



Headmaster's Letter

9th October 2026

Dear parents/carers and students,

I hope that this letter home finds you all well.

Academic update

The school prides itself on its broad and balanced academic curriculum and the challenge that learning across many subject areas at KS3, and KS4 offers to its students; at sixth form level, studying three or four subjects at A Level remains a significant academic challenge for all students, but by working hard, showing curiosity towards their studies, and collaborating with teachers and their peers, our students always perform highly and make exceptional progress in their learning. I know that our students relish the challenge that comes with the study of all their subjects, with the study of mathematics and the three sciences, as well as computer science playing a central role in all students learning in years 7-9 and at GCSE; in year 12 and 13, numbers studying science, computing and mathematics continue to grow, with many students moving on from school into science, mathematics, computing and other science-related subjects at the undergraduate and degree apprenticeship level. Crypt produces wonderfully talented scientists, coders and mathematicians, such as our recent Speech Evening Guest Dr Caitlin Davies. In that wider context, and with genuine excitement and an eagerness to excel in a very demanding environment, it was great to see nearly 160 students (from years 9-13) sit the Senior Maths Challenge on Tuesday, and no doubt the outcomes will be very strong indeed.



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



Personal development and enrichment

Our personal education programme helps all students understand their world, its challenges and opportunities; offers guidance to them on how to navigate their teenage and young adult lives and introduces them to the myriad and ever changing career and further education pathways available to them. Our programme is augmented by visiting speakers, online resources and a series of whole-school community hours, which occur across the year. This week, our first community hour focussed on Black History Month, and began with a very powerful student-led assembly, overseen by Mrs Stoneman, which then led into a tutor time set of activities and discussions. My thanks to those students who led our reflections and work on that morning.

Drama plays a central role in many of our students' lives here at Crypt, and this week many enjoyed their trip to the Everyman Theatre in Cheltenham to see Annie, whilst others enjoyed continuing their rehearsals for the forthcoming production of Animal Farm. Working under the guidance and support of our student Drama Captains, younger students continued their work this week as part of the lunchtime drama club - Unpolished Playground: those involved are working towards staging their own plays later in the year. To thank all those who contributed so generously to our Pianothon fundraising appeal, held in term 6, a piano recital was held in school on Thursday night, where the new grand piano gave our students a wonderful platform to showcase their musical talents on.

Sport

It is great to see so many competitive sports fixtures taking place across the week, in a variety of sports, with other sports resuming in our newly reopened sport hall. Highlights for the week in rugby include the U14 boys rugby team winning against King's School on Tuesday, the U15A boys winning against Katharine Lady Berkeley's School and the U14B boys winning against Churchdown. In netball, the girls U13A and U13B netball teams both won against St Peter's School, with our brilliant U19 girls coming second in the county netball tournament on Wednesday, only losing out to Hartpury College. The girls U14A football team won their match against Severn Vale school and finally, good luck to our senior boys rugby team, who play at the Old Cryptians rugby ground against King's School later tonight.



Student Success

Congratulations indeed to year 8 student Sabienne on qualifying as a member of Mensa - what an amazing achievement.

My continued best wishes,

Nicholas Dyer
Headmaster

Dates For Your Diary

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

Year 7 & 13 Personal Development

We're pleased to share that our Year 7-13 Personal Development Journeys are now available on the school website

<https://cryptschool.org/student-life-and-personal-development/personal-development-journey/>

These provide an overview of the key themes, topics and experiences that students will typically explore as they progress through their secondary school journey. They are designed to give you a helpful picture of how your child's personal development develops and builds from Year 7 through to Year 13.

We encourage all parents and carers to take a look at the journey for your child's year group. It's a great way to see what they will be learning about, the experiences they may take part in, and how these opportunities support their personal growth and preparation for life beyond school.

CSPTA Meeting

The Crypt School PTA (CSPTA) will be hosting a meeting on Monday 19th October in the Crush Hall. As a parent or carer of a child at the school, you are automatically a member of the CSPTA. All are welcome to attend. Refreshments will be available from 6.15pm with the meeting starting at 6.30pm and set to last no more than 90 minutes.

If you are interested in getting involved or would like more information, please contact the CSPTA on cspta@cryptschool.org

Illness, absence and staying healthy

The Government have recently released updated guidance regarding improving attendance during the winter months when illness tends to spike. In addition to the 'Is my child too ill for school?' advice previously shared in the attendance bulletins, they have also released an animation on school absence due to illness. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i5KxggkPTw>

Is my child too ill for school?



Does your child have a high temperature (38°C or more)?

YES Keep them off school until it goes away.

NO Follow the guidance below.

Your child can usually go to school with a mild cough or cold if they are otherwise well. If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone the school or nursery on the first day and give them the reason.

