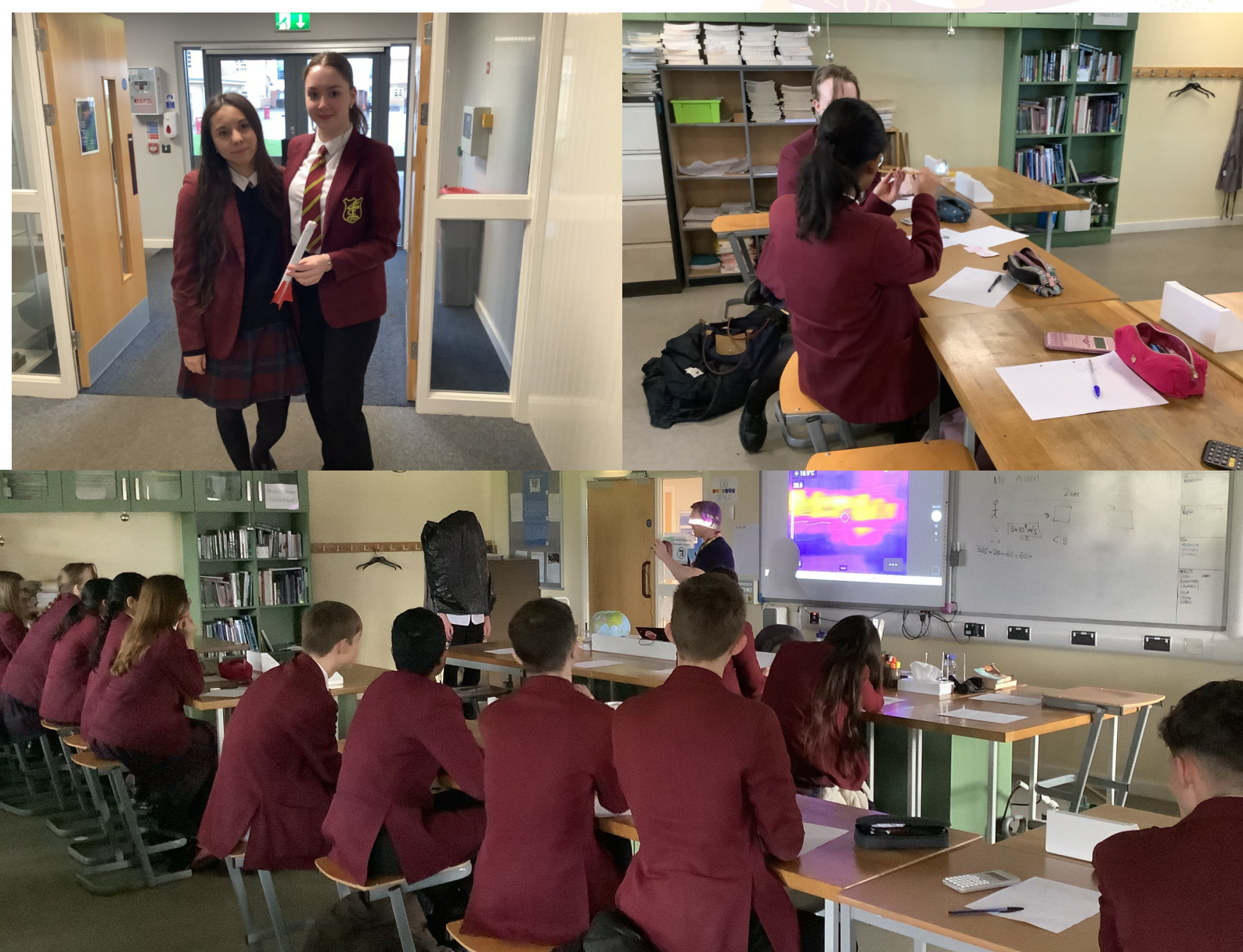
This session linked closely with the GCSE curriculum, particularly space, but also waves, lenses, forces and motion.

Students learned about the British scientists, engineers and astronauts working at the UK Space Agency, and what an important part of our economy the Space sector is.

They investigated the awesome scale of our universe, tested lenses and used them to build a simple telescope, imaged the infra-red radiation emitted by a student and learned about rocket fuel and how rockets are propelled, before designing and launching their own rockets.

Well done to Gabriella and Charlotte who won the rocket challenge with their 'Little Red Riding Hood' rocket – which reached a calculated height of around 50m and then made it across the playground from the AI Building over to the Cooke Centre!

Thank you to Mr Alden of the National Space Academy for coming in to lead these inspirational sessions.



Year 9 FameLab Academy: School Final

Following a series of lessons, class heats and lunchtime workshops ten finalists took to the stage this week for the FameLab Academy School Final - a science communication competition.

