



Headmaster's Letter

13th February 2026

Term 3 draws to a close today, and I do hope that all our students have benefited from the education and care they have received since the start of term in January. I also hope that they have made the most of the many opportunities for personal

development offered and through those opportunities, they have continued to build those personal skills and qualities and above all friendships, that getting involved fully in school life enables.

School Music

It has been a rich and varied week for our School Choir: they performed brilliantly in the Cathedral on Wednesday evening at Evensong, and in the (relatively) early hours of Friday Morning over 40 members of the School Choir departed for a tour of Belgium. The highlights of the tour include: singing at both Ypres and Ghent Cathedrals, and perhaps most poignantly of all, singing as part of the Last Post Ceremony, which is held each evening at the Menin Gate, in Ypres. The Menin Gate hosts the names of 54,000 officers and men from across these Islands and indeed the world, who died in the fighting around the Ypres Salient during the First World War, but whose bodies were never found. A great privilege indeed, for our school choir to be able to sing at that event.

The National Drama and Music Awards - 2026

The Crypt School's outstanding music department was nominated for this year's Music Department of the year award and our nomination was then shortlisted for the final awards ceremony, which took place last evening at the prestigious De Vere Grand Connaught Rooms in London. The school was represented by Mrs Crozier (head of drama), Alistair Lomax (current parent and key supporter of school music and the performing arts), Old Cryptian and patron of the school music, Andrew Pitt, and our guests at the evening Geoff and Fiona Squire - Geoff attended the school in the late 1950s and was our guest of honour at Speech Day and Prize giving last September - and who have been very generous in their support of the school. Director of Music, Julian Whittaker and I were unable to attend, due to our participation in the choir tour of Belgium. The evening was a wonderful occasion and despite not winning the



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



award being nominated was a tremendous honour for our school.

Academic update

Year 13 mock exams began on Monday in the hall - a chance for year 13 students to gain a real 'lived experience' of sitting their A Level examinations under exam conditions, the outcomes of which will help shape their work and revision plans across the course of term 4 and into term 5. I wish them every success in those examinations. I hope that year 12 parent's evening, held on Thursday was useful for our year 12 parents/carers, and indeed for the students themselves, as they reflect on their own progress 6 months into their A Level studies.

Personal Development

The Crypt always welcomes visitors into the school each year as part of our wider personal development and careers programme, and today we were fortunate to have been able to welcome into school the MP for Gloucester, Alex McIntyre. Alex toured the school, and then talked with our A Level politics students about UK Government and Politics, international relations and ongoing issues. A fascinating talk and our thanks go to Alex for giving up his time to be with us at Crypt today.

Strengthening the SEND Team

I am delighted to announce that the school has appointed a new Teaching Assistant Emma McGeoch who will join the school in March and who will work with identified students to support their learning in the classroom.

With my continued best wishes,

Nicholas Dyer
Headmaster



Dates For Your Diary

Monday 23rd February	Term 4 starts week 2
Tuesday 24th February	CSPTA Meeting 6.30pm S1 All welcome
Wednesday 25th February	Y12 Geography Trip Swanage
Friday 27th February	Moore only non uniform day
Friday 27th February	CSPTA Quiz doors open 6.15pm quiz starts 7pm tickets on ParentPay

Year 10 Visit to the University of Bath

On Friday 6 February, our Year 10 students visited the University of Bath as part of our structured Careers Programme. The visit was designed to introduce students to the idea of Higher Education as a potential pathway post-18 and to broaden their understanding of future opportunities.

During the day, students explored the university campus and learned about what life at university can look like, both academically and socially. They were encouraged to think about the long-term benefits of gaining a degree, including the development of specialist subject knowledge, greater independence, and enhanced employability. Students also discussed the wider opportunities that Higher Education can offer, such as new social experiences, access to professional networks, and the potential for increased financial stability over time.

Mrs Williams, KS4 Pastoral commented,

"Visits like this are invaluable. They help students to visualise themselves in Higher Education and understand the level of commitment and ambition needed to access competitive universities."

One Year 10 student reflected,

"I didn't realise how many different courses and opportunities there were. Seeing the university made me feel more motivated to work hard so I can keep my options open."