Should go in	Should go in (let the school know)	Seek treatment before returning to school	Keep them off (at first)
A cough, cold or sore throat Fine with slight cough or common cold symptoms, such as a runny nose, sore throat or headache, as long as they're otherwise well and do not have a high temperature. Threadworms Speak to your pharmacist, who can recommend a treatment.	Cold sores Encourage them not to touch the blister or kiss anyone while they have the cold sore, or to share things like cups and towels. Conjunctivitis Fine unless they are feeling very unwell. Seek advice from your pharmacist. Encourage your child not to rub their eyes and to wash their hands regularly. Head lice & nits You can treat head lice and nits without seeing a GP. Hand, foot & mouth disease If they seem well enough to go to school, there's no need to keep them off. Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues straight away and to wash their hands regularly. Slapped cheek syndrome Once the rash appears, they're no longer infectious. Let the school or teacher know if you think your child has slapped cheek syndrome.	Impetigo They'll need treatment from a pharmacist or GP, often with antibiotics. Keep them off school until all the sores have crusted over and healed, or for 48 hours after they start antibiotic treatment. Encourage your child to wash their hands regularly and not to share things like towels and cups with other children at school. Ringworm See your pharmacist unless it's on their scalp, in which case you should see a GP. It's fine for your child to go to school once they have started treatment. Scarlet fever They'll need treatment with antibiotics from a GP. Otherwise they'll be infectious for 2 to 3 weeks. Your child can go back to school 24 hours after starting antibiotics. Chickenpox Keep them off school until all the spots have crusted over. This is usually about 5 days after the spots first appeared.	Ear infection If your child has an ear infection and a high temperature or severe earache, keep them off school until they're feeling better or their high temperature goes away. Measles They'll need to see a GP. Call the GP surgery before you go in, as measles can spread to others easily. Keep your child off school for at least 4 days from when the rash first appears. They should also avoid close contact with babies and anyone who is pregnant or has a weakened immune system. Vomiting & diarrhoea Stay away from school until they have not been sick or had diarrhoea due to illness for at least 2 days (48 hours).

Feeling worried or anxious: It's normal for any of us to feel worried sometimes. We may get a tummy ache or headache, or have problems eating or sleeping. Avoiding school can sometimes make a child's worries about going to school worse. If your child is struggling, please speak to school as soon as possible to explore available help. If your child is still struggling and it's affecting their everyday life, you should contact GP or school nurse.

To find out more, search www.NHS.uk for the specific illness or infection, or 'Is my child too ill for school?'

Under-19 County Netball Cup Regional Qualification

Under-19

County Netball Cup – Regional Qualification It was a fantastic day for our Under-19 netball team as they competed in the County Schools

Under-19 Netball Cup, with the top two teams progressing through to the Regional Championships.

The competition brought together some of the strongest school netball teams in the county, including Cheltenham College, Sir Thomas Rich's, Pate's Grammar School, Cheltenham Ladies' College, Wycliffe, Hartpury, King's and Dean Close.

Crypt were drawn into a pool alongside Cheltenham Ladies' College and Wycliffe. The girls unfortunately lost their opening game against Cheltenham Ladies' College. It was a slow start from the team, who had not quite found their rhythm, but they showed fantastic character to respond positively.

They followed this with an excellent performance against Wycliffe, securing a convincing 14–5 victory. Games were played over seven minutes each way, with a straight swap at half-time, making every possession and every goal crucial.

Finishing second in their pool meant Crypt progressed to the next stage, where they faced Sir Thomas Rich's in an incredibly exciting and highly stressful match. The two teams could not be separated throughout the game, with the score level at 10–10 at the final whistle. The game therefore went to golden goal, and the girls kept their composure and nerve to score the decisive goal and secure an incredible 11–10 victory.



This took us into the final pool alongside Cheltenham Ladies' College and Hartpury.

Having lost to Cheltenham Ladies' College earlier in the competition, the girls were determined to put things right. They produced an outstanding performance, winning 9–5, and ultimately finished second overall in the County Championships.

This is an absolutely fantastic achievement and means that our Under-19 team will now represent Gloucestershire at the Regional Championships in February, with the opportunity to progress to the National Schools Finals.

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This achievement is even more significant given the resources available to us. Crypt is not a sports academy, and we operate with a relatively small PE team and limited resources. What we can offer our students, however, is an extensive fixture programme, giving them regular opportunities to compete against high-quality opposition, develop their skills and gain experience in pressure situations.

The girls have taken full advantage of those opportunities, and their success is a fantastic reflection of their hard work and commitment.

Congratulations to the whole Under-19 squad, County Cup runners-up and Regional Championship bound!

Sports and Athletics



HARTPURY FC ACADEMY SESSIONS

Further information
please contact
football@hartpury.ac.uk



Are you an ambitious young footballer in **U12-U16** looking for extra training to support your development?



High-quality Friday evening sessions designed to complement club and school football.



Focus areas: technical ability, movement, game intelligence and decision-making.



Players also benefit from specialist workshops, additional fixture opportunities, access to the Hartpury football pathway and free entry to Hartpury FC home matches.



WORKING ALONGSIDE YOUR CLUB

We do not compete with existing clubs. We simply provide one extra development session each week alongside a player's current club and do not compete in a league.



FRIDAYS
5PM-7PM



U12-U16



ACADEMY SESSIONS FORM

Scan the QR code to
open the Academy Sessions form



Academy Sessions booking link:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc8K2ZmaOk1YDE01y8LJEzUGABN833w0LtZit7fgF0CMuyffA/viewform?usp=header>