



Headmaster's Letter

9th January 2026

A very Happy New Year to you all, and I do hope that everyone connected to the work and life of the school enjoyed a very pleasant Christmas break and holiday. No doubt it was a busy period for many, but I do hope that time was put aside to relax and unwind with

family, friends and perhaps just oneself as well! Welcome to the new look school newsletter home, a newsletter that is intended to be brighter and more structured than the previous ones, a little shorter perhaps too (certainly on my part) and more accessible as well.

Academic work

In my assembly on Monday, whilst welcoming back all our students and wishing them all a successful, fulfilling and happy new year, I also used that occasion to urge our examination groups to work hard across the remaining months of their A Level and GCSE courses, to enable each individual student to place themselves into the strongest position possible when it comes to sit their exams this summer. All our examination students will continue to be well supported both academically and pastorally over the coming weeks, but it is also up to them now to put in the hard work needed to turn their aspirations into successful outcomes in the summer. My best wishes to all our students, but particularly to those facing public exams this summer, in their academic endeavors across the course of the new year.

School value for term 3 - Integrity

Each term, school focuses on one of our five school values: integrity, kindness, pride, respect and responsibility. This term, we are focussing in our assemblies, in tutor time and more generally on the value of integrity. In my assembly on Monday, I suggested that this value (integrity) may be the most significant of the five key school values, and certainly the most challenging to uphold. Integrity simply means the quality of being honest - doing the right thing when no one else is looking. That is challenging, but certainly worth striving to uphold. I noted to the students that integrity is crucial in building trust and in fostering ethical behaviour - aspects that are critically important to everyone and in particular I suggested, to those who want to lead others. However, I also noted that one must pair acting with integrity, with always being kind and



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



reflective too. Being honest and sincere; showing trust in others; being fair, accepting responsibility and showing respect to others - are all characteristics of a person of integrity. I hope students will reflect on what integrity means to them, and seek to act with both kindness and integrity across the course of this new year, and new term.

Examination successes

Well done to all those students in year 13 who have received their Extended Project Qualification outcomes which saw the school achieve nearly 70% A*-C outcomes, in what is a very challenging qualification, which involves researching and writing up an extended essay project on a specific topic and also orally presenting their work to a panel. As important as the project grade outcomes, are the many skills students gain through their study of an EPQ which are considerable, and greatly valued by both universities and employers alike. Well done then to all involved in the EPQ groups across this last year.

Enrichment

Although most of our clubs and societies resume next week, it was good to see some activities running this week such as the Flying Start Challenge, which was held yesterday here at Crypt in our main hall, and Gold DoE first aid training (which happened today). Some sporting fixtures also took place, despite the wet field, and which saw our year 11 girl's netball team travel to Luton to play in a 'Sisters in Sports' netball match round 2 tie against Henlow CE Academy School - well done to all involved.

With my continued best wishes,



Nicholas Dyer
Headmaster

Dates For Your Diary

Tuesday 13th January	Year 8 CPR Training
Wednesday 14th January	Belgium Music Tour Parents' Meeting
Tuesday 20th January	Macbeth Opera Workshop
Wednesday 21st January	Year 9 Showcase Concert (6-8pm)
Thursday 22nd January	Year 11 Space Masterclass
Friday 23rd January	Sixth Form Application Deadline
Monday 26th January	Drama Trip - University of Gloucestershire
Tuesday 27th January	Theatre Trip - The Woman in Black Birmingham
Thursday 29th January	Year 9 Parent/Carer Evening (Virtual)

Trustees meeting, December 2025

Trustees held their final meeting of 2025 on 8 December, and were pleased to welcome our new Parent Trustee Ruth Burchell, and Student Governor/Head Boy Liam Page, to their first meeting. The main item of business was to approve the School's annual report and accounts for 2025-26, which had received a clean bill of health from our external auditors.

The Board received updates on the new Ofsted inspection arrangements and the Government's plans for the national curriculum, and approved a new governance structure for the Board's committees that will help to focus scrutiny on the themes that Ofsted will examine in future. Trustees also examined progress on implementing the School's annual improvement plan and reviewed policies for admissions, the public sector equality duty and artificial intelligence - a subject that the Board will return to in February.

Unwanted Christmas Gifts or Outgrown Uniform?

Unwanted Xmas gifts or outgrown uniform? Drop them in to school reception and the CSPTA can use them to raise funds	
	We're collecting items throughout January and everything we receive will help us to fundraise for student projects and resources. Thank you!

Calling all military families

We have some free reading and wellbeing journals from the charity Reading Force - it's a fab small charity encouraging reading and wellbeing for children in military families. This journal is more than a place to write or draw about a book. It's a place where children can express their thoughts and feelings – about books they're reading and about how they are feeling day to day. These are for children of serving military personnel, veterans, reservists or separated families with a military connection.

