



Headmaster's Letter

13th March 2026

Dear parents/carers and students,

Crypt and the community

A number of events across the week have highlighted Crypt's work with our local communities. On Monday night, for example, the school hosted a wonderfully enjoyable Community Iftar, which was attended by a number of our Crypt families, students and staff. Many families brought food along - which was delicious - and shared with all who attended. My thanks to everyone who came to the event and to Mrs Hayes, Mrs Hargraves and trainee teacher Ms Brodie for their organisation of that event.

On Tuesday, our Young Voices Choir visited Knoll Care Home, to sing for the residents; this is the second such visit, and both those who sang, and those who listened thoroughly enjoyed their time together.

On Thursday, our new year 9 and 10 environmental club, under the supervision of Mrs Akins (geography), undertook some planting in the local area, as part of our commitment to helping support environmental enhancement schemes in the locality.

All three events highlight the value the school, its students and staff place on supporting and working within our local communities and the value of service to others. The Community Iftar also highlighted the importance of our faith communities coming together to share important moments together, to socialise together, to eat together and to be with one another: from that, springs understanding, community and friendship.



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



Academic update

With just two weeks of this term left, I know that our examination students, including those in year 9 who are preparing for their GCSE short course Religious Studies exam, continue to work hard across their academic studies. On Wednesday, A Level drama students performed in front of the visiting examiner as part of their assessment, and today A Level historians submit their 4000 word independently researched and written coursework to their teachers.

Year 9 have now submitted their GCSE option choices to the school, and staff will now be designing the year 10 curriculum around those choices, with the aim to meet everyone's option choices to enable each student to study the subjects they have chosen across the next two years of their GCSE studies.

Personal Development and enrichment

Members of the year 12 politics group visited Sir Thomas Rich's School on Monday, to take part in a European Youth Parliament workshop, which was attended by many schools in the region. Politics is offered as an option choice in the sixth form, and is a thriving curriculum area, which has also seen an increased number of students opting to study it over recent years - perhaps a reflection of the heightening realisation amongst young people that politics really matters to their lives, and future wellbeing.

On Wednesday, Ms Hall accompanied a group of year 9 students to the Gloucestershire final of the annual science competition - Famelab. Well done to our school finalist Jen, who performed brilliantly with her speech about "The physics behind a pirouette." I understand that Jen's dance teacher also came along to support her student. Whilst Jen didn't win, congratulations must go to her for her wonderful, entertaining, informative and well researched talk and for reaching that stage of this competition.

Sport

A wide range of sporting activities have again taken place across the week in football, netball, and basketball, with all results to be found on the school website. It was really good to see both girls and boys competing together in the mixed basketball team. My own Tuesday lunchtime table tennis club, co-run with our wonderful attendance officer Mrs Perkins, continues to thrive, with two sessions now running, and attended by nearly 70 students.

Welcoming our new Year 7 cohort (September 2026 entry)

On Wednesday evening, Mr Bowen (head of year 7), Mrs Hargraves (Deputy Head - Pastoral), Mrs Wasley (Admissions Officer) and I welcomed our new year 7 cohort and their families into the community of our school, at the new year 7 welcome webinar event. I do hope that the webinar was helpful as our newest members of The Crypt School community look forward to joining their new school in September. My thanks to some of our current year 7 students who made a video which was presented at that webinar and who spoke very positively about their experiences of Crypt school life to date.

With my continued best wishes,



Nicholas Dyer
Headmaster

Dates For Your Diary

16th March	Neurodiversity Week
16th March	Y9 Religious Studies Drop Down Day
17th March	Y8 and Y9 Employer Speed Dating
17th March	Sixth Form Admission Webinar 5-6pm
19th March	Y12 UCAS Discovery Day
19th March	Y7 Parents/Carers Evening (in school)
20th March	Red Nose Day Non Uniform Day (donations on ParentPay)
23rd March	CSPTA Meeting 6.30pm All Welcome

School Triathlon for Restless Development

Four students in Year 7 are running a triathlon to raise money for Restless Development. They are taking part as a team, and they have set up a shared fundraising page. This is a massive commitment and shows our school value of responsibility, and we are really proud of what they are doing. We hope that you will consider donating: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Joanna-s-Triathlon-for-Restless-Development>.

