



Headmaster's Letter

6th March 2026

Dear parents/carers and students,

Academic update

Many year 13 students are busy completing their coursework prior to submission in a range of subjects such as drama, history, geography and English Literature for example. On Wednesday of next week, our year 13 drama students have their examined performances in the drama studio, as part of their A Level assessments. Once these coursework elements are out of the way, the students concerned can focus on other aspects of their A Level studies, prioritising the final examined units, alongside all the other members of year 13.

Year 11 have worked hard across this week, undertaking their final mock examinations in the main hall; their behaviour, attitude and conduct have been exemplary throughout and I know that they will all perform to the very best of their ability when it comes to the actual GCSE exams in the summer.

I note it was Year 10 parents/carers consultation evening last night: an opportunity to discuss progress with subject teachers and, as the year group reaches the half way point in their year 10 GCSE studies, I do hope that the evening was useful and productive.

World Book Day and Reading

It is good to see many of our younger students in years 7 and 8 dressing up for World Book Day yesterday, an annual event which aims to encourage reading amongst students and young people, and all of us. Indeed, 2026 is the year of reading and here at Crypt we strongly



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



encourage all of the students to read; to read widely and to enjoy reading for its own sake. Reading is something that can bring many positive benefits and open our minds to endless possibilities. Books can take you on incredible journeys, where you can visit both real and imaginary worlds, and in doing so meet incredible characters; reading can enlighten, challenge, stir emotions and inspire in equal measure; and reading can inform and educate too. It is wonderful to see our students reading in tutor time, at break and lunchtimes, and to see our school library full of students keen to read and learn.

Personal Development and enrichment

The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme is a hugely popular scheme at school, especially at the Bronze Award level, with nearly 130 year 9 students participating; indeed, the Silver and prestigious Gold awards are also very popular with our older students too. To support year 9 participants progress through the award scheme, there will be a training session in school to help prepare all participants for their expeditions, which are an integral and much valued part of the scheme. My thanks to DoE leaders, Mr Howell and Ms Shaw for organising these and other DoE training and activities.

The performance of 'Dead End' - as part of the student-led 'Unpolished Playground' group's work - was great a success. The play, which was held in the drama studio on Wednesday after school, was directed and produced by Daniel Underwood and Lizbeth Watts and was written by Benjamin Logan. Congratulations to all involved.

Sport

Sport has been in strong focus across this week, particularly with the improved weather picture. The highlights included Monday's inter-school netball tournament hosted at Crypt. Thursday's netball match against Kings School and the girls' football leaders event hosted again here at Crypt, involving schools from across the region. Football has featured strongly for both our boy's and girl's teams across the week, with all teams performing well, with results available on the school website. It's great to see the school fields recovering from the continuous rain of recent months, enabling team sports to resume on our school estate. It's good to see that the school has entered a number of teams for the Rosslyn Park National Schools 7s competition, an annual and prestigious date in the school rugby calendar. Good luck to those students taking part.

With my continued best wishes,



Nicholas Dyer
Headmaster

Dates For Your Diary

Saturday 7th March	DofE Bronze training in school
Monday 9th March	Community Iftar 5-8.30pm
Tuesday 10th March	Y9 Options deadline
Saturday 14th March	DofE Silver 1st Aid training

Year 12 geography field trip to Dorset

Last week saw 14 geography students visit the Dorset coastline as part of their A Level course. In a slight change to previous years, this trip was run in conjunction with Ribston Hall School enabling students to benefit from the expertise of teaching staff from each school whilst keeping the costs of a residential field trip to a manageable level. Students participated in a variety of activities to help prepare them for the completion of their independent investigations. We started on Chesil Beach, near Weymouth where the students worked in groups to collect data about the pebbles on the beach. This investigation had been planned by the students and so gave them invaluable experience in how to set up and conduct a piece of geography field work. We then travelled further west where we visited the arch at Durdle Door and Lulworth Cove. The beautiful sunshine meant that we were treated to some fantastic views of this stunning section of coastline and many photos were taken. Wednesday evening consisted of a mix of eating chips, a short walk along the seafront and some classroom work to analyse the data collected from Chesil Beach earlier in the day.