Over the past few weeks, Year 10 students have also been introduced to a range of different pathways they could consider post-16 and post-18. Cirencester College visited the school to deliver a talk on T Levels, helping students to understand this technical qualification and how it can lead into employment, apprenticeships, or Higher Education. In addition, the year group attended an assembly focused on apprenticeships, exploring routes from Advanced Apprenticeships through to Degree Apprenticeships.

These experiences are designed to ensure that students are well informed about all available pathways, while also reinforcing the importance of maintaining high academic expectations due to the increasingly competitive nature of further and higher education routes. We are proud of the maturity and engagement shown by Year 10 and look forward to supporting them as they continue to plan for their futures.



Bobby's Inspiring 10km Run

Bobby in Year 7 completed an amazing challenge, tackling 10km along the Jurassic Coast last year and raised over £1200 for cancer research. This year it is going to P.E.A.K to help autistic children and their families.

"I've never used the support that P.E.A.K give but I know children and families that have and how that's changed their lives. I want the help educate people on autism and the challenges people face living with and caring for those who have autism. Until very recently, I was worried about sharing my diagnosis because of the misconceptions of what it means to be autistic, however, with support and understanding I would now like to use my own experiences to raise awareness and help all children who feel misunderstood. "

The course itself is a 10km trail run over the cliffs in Bridport with over 250m of elevation, which was incredibly tough, sport is not my forte. Jurassic coast is one of my favourite places so that's why we chose this one.

<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/bobbys-jurassic-challenge-for-p-e-a-k>



Lego Robotics at Crypt

Year 7 and 8 Lego Robotics

Our Year 7 and 8 LEGO Robotics Club, held on Friday lunchtimes, has been busy introducing younger students to the world of engineering and programming. Working in teams, students have been designing, building, and coding their own robots using LEGO robotics kits.

So far, club members have learned how to program robots to move forwards and backwards, as well as turn with control and accuracy. They have also explored how gear systems work, discovering how gears can be used to increase speed and change the movement of their robots. Many students have successfully incorporated gear mechanisms into their designs to improve performance.

After half term, students will put their learning into practice by taking part in an exciting robot speed competition. We are looking forward to seeing the creativity, teamwork, and problem-solving skills they have developed in action.



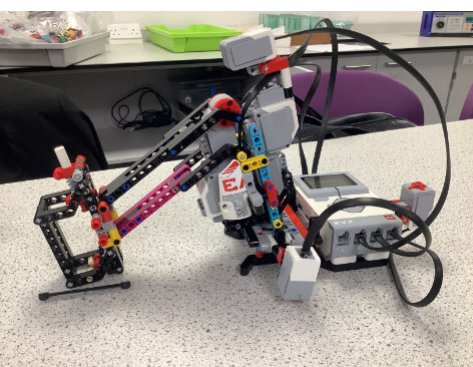
Year 12 Lego Robotics

This term, a group of Year 12 students have been taking part in a LEGO Robotics enrichment programme, combining creativity, engineering, and problem-solving skills. Working in small teams, students designed, built, and programmed their own LEGO robots to complete a series of practical challenges.

The robots were tested in activities including speed trials, hill-climbing tasks, line-following courses, and a ball-throwing challenge, where students refined their designs through experimentation and teamwork. Each challenge encouraged students to think critically about mechanics, stability, gearing, and coding logic.

One group even created a robotic drawing machine, capable of producing patterns and artwork using programmable movement. This project demonstrated both technical skill and creative thinking.

The enrichment has been a fantastic opportunity for students to develop collaboration, resilience, and engineering design skills, while exploring robotics in a fun, hands-on environment. We look forward to seeing how these projects inspire future STEM learning.



Library Newsletter

We have been celebrating Michael Morpurgo month with a display, which has proved popular with students borrowing his books. We also have a display of romance books for those students who would like to enjoy a romantic story for Valentines Day.

Upcoming Events – March sees the annual World Book Day which we will be celebrating for the whole week.

We will be having a quiz, hunt the bookmark around the school, some of our year 9 and 10 students will be having a workshop with an Indie author and fancy dress for years 7 and 8 tutor competition. They will be deciding on a book theme to celebrate by dressing up, dressing in a colour relevant to their choice or any other wacky way to celebrate World Book Day. Lots of merits and prizes to be won throughout the week.