The Crypt School Community Iftar

Ramadan Mubarak. Our second Community Iftar on Monday was a splendid evening of food and togetherness, in line with our values of kindness and respect. We are grateful to the families who joined us (and brought a huge amount of delicious food!), and Salman and Paul from the Islamic Society of Gloucester who spoke powerfully about the importance of respect and integrity during Ramadan. These are also Crypt School values and as Headmaster Mr Dyer noted, it is so wonderful to see many in our community come together at this special time.

Thank you to Mrs Hargraves, Mrs Hayes, and Miss Brodie for their leadership, organisation and support of the event. Also Mrs Medcroft for arranging the art work, Mrs Jordan for the library books, and Ms Vine for running a lunchtime cooking session to provide some of the food! As well as Mrs Wasley for being supportive and helpful for all community events. A real team effort for this our second Community Iftar.



Eloise Represents Gloucestershire U18s in Dubai Tour

Congratulations to Eloise in Year 10 for competing for Gloucestershire County Under 18s on their tour to Dubai. Gloucestershire competed against an Emirates team across various formats, winning two of their five matches. Eloise stepped in for the first time to replace the Under 18s usual keeper and had to contend with a number of Gloucestershire women plays and difficult pitch conditions. The tour was a fantastic, pre-season event and has set her up well for the season. She has also received an invite back to continue training with the Under 18s squad.



Soham Live on BBC Gloucestershire

We are incredibly proud to share that Soham M (7DW) was recently featured in an interview on BBC Gloucestershire. After hearing about his ongoing successes, the station reached out to invite Soham to share his story on air.

Every day, Soham demonstrates our school values of kindness, respect, responsibility, integrity, and pride. He is an outstanding member of our community who consistently reaches out to others, ensuring that everyone feels included and valued. As a Form Captain, he is highly respected by his peers, and it is wonderful to see him receive this wider recognition.



We are so proud of Soham and all that he has achieved. We have no doubt he will continue to flourish and make our community a better place.

You can listen to Soham's interview via BBC Sounds: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m002s2cy?partner=uk.co.bbc&origin=share-mobile>

FameLab Academy Gloucestershire Final

We have returned from the FameLab Academy FINAL at the Roses Theatre Tewksbury where Jen M represented The Crypt School. FameLab Academy is a science communication competition hosted by Cheltenham Science Festival where students perform for 3 minutes and are judged on content, clarity and charisma. Following a round of class heats, the School final and a two-day masterclass, Jen delivered an exceptional speech on The physics Behind a Pirouette. It was delivered expertly and explained some very challenging concepts so perfectly. Jen finished with a flourish and performed a pirouette on stage! She put all her theories into practice. Our school finalists went to support Jen and enjoy a morning of some fascinating talks ranging from Mirror Neurons, F1 Crashes and Space as an Apple. Jen performed so well and we are so proud of her.

Here is what our finalists had to say about the event:

"Very interesting and had a huge variety of talks"

"I enjoyed the jokes - it was surprisingly comical"

"I loved the quiz!"