You can learn more about the charity here: <https://www.readingforce.org.uk/>

Children we are aware of with a service connection have been emailed directly about this but if you feel your child would like a reading and wellbeing journal and hasn't got one yet, please email Mrs Hargraves and she can deliver one to your child.



What I wish my parents or carers knew...

A guide for parents and carers on managing children's digital lives (from the Children's Commissioner)

Parenting today can feel overwhelming - especially when childhood looks so different from what we grew up with. There's no manual, and it can be hard to keep up with the fast-changing digital world your child moves through every day. This guide linked below aims to make those conversations easier and help you support your child with confidence. It includes tips for managing screentime and also what to do when children see distressing content online, as well as information on AI.

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/resource/what-i-wish-my-parents-or-carers-knew-a-guide-for-parents-and-carers-on-managing-childrens-digital-lives/>

Rewards System Update

As part of our ongoing review of behaviour and rewards, we will be making a small adjustment to the school rewards system from Monday 12 January. Positive rewards will carry greater weight, while the impact of sanctions will be reduced. This change is intended to ensure that students' positive behaviour and effort are more clearly recognised.

The adjustment aims to support students in developing positive attitudes to learning and

behaviour, underpinned by strong, respectful relationships between staff and students, which are key to positive outcomes.

In addition, the Bromcom Shop will be reviewed during Term 3, with student feedback informing any future developments. Further information will be shared in due course.

Thank you for your continued support.

What It Means to Be a Lead Music School

What It Means to Be a Lead School Reflection, Inclusion and Leading by Example at The Crypt School (Gloucestershire, Swindon and Wiltshire Lead School) Becoming a Lead School is not a badge we wear lightly, nor a fixed destination we have reached.

At The Crypt School, Lead School status has been a catalyst for reflection: a process that has challenged us to evaluate what we do, why we do it, and how effectively our music provision serves every student. It has required us to set new goals, refine our practice and consistently evaluate impact: not only in musical outcomes, but in inclusion, aspiration and transformation. At its heart, being a Lead School is about leading by example.

Read the full article [here](#)



How to Help Your Child Improve Their Note Taking

We're excited to announce that Elevate Education will be hosting their first free parent webinar for the term on note taking on January 13th.

Elevate works with our students, delivering high-impact workshops on study skills, motivation, wellbeing, and exam preparation. By tuning into their webinar series, you'll learn how you can help support your child at home by reinforcing the skills they're learning at school.

Sign up for the session below to learn how you can help your child to take notes in the right way for effective revision.

Here's what Elevate will be covering on the night:

- ✓ Helping your child to structure their notes effectively
- ✓ Helping your child to remember what they learn
- ✓ Using deliberate practice with your child to improve their grades quickly

Tuesday 13th January 6:00-7:00pm (GMT)

[Click here to register for free](#)

Personal Education Development - Term 3

In Term 3 students will be moving on to explore new areas of focus in their Personal Education Development lessons. Should you have any questions regarding this, in the first instance, please contact the relevant Personal Education Development teacher.

In Year 7, students are focusing on bullying, cyberbullying, online safety, data collection & storage, screen time & self regulation of screen time. The websites being signposted are -

- <https://www.youngminds.org.uk/>
- <https://www.childline.org.uk/>
- https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/11_18/
- In addition, all are exploring Seligman's ABC theory - <https://www.mindtools.com/arh8314/the-abc-model>

Year 8 students are focusing on County Lines. The websites being signposted are -

- https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-abuse-and-neglect/county-lines?_ga=2.165067903.1550435495.1672833462-683171680.1672833461
- <https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/what-we-do/crime-threats/drug-trafficking/>

county-lines

- <https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/what-we-do/our-work/child-criminal-exploitation-and-county-lines/what-is-county-lines>
- <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/keeping-safe/community-family/county-lines>

In addition, all are exploring Seligman's Positive Psychology - <https://www.pursuit-of-happiness.org/history-of-happiness/martin-seligman-psychology/>

Year 9 students are focusing on Careers. The websites being signposted are -

- <https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>
- <https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>
- <https://www.gov.uk/find-traineeship>
- <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/careers-advice/careers-in-the-armed-forces/>
- <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/campaigns/careers>
- <https://www.unifrog.org/>

Year 10 is focusing on money management. The websites being signposted are -

- <https://www.onefamily.com/savings/money-management-tips-for-teens/>
- <https://www.moneyhelper.org.uk/en/family-and-care/talk-money/how-to-help-teenagers-manage-their-money>
- <https://www.barclays.co.uk/moments/children-and-money/teaching-teens-about-money/>

Year 11 students are focusing on RSHE (Relationship & Sexual health Education). The websites being signposted are -

- <https://www.hopehouse.nhs.uk/>
- <https://www.themix.org.uk/>
- <https://www.diversityrolemodels.org/>
- <https://www.ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre/>
- Year 12 students are focusing on CPR, self- examination & screening.
- <https://www.bhf.org.uk/how-you-can-help/how-to-save-a-life/how-to-do-cpr>
- <https://www.heartstarter.co.uk/>