Performing in front of the year group and staff, each student was tasked with explaining a complex STEM topic in just three minutes. To make the challenge harder, students were not allowed to use notes or digital presentations, relying solely on their speaking skills and simple props.

Hosting the final was the brilliant Sahara (Y10) who represented The Crypt School in 2025. Thank you to Sahara for making sure the audience were engaged, everything ran smoothly and finalists remained as calm as possible.

The finalists covered a diverse range of subjects, demonstrating both scientific research and public speaking ability. Topics included Our Lying Brains, Fossils, Mushrooms, Rollercoasters, Resetting the Brain, Déjà Vu, and the Perception of Pain.

Our judging panel consisted of Jeff Webb (Patent Examiner and STEM Mentor), Mrs. Hargraves (SLT), and Liam Page (Head Boy). Each performance was scored based on the "Three Cs": Content, Clarity, and Charisma. Thank you to each of them for supporting our students and carrying out the hardest job of all!

The judges were impressed by the students' ability to handle technical questions under pressure. After a close points tally, the following students were awarded prizes:

- Winner: Jennifer - The physics of a ballet dancer
- Runners-up: Anish - Black Holes and Glory - Procrastination

Huge congratulations to Jennifer who will now represent the school at the FameLab Academy Grand Final at The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, in March.

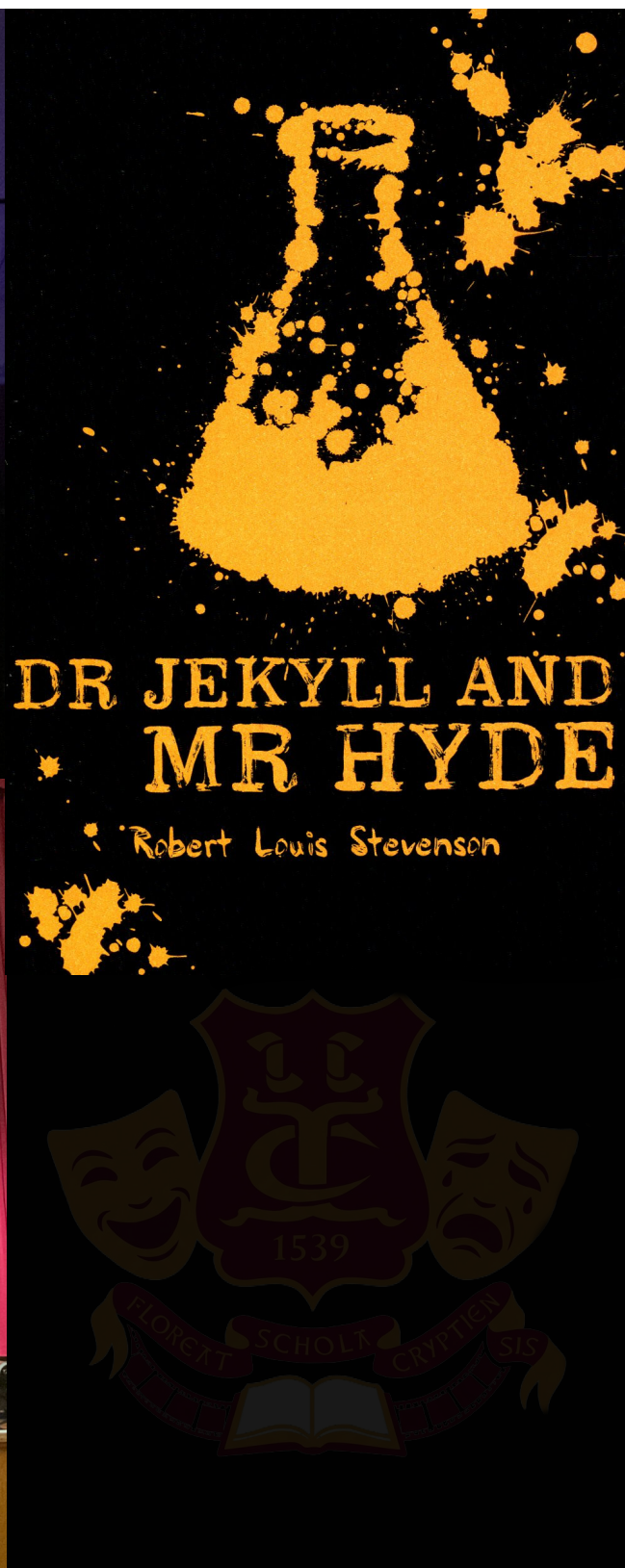
Congratulations to all our finalists (Shazil, Amelia, Rocky, Cressie, Aldrik, Harshitha and Magnus) for their hard work and for delivering such high-quality presentations to the year group.