The following day focused on the town of Swanage where students conducted two further investigations into the impact of groynes on the beach and whether Swanage has the typical characteristics of a seaside town. Students demonstrated their maturity by working efficiently and co-operatively in small groups so that good quality data was collected. The final part of the trip was to visit Sandbanks – known for its very expensive houses with great sea views. Students enjoyed deciding which houses they liked or disliked whilst also considering the impact of the various coastal management techniques used in this location.

Mrs Brooks and Mr Biggs would like to thank the students involved in this visit for their co-operation, excellent behaviour and general good spirits which made participation in this trip very enjoyable.



Fine Dining on a Budget

Year 12 enrichment has been focussing on cooking on a budget ready for university. This week students planned and prepared a range of dishes that met the task.

There was much excitement and plenty of the competitive spirit. Students used the skills they have developed this term.

Pupils in Yr 10 have just completed a practical assessment in Food and Nutrition. The task was focussed on high quality presentation and effective time management. Pupils created a wide range of very high quality dishes.



CSPTA Quiz

The CSPTA quiz was held last Friday – a fantastic atmosphere and a great way to raise funds for the school! Huge thanks to the CSPTA for organising the quiz, and for organising a super assortment of refreshments. Congratulations to the winning team, Baffled from Benhall!

It was also wonderful to see our Chemistry department taking part, along with some former Cryptians joining in the fun.



CSPTA Easter Egg Raffle

One hamper of eggs to be won for each year group

Tickets only £1 each

To enter, buy your tickets now on ParentPay

Ticket sales close at 12pm on Weds 25th March before the draw takes place at 3:30pm.

**Promoter: Hazel Wasley, Crypt School Parent Teacher Association
The Crypt School, Podsmead, Gloucester GL2 5AE
Registered charity: 280200**



Our current attendance rate for years 7-11 is 96.8%

A reminder to please provide advance notice of pre-arranged medical appointments ([medical absence](#)). Some of our parents complete the medical absence forms as the appointments are booked and for this we are grateful. Please also ensure that your child is out of school for the minimum time possible, avoiding absence over the AM (8.35am) and PM (12.15pm) registration points.

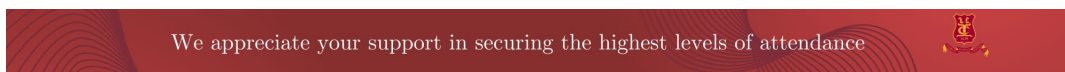
Attendance Challenge updates

Term 3 saw a tutor group based attendance challenge. The tutor group with the highest attendance in each year from 7-11 were rewarded with a non uniform day last Friday. Congratulations to those students.

For Term 4 we have a House based challenge. The House with the highest attendance in years 7-11 will earn themselves a non uniform day. The idea this time is that students come into school wearing clothing that matches their house colour - an opportunity to enhance their sense of belonging and team spirit within the house. The non uniform day will be on Friday 27th March 2026. We will announce the winner on 26th March 2026.

Forms for reporting absence:

Daily Absence Report Form This is for unplanned on-the-day absence such as illness. Please submit by 8.30am.	Absence Request Form -Medical For doctor, dentist and hospital appointments that cannot be booked outside of school hours
Absence Request Form - Non Medical For example - religious observance, music exams, county sports commitments, funerals	Absence Request Form - Exceptional circumstances Term time holiday should only occur in the most exceptional of circumstances



Drama Department

This week, students who are part of our 'Unpolished Playground' club showcased their fantastic show "Dead End".

This show was written by Ben, directed by Daniel and Lizbeth, produced by Emily, costume and make-up design by Beatrice and lighting design by Amelia-Lily (overseen by Mr Walthew). The cast and crew have all worked very hard since September and it's been a joy to see their hard work come together in this fantastic performance! A huge well done to everyone involved!



Cheerleading

The cheerleading competition team have been working hard with their fundraising for their competition uniforms.

On Monday the cheerleaders delivered hot drinks and sweet treats to staff during break time, and on Thursday they held a bake & gifts sale outside of the canteen.