We will also be starting the Carnegie Reading Group on the 11th March, which involves students reading a selection of books over 8 weeks to give their reviews and opinions on the story and vote for their winner.

More quizzes and events towards the end of March, so plenty to look forward to.

Enjoy the break

Mrs Jordan



Drama Department Upcoming Performance

The Unpolished Playground presents:

“DEAD END”

When Mr. Wellborne, a man who deals with a number of mysterious groups, is killed in an alleyway, many questions need to be answered: How was it done? Why was it done? And most importantly: Who did it? In this mysterious, cluedo-inspired piece directed by, starring and entirely produced by students, you can find out the enigmatic answers, all discovered in the court of law.

This performance is taking place on Wednesday 4th March at 5.30-6pm in the Drama Studio. All are welcome and tickets are free, please fill in this form so that we know audience numbers:

<https://forms.gle/Mdx2jEC2cVF1WCwSA>

The Crypt School AGM and Trustees Meeting

The School held its annual general meeting (AGM) on 9 February, when the Trust's Members (who are responsible for oversight of the Board of Trustees) gathered to receive the School's annual report and accounts and discuss the School's progress.

This was followed by a meeting of our Trustees (Governors), who received their last update from our Head Boy and Head Girl in their role as Student Governors. Liam and Tianna, and their colleagues on the Student Executive, have done an outstanding job in organising events and representing their fellow students and the School on many occasions this year, and Governors are very grateful to them.

The Board then reviewed the School's finances and academic progress, signed off its self-assessment report to the Department for Education, and discussed the findings from a recent Trustee visit to the School to look at the governance and leadership culture and values. It was very encouraging to see evidence that students recognise the genuine commitment of staff to apply the School's values across the daily life of the Crypt, and there were some helpful suggestions on making recognition of success more visible for both students and staff.

Exploring Lifestyle Behaviours and Mental Health in Young People

Healthwatch Gloucestershire are working on a new project to hear directly from young people aged 11–18 about their experiences of mental health support, physical activity, vaping, and the impact of social media on their wellbeing.

We want to understand what's working well, the challenges young people face, and where support and services could be improved. This includes:

- Access to mental health and wellbeing support
- Opportunities and barriers to being active and exercising
- Experiences and influences around vaping
- The effects of social media

By listening to young people's views and experiences, we aim to highlight key issues and share recommendations to help shape more accessible, supportive, and youth-friendly services across Gloucestershire.

We would love to hear your thoughts through our online Survey.

There is also the chance to win a voucher for completing the survey.



CRYPT SPORT

View Crypt PE's Newsletter On The School Website

<https://cryptschool.org/news-and-events/latest-news/post/term-3-pe-newsletter>



Parent Accounts Now Available on Unifrog

We're pleased to share that parents and carers can now create their own Unifrog accounts to support their child's future planning and decision-making.

Unifrog is the comprehensive online platform our school uses to help students explore careers, apprenticeships, further and higher education, and prepare strong applications. Now, with a parent account, you can stay connected with your child's progression and be even more involved in key transition stages – from GCSE options and post-16 decisions to university and apprenticeship applications.

Benefits of Creating a Parent Account

Once your email address is added to your child's Unifrog profile by the school, you'll be able to:

- Stay up to date with what your child is working on, including upcoming tasks and activities.
- See summaries of interactions added by teachers that are designed to support your child's next steps.
- View key information such as next suggested tasks and unfinished actions – helping you have informed conversations about their progress.
- Explore resources together, including careers and subject guides, webinars for parents, and helpful tools that explain different pathways.
- Sign up for Unifrog's parent newsletters and events, offering advice and opportunities to support your child's choices.

This means you can be right alongside your child as they think about GCSE and A-Level options, explore apprenticeships or university choices, and build applications – making transitions smoother and more supported.

How to Get Started

The school will add your email address to your child's Unifrog profile. You'll receive an invitation or can simply go to unifrog.org and sign in using your email or Single Sign-On (Google/Microsoft) to create your account. Once your account is set up, you can explore the platform and access helpful tools and information alongside your child. If you have more than one child using Unifrog, they will all appear in your parent account – even if they are at different schools.

We encourage all parents to sign up and engage with Unifrog – together we can help our students make confident, well-informed decisions about their future!