A Tale of Two Faces: Grove Productions Visits Year 10 & 11

We were thrilled to host Grove Productions this week for a captivating performance of Stevenson's Gothic classic, 'The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde'. For our Year 10 and Year 11 students the experience was immensely valuable; the production brought the text to life with energy and suspense, helping students visualise the duality of Jekyll's character, relive the plot from Jekyll's perspective, and grasp the complex themes beyond the classroom. A fantastic afternoon of education and entertainment!

Thank you to all staff involved in coordinating and supervising. A special thank you to Mrs Hazel Wasley for her work in liaising with the company and overseeing the logistics which made this visit possible.



Lost Property Reminder

We currently have a large amount of lost property, including coats, water bottles, and lunch boxes. Please remind your children to check the lost property in the corner of the canteen. Any belongings not claimed by the end of next week - Friday 13th, will be donated to charity or disposed of.

Economics Olympiad

During their enrichment session last week, 27 students from Year 12 and 13 stepped up to compete in the initial round of the Economics Olympiad, a prestigious competition designed to stretch the boundaries of their classroom learning.

The Olympiad requires students to apply complex economic theory to real-world scenarios, testing their logic, mathematical prowess, and ability to think critically under pressure. Such a strong turnout from our Sixth Formers demonstrates the high level of academic ambition held by our A level students.

Particular congratulations go to Ollie as the highest scoring year 12 student, and Matthew and Nihal as joint highest scoring year 13 students. We wait to hear whether they and others have scored highly enough to earn a place in the next round.

James Hopkins Trust Visit

This week Head Girl, Tianna and Head Boy Liam, visited the James Hopkins Trust, and it was a truly inspiring experience.

They were warmly welcomed by Laura, who kindly gave them a tour of the centre and introduced them to some of the children the Trust supports. During the visit, they learned how donations from supporters like our school help fund multi-sensory respite sessions for children who are severely disabled or have life-limiting conditions. These contributions also go towards vital specialist equipment that makes a real difference to daily care.

Seeing first-hand the impact of this work was incredibly moving. It was clear just how much these services mean to both the children and their families, and how valuable our support is in helping the Trust continue their incredible work.



We hope that our school community will continue to support the James Hopkins Trust in the future, knowing that every donation helps to change lives.





SHROVE TUESDAY!



Celebrate the start and end of Lent, with a
double dose of pancake joy!

Tuesday 10th & Tuesday 24th February



**PRE-ORDER
PIZZA**

**LICENSED BAR
AND SNACKS
AVAILABLE ALL
EVENING**

**RAFFLE
TICKETS
FOR SALE
ON THE
NIGHT**

Join us for the CSPTA

QUIZ NIGHT

Friday 27th Feb 2026

Doors open: 18:15
Quiz starts: 19:00
At The Crypt School

**Teams of up to 6 (8 if including
children) or join a team on the night**

**Adults: £5
Under 18s: £2.50**



Book via ParentPay or email cspta@cryptschool.org

Undergraduate Internships 2026

Welcome to Odyssey Teaching School Hub

Based at schools across Gloucestershire, and led by Pate's Grammar School, Cheltenham, we are delighted to offer the 'Get Into Teaching' Paid Undergraduate Internship in June 2026.

If you're a super curious undergrad, 2nd year or above, or a Masters student, and you would like to spend time in a Gloucestershire school to discover more about life as a teacher, the Undergraduate Internship could be the opportunity for you!

Our Internship programme

The Internship is a 3 week in-school programme, giving you the opportunity to immerse yourself in school life. You will experience, firsthand, the range of activities performed by teachers, giving you valuable insight into life as a teacher.

The programme includes:

- Shadowing passionate, expert teachers
- Planning lessons for different age groups and coaching students one to one
- The opportunity to teach real lessons
- Visiting other local settings - selective and non selective schools, and local primary schools
- An introduction to the wider role of the teacher e.g. SEND, Safeguarding



Eligibility

To be eligible you must be studying one of the following subjects, have the Right to Work in the UK and interested in a career in teaching:

- Chemistry
- Computing
- Mathematics
- Modern Foreign Languages
- Physics
- Design Technology

Only valid for second year undergraduates or higher, and Masters students

Salary

You'll be paid £455 per week for attending the 3 week internship programme.

Dates

Monday 8th June - Friday 26th June 2026

Programme locations

For 2026, placements are available in Cheltenham, Gloucester, Stroud, Wootton Under Edge, Chipping Campden, Dursley, Forest of Dean and Chepstow.

Apply Now

To apply for our Undergraduate Internship programme, visit our website at www.odysseytsh.org and complete the application form under the Internship section.