"Unique experience"

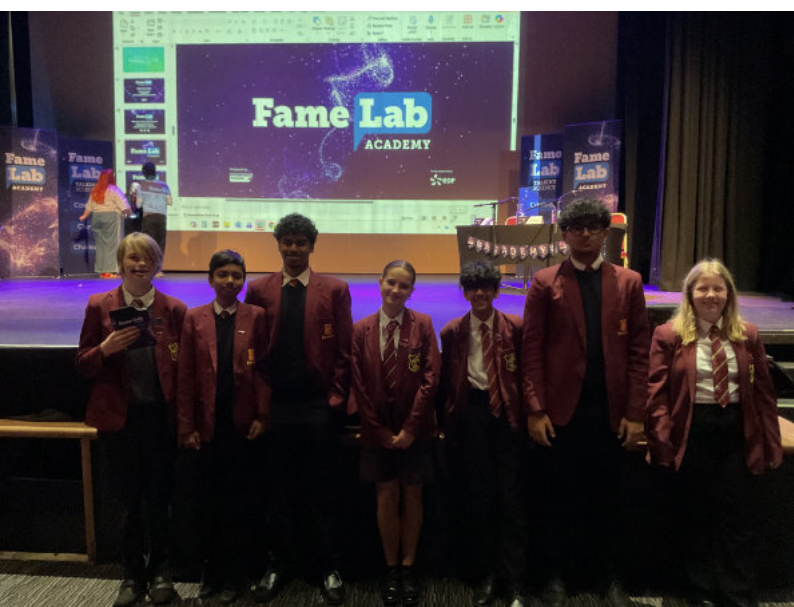
"It was super engaging"

"It's definitely worth getting involved. It's a huge boost of confidence!"

"The pin badge was totally worth it!"

Jen, our finalist says:

"FameLab Academy is definitely an experience of a life time, I loved meeting new people and I will never forget the master class! I would encourage everyone to take part!"



CRYPT SPORT

Girls' Football Festival – Go Lead Training Report

The Youth Sports Trust delivered an inspiring Go Lead Girls' Football Festival hosted by The Crypt School at the impressive new Blackbridge Community Hub.

The event involved over 70 Year 8 and Year 9 girls, who took part in a leadership training programme during the morning. During this session, students learned how to plan, organise and lead a football activity, developing key coaching skills such as communication, teamwork, organisation and confidence in leading groups.

The festival was held at the excellent facilities at Blackbridge Community Hub, a modern community sports and activity centre in Gloucester. The hub has been developed to provide high-quality sports pitches, community spaces and activity areas designed to bring people together through sport, wellbeing and local events. The venue provided a fantastic environment for the festival, giving both the young leaders and primary pupils the opportunity to take part in football in a professional and inspiring setting.

Following their training, the secondary school students put their learning into practice by running a football workshop for pupils from nine local primary schools. Working in small groups, the young leaders delivered a range of skill-based coaching stations, helping the primary pupils develop key football skills such as passing, dribbling, movement and teamwork. After the coaching sessions, the leaders also took on the role of referees and organisers for a fun and friendly football tournament. This allowed the primary school pupils to apply the skills they had learned while enjoying competitive but supportive matches.

The festival was a huge success, with over 100 primary school girls taking part in football throughout the day. The event not only provided valuable leadership experience for the Year 8 and 9 students but also helped inspire the next generation of girls to get involved in football and physical activity.



Library Newsletter

Last week we celebrated World Book Day by not only dressing up with year 7 but holding a Bookmark hunt and a quiz. Everyone who found a bookmark received a £5.00 book voucher and a sweet treat. The quiz was won by Aadya 9WEH who received a £10.00 book voucher. All students who entered the quiz received merits.

This week we are beginning our Carnegie Shadowing reading group. The Carnegies are the UK's longest running and best-loved children's book awards, recognising outstanding reading experiences created through writing and illustration in books for children and young people. The students read 8 books and write reviews, coming to a decision and vote for their favourite book. Our first meeting is Thursday; we have asked all students who are interested to join us in the library to discuss the shadowing group and join us.