Please note that creation of a parent account is optional and you may ask for your email address to be removed from the Unifrog platform at any time. Students may also opt out of sharing their account. For more information, please read the Unifrog privacy policy at <https://www.unifrog.org/privacy-policy>

Work Experience – Year 10 & 12

As a reminder, Year 10 and 12 are taking part in Work Experience during the summer. The dates are:

Year 10 – 10th to 12th June 2026

Year 12 – 29th June to 3rd July 2026

Our programme is being administered via Unifrog. Once students have found a placement, they need to complete the placement information on Unifrog. This can be found on the student homepage, under the Placement tile.

How can you help your child?

Year 10 have recently had assemblies about T Levels and Apprenticeships, as well as a visit to Bath University. These are differing pathways that students are able to consider at either 16 or 18. We encourage parents to have an open discussion about your child's future and the questions below are designed to start that conversation.

1. What stood out to you from the assemblies or the university visit, and why do you think that caught your attention?
2. When you think about T Levels, apprenticeships, and university, what feels like the best fit for how you like to learn and work?
3. What questions or worries do you still have about any of the options?
4. How do you imagine yourself in two or three years' time – what would you like a typical week to look like?
5. What support or information do you think would help you feel more confident about your next steps?

What's on?

February Half Term Virtual STEM Work Experience with NESO!

Tuesday 17th February 10am–2:30pm

Suitable for Year 11, 12 & 13

Sign up using this link: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NESO_Engineering

Useful websites

<https://sprout.careers/>



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



COMPASS MIND IN MOTION

A 6 session wellbeing and movement programme helping children aged 7-13 feel confident, calm & capable

WHAT IS IT?

A small-group personal development programme combining mindset, movement, and teamwork to support children's emotional regulation, resilience, and wellbeing

WHAT SESSIONS INCLUDE:

- ✓ Activities to support confidence & focus
- ✓ Emotional regulation strategies
- ✓ Movement-based challenges
- ✓ Teamwork and problem-solving
- ✓ Calm, supportive environment



WHO IS IT FOR?

Children who would benefit from:
Building self-awareness and self-belief
Learning to manage big feelings
Moving their bodies in a positive, supported way

PROGRAMME DETAILS:

- 📍 Location: CrossFit Cheltenham
- 📅 One Sunday per month (6 months)
- 🕒 60-90 minutes
- 👥 Small group (max 10-12)

✉️ Compass.learninghub@gmail.com
📷 @compass.learning



DELIVERED BY:
GEMMA



Experienced
Special
education & PE
teacher, leader
& mindset coach



COMPASS MIND IN MOTION

A weekly online safe space offering regulation & wellbeing support for children & young people.



WHAT IS IT?

A gentle, structured online club that supports personal development through understanding emotions and gaining confidence through fun activities, movements and connection

WHAT WE FOCUS ON:

- Understanding mind-body connections & emotional awareness
- Gentle, optional movement, breathing & grounding techniques
- Regulation tools that work for the individual
- Building confidence and self-trust



WHO IS IT FOR?

Children who would benefit from:

Building self-awareness and self-belief

Managing big emotions

Building relationships in a safe & secure way

- ✓ SEND & trauma-informed
- ✓ Sensory-aware and pressure-free
- ✓ Relational, safe, and predictable

DETAILS:

📍 Online via Zoom/google meet

Thursday's 6-7pm

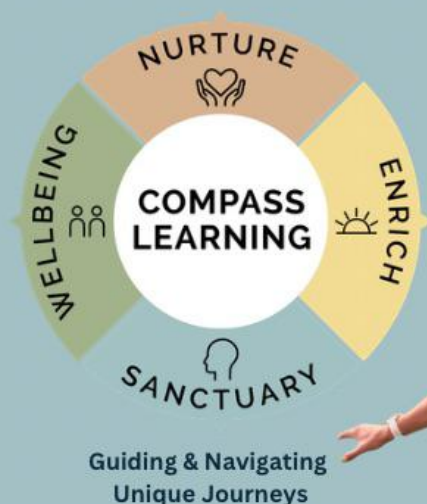
🕒 Age Groups - KS2/KS3 groups

👥 Small group - to gain safety & connection



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DELIVERED BY: GEMMA



Experienced
SEND
practitioner &
PE teacher,
leader &
mindset coach