The support has been fantastic and the cheerleaders are looking forward to purchasing the team's first ever competition uniforms!

Music Newsletter

Our Spring Concert will be taking place on Wednesday 25th March at 7pm. This collaborative performance reflects the strength, warmth and inclusivity of our musical community. It will be a powerful and moving experience, bringing together singers of all ages and stages in a shared expression of beauty, reflection and hope. Our featured work, Faure's Requiem will bring about the message of 'Peace in our Time', a poignant reflection on recent events. Led by our touring choir Vox Floreat, with many wonderful performances from Symphony Orchestra, Cantores Cryptienses, Young Voices, A Cappella Choir and Jazz Band.

Tickets are available to purchase £10.00 for adults and £5.00 under-16s. These can be purchased through [Trybooking.com](https://www.trybooking.com) in the link below.

<https://www.trybooking.com/uk/GCOR>



THE CRYPT SCHOOL

SPRING CONCERT

FAURÉ REQUIEM

‘PEACE IN OUR TIME’

AND WORKS FROM
PALESTRINA, GRIEG,
RODGERS AND HAMMERSTEIN,
AND MORE

25TH MARCH 2026

7PM

TICKETS £10
UNDER-16S £5

BOOKINGS MADE
THROUGH TRYBOOKING

VOX FLOREAT
CANTORES CRYPTIENSES
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
JULIAN WHITTAKER CONDUCTOR
YOUNG VOICES
SOPHIE BANDA CONDUCTOR
A CAPPELLA CHOIR
SACHA FULLERTON CONDUCTOR
JAZZ BAND
ANDY RUSHTON CONDUCTOR

Library Newsletter

On Wednesday 4th March, we welcomed Cheryl Burnam, an indie author from The Forest of Dean who held creative writing workshops with years 9 and 10.

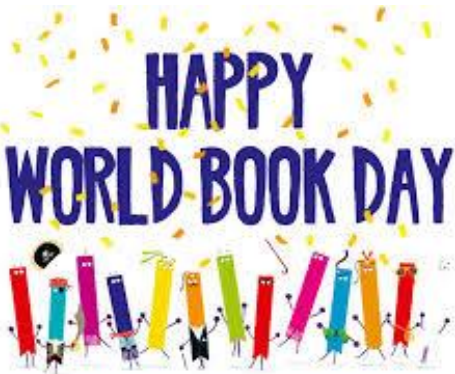
Cheryl Mayo writes under the pen name Cheryl Burman. She moved to the Forest of Dean in 2008 and doesn't plan on leaving. She first put pen to paper following the Hands Off Our Forest (HOOF) campaign, which inspired Guardians of the Forest, her first trilogy. In 2021 she released Keepers, women's fiction set in the 1950s in her home country of Australia. River Witch, a magical realism novel released in Sept 2022, returns her readers to the Forest and to the Severn, which the protagonist knows as Sabrina, goddess.

We enjoyed hearing about Cheryl's writing, advice and ideas encouraging the students to create a short story with as much detail they could without over explaining their scenes.

We have been celebrating World Book Day throughout the week.

The students have been hunting a bookmark around the school to receive a £5.00 book token and a sweet treat. So much excitement throughout years 7, 8 and 9 trying to be the first to find one. The quiz is also very popular – all entries receive merits and all correct entries go into a draw to win a £10.00 book voucher. The quiz ends Friday lunchtime – so many entries still coming in.

Year 7 have been enjoying the day by dressing up. Each tutor group has been asked for a theme – Mr Bowen head of year 7 has been judging. The winning tutor group was 7DW for Hunger Games. Outstanding Contribution Jazmyn and Isla 7WEH plus Noah 7JM and Soham 7DW, merits coming their way.



Parental Controls On Social Media

From InternetMatters.org: How I use app parental controls to support my children on social media

A parent shares how she uses app-level parental controls to manage social media use across her daughters' phones and tablets, helping to keep their accounts private and build safer online habits as they grow.