CSPPTA Easter Raffle

One hamper per year group



Tickets £1

Get your tickets now on ParentPay

Ticket sales close: 12:00 on 25/03/26

Draw will then take place at 15:30

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

Music department

Our Young Voices ensemble led by Mrs Banda provided a wonderful selection of songs for residents at The Knoll Care Home on Tuesday. This included music for our upcoming Spring Concert with a mix of Oh Waly Waly, Hey Jude, Part of That World and Piano Man. Some school favourites included Oh When The Saints, Guide Me Oh Thou Great Redeemer and Be Thou My Vision. The ensemble demonstrated an outstanding sense of respect and community which was adored by the residents.

Our Spring Concert will be taking place on Wednesday 25th March at 7pm. Led by our touring choir Vox Floreat, with many wonderful performances from Symphony Orchestra, Cantores Cryptienses, Young Voices, A Cappella Choir and Jazz Band.

A reminder that all participants in the concert are required to complete the Google Form by Wednesday 18th March for your child to take part. This can be found on ParentPay.

Tickets are available to purchase £10.00 for adults and £5.00 under-16s. These can be purchased through Trybooking.com in the link below.

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

Mr Whittaker is also leading Newent Choral Society with their performance of A Night At The Musicals, which will be held at Newent Community School on Saturday 21st March at 7.30pm.





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

European Youth Parliament Debate

Year 12 Politics students recently attended the Regional European Youth Parliament debate, where they represented the school with enthusiasm, confidence, and impressive knowledge of current political issues. During the event, students participated in committee discussions and formal debates, focusing particularly on the issue of sustainable tourism and how European countries can balance economic benefits with environmental protection.

The group performed exceptionally well, demonstrating strong public speaking skills, thoughtful analysis, and a clear understanding of the challenges surrounding tourism, sustainability, and international cooperation. Their ability to present well-reasoned arguments and respond confidently to questions was highly praised.

The experience provided a valuable opportunity for students to develop their debating skills, deepen their understanding of European political issues, and take part in a realistic parliamentary-style environment. Well done to all the students involved for representing the school so successfully.

EUROPEAN **YOUTH** PARLIAMENT



Invitation from the Islamic Society of Gloucester (ISOG)

We are pleased to share the following community invitation on behalf of the Islamic Society of Gloucester:

ISOG would like to invite you, your colleagues, and students to our Eid celebration at Gloucester Park! Men, women, and children from all faiths and backgrounds are welcome to join us.

When: Thursday 19th March OR Friday 20th March at 9:00 am. (Subject to moon sighting; we will confirm the exact date nearer the time).

Arrival: Please arrive between 9:00 am and 9:15 am. Let the information desk know when you arrive so they can direct you to your seats.

Refreshments: Food and refreshments will be available to purchase (please ask vendors about food suitability if you have any allergies).

Dress Code: Any modest clothing should be fine.

Cancellations: We will email all guests and update our social media if we have to cancel the event due to weather conditions.

We look forward to welcoming you!

Crypt Year 7 2026 - 2027 Cohort Webinar

Our first Year 7 webinar for the 2026–27 cohort took place this week. While we only met virtually, it was a wonderful opportunity for our future students and their families to officially begin their Crypt journey.

It was great to have so many join us to hear from Mr Dyer, Mrs Hargraves, Mr Bowen and Mrs Wasley. Also joining us for the webinar was Tatty who was on her best behavior throughout the presentations.

We've been particularly delighted by the many messages from students who were so excited to receive their Crypt place certificates in the post—it's clear the new cohort is already raring to go. We are really looking forward to the transition events to come.



APPRENTICESHIP ROADSHOW

BROUGHT TO YOU BY GLOUCESTERSHIRE CAREERS HUB
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH GLOUCESTERSHIRE &
WILTSHIRE PROVIDER NETWORK



TUESDAY 17TH MARCH
ARCHWAY SCHOOL
(STROUD)

Join an expert panel of Apprentices, Degree Apprentices, Employers and Training Providers to explore the Apprenticeship Journey.

SIGN UP NOW!

<https://buytickets.at/gloucestershirecareer/206479>



Gloucestershire
COUNTY COUNCIL



Gloucestershire & Wiltshire Partnership

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)