Read more here: <https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/parent-stories/how-i-use-app-parental-controls-to-support-my-children-on-social-media/>

Serving Up Sibling Success!

Well done to Arjan and Amar for their outstanding performance at the recent U14 Firbank Dale Tennis Tournament. Both boys played brilliantly to reach the final, ultimately having to compete against one another for the title. Arjan emerged victorious to take 1st place, with Amar taking a superb 2nd. Securing the top two spots in a regional tournament is a phenomenal achievement, especially as this is the fifth time the brothers have faced each other in a final! Congratulations to both.



Get Into Teaching

If you or anyone you know is considering a career in teaching come and meet the local teacher training providers in Gloucestershire this April to find out more.



TRAIN TO TEACH IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE



Wednesday
22nd April 2026



5pm -7pm



Pate's Grammar School
Cheltenham, GL51 0HG



Teach in Gloucestershire

Term 4 PED

Term 4 is another short but busy term in Personal Education Development lessons.

YEAR 7 are focusing on CPR, caffeine, alcohol, tobacco, vaping, cannabis; with a focus on student perceptions of social norms. The Kindness Project - encouraging kind behaviour in schools to increase social and emotional wellbeing.

External support sign posted includes:

www.childline.org.uk, www.nhs.uk, www.talktofrank.com, <https://nacoa.org.uk/>, <https://www.hlsghos.org/> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hgHXZzxxKGO>

YEAR 8 are studying CPR, knife crime, role models, misogyny, values, democracy.

External support sign posted includes:

<https://www.bhf.org.uk/how-you-can-help/how-to-save-a-life/hoss.org>, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hgHXZzxxKGO> www.victimsupport.org.uk/w-to-do-cpr/cpr-training-videos, <https://www.kooth.com/>, www.childline.org.uk, <https://benkinsella.org.uk/>, www.fearle

YEAR 9 are exploring alcohol- its impact on body and decision making including risky behaviour and the law.

External support sign posted includes:

<https://www.childline.org.uk/>, <https://adfam.org.uk/>, <https://www.wearewithyou.org.uk/>

YEAR 10 are focusing on sextortion, gaming and online safety, information generation, collecting, sharing and usage; gambling and the benefits of a digital detox.

External support sign posted includes:

<https://www.ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre/>, www.thinkuknow.co.uk, www.childline.org.uk, <http://www.papyrus-uk.org/>, <http://www.samaritans.org/>, <http://www.getsafeonline.org/>

YEAR 11 are studying recreational drugs, vaping & alcohol - their use & effects..

External support sign posted includes:

<http://life-stuff.org/>, <http://life-stuff.org/>, <https://www.drugwise.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/CannabisInfographic-1.pdf>, <https://www.talktofrank.com/drug/cannabis>, <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/cannabis-the-facts/>

YEAR 12 are exploring financial health

External support sign posted includes:

<https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/students>, www.themoneycharity.org.uk

YEAR 13 are focusing on drugs- psychoactive substances, steroids, prescription drugs.

External support sign posted includes:

<https://www.talktofrank.com>, <https://wearetheloop.org/>, <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/drug-addiction-getting-help/>, <https://www.talktofrank.com/treatment-centre/cgl-gloucestershire>, <https://www.talktofrank.com/treatment-centre/gloucestershire-youth-support-centre-the-vibe>

Any questions should be directed, in the first instance, to your child's PED teacher.

Spring Term Parent Support Series

Free Parent Webinars

Join us and Elevate Education for FREE 60- minute webinars designed to help you support your child's studies at home.

[Click here to Register](#)

In the Spring Term, we'll cover:

- 1. How to Help Your Child Improve Their Note Taking**
- 13th January @6:00pm (GMT)
- 2. How You Can Make Technology an Ally (& Not the Enemy!)**
- 27th January @6:00pm (GMT)
- 3. How You Can Help Improve Your Child's Memory**
- 10th February @6:00pm (GMT)
- 4. How You Can Help Your Child Prepare for Exams**
- 3rd March @6:00pm (GMT)
- 5. How You Can Support Your Child During Exams**
- 17th March @6:00pm (GMT)

