The Crypt School

EST. 1539

FRIDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2026 ◆ ISSUE 80



Nicholas Dyer
HEADMASTER

HEADMASTER'S LETTER

Remembrance at Crypt

Dear parents/carers and students,

I hope that this letter finds you all well.

Our two remembrance services held on Tuesday 11th of November, were a deservedly fitting tribute to the 136 Old Cryptians who died in the First and Second World Wars, and who were the focus of our act of remembrance on that morning. I am hugely indebted to all those who played a part in making those services, which were attended by everyone in the school, such a moving, poignant and important occasion. In particular, my thanks go to Mr Stanlake and Mrs Wasley, for their work in preparing the school for the services; to our Head Boy Ollie Beaumont and Head Girl Ella Crowley for their readings and citation; to Sparsha Alishetty for her moving speech, and to year 7 students - Sanaya Gautam, Heloisa Amaresh and Benjamin Morgan - for their laying of the wreaths in remembrance of our OC's on behalf of us all.

Above though, my thanks go to Mrs Gemma Hargraves for once again acting as our guest of honour, for sharing her experiences with us and for offering us all such a moving, poignant and personal insight into what remembrance means to her.



Academic update

As year 9 students move further on in their academic studies this year, they will naturally be giving significant thought to their GCSE option choices. To help them in their decision making, Ms Glock (Deputy Head - academic) and our heads of department, led two assemblies for them on Thursday and Friday morning, setting out the GCSE subject and curriculum option choices available to students to study in years 10 and 11. Before the students in year 9 make their final choices (by March 2027), parents/carers will have had a GCSE options information evening in school (scheduled for Thursday 24th of November) a full report and a parents' consultation evening: these events will help enable parents/carers to offer support and guidance to their children on their GCSE option choices. Other support in school include careers interviews and advice from students' teachers and form tutors.

School Play - Animal Farm 27th - 28th November

Rehearsals are gathering pace as we approach the dates for the staging of Animal Farm here at Crypt. Mr Walthew and Mrs Dale are due to hold rehearsals tomorrow in school, with other rehearsals scheduled for the next two weeks. A few tickets are still available to purchase, and it would be wonderful to have full audiences for each staging of this important and incredibly relevant play.

Personal development and enrichment

A large number of year 11 students are in London today, enjoying a visit organised by the History department: they are visiting St Paul's Cathedral, as part of their studies on Restoration England, and the fascinating Hunterian Museum, as part of their medicine through time work.

On Thursday, students in Year 8 enjoyed taking part in an innovative hybrid work experience initiative that Mr Germaine (Futures (careers) Leader) proposed to the Gloucestershire Careers Hub. Working in partnership with local housing association Bromford Living, year 8 students worked in teams during periods 3 and 4 to develop presentations, which were then given to a panel during period 5, of which I was delighted to be part of. I must say that their presentations were really well considered and were presented with both confidence and conviction - well done to them all. Given the success of the day's activities, it is now likely that this programme will be shared across the county to support key stage 3 career readiness.

Children in Need - non uniform day

It was good to see many students (and parents/carers) contributing generously to the Children in Need day today in school, through paying to wear non-uniform in school.

Attendance: Every Day Counts – Working Together for Your Child's Success

Good attendance makes a big difference!

Thank you for supporting your child's education. Attending school **every day** helps young people achieve their best, build confidence and prepare for their future.

Why is every day important?

• **90% attendance means missing a lot:** this is around half a day every week, or almost four weeks of school each year.

• **Better attendance leads to better results:** students who attend regularly are more likely to achieve higher GCSE or A Level grades.

• **Missing school adds up:** just 17 days off in a school year can have a significant impact on learning and progress.

• **School is about more than lessons:** regular attendance helps children build friendships, confidence, independence and good habits for the future.

How can we help?

We understand that there may be times when your child finds coming to school difficult. This could be due to health, anxiety, friendships or worries about schoolwork. **Please talk to us as early as possible if your child is struggling to attend:**

we are here to support you and your child. We can work together to find solutions, offer extra help and overcome any barriers to attendance.

Working together makes a difference. Every school day matters. By working together, we can help your child attend regularly, make progress and achieve their full potential.

My continued best wishes,



Nicholas Dyer
HEADMASTER

WHAT'S ON

Dates For Your Diary

13th November	GCSE History Trip London
19th November	Teenage Voices Gloucester Cathedral
19th November	Y11 Parents Evening in school
19th–22nd November	Cologne Trip
22nd November	Final Date to book Christmas lunch on ParentPay
24th November	Y9 Options Evening in school
25th November	Gabrieli Roar Tewkesbury Abbey
25th November	Y11 Sports Science Trip Gloucester University
27th November	Animal Farm 7pm Main Hall
28th November	Animal Farm 7pm Main Hall
2nd December	Christmas Lunch Y8 and Y11
2nd December	Y13 Apprenticeship Day
3rd December	Christmas Lunch Y9 and Y10
4th December	Christmas Lunch Y7
4th December	Non School Uniform St Johns
8th December	Carol Service St Barnabas 6:30pm
10th December	Christmas Jumper Day
10th December	Christmas Lunch Y12 and Y13

SCHOOL UPDATE

SCHOOL LOCKDOWN PRACTICE FRIDAY 4th DECEMBER

On Friday 4th December, at 10:45am, the school will be running a practice of our full lockdown procedure. Staff and pupils will be made aware of this very important drill at the beginning of next week. Expectations will be made clear about what everyone's responsibilities are if a lockdown were to happen. Pupils will be informed that they must not make any contact during the practice, and indeed, if it were for real. Pupils will get a briefing during a form period over the coming days.

The practice will allow the school to check for any areas that we can improve on so that we can maintain a safe environment for all. A reminder will be sent to you all again next week.

COMMUNITY & EXTERNAL NOTICES

Consultation Session

A quick reminder that we shall be hosting a consultation session for parents and members of the local community about our plans to build a Creative & Performing Arts Centre within the school grounds. The session will be held at school on 18 November from 3.45pm-5pm. Everyone is welcome. Please let us know if you wish to attend or have any questions. Email Sarah Veal - sveal@crypt.gloucs.sch.uk.

SCHOOL EVENT

Celebrating Diwali and learning together

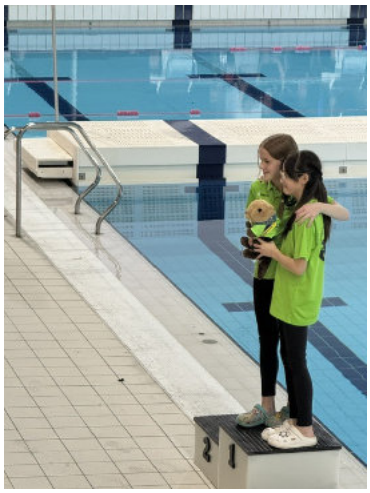
On Friday 6 November the the school community came together to celebrate light, peace and togetherness. Members of year 7 and 8 also offered electric lamps for world peace as part of our assembly in the hall. We are grateful for Amol and Chirag for leading this assembly, in line with our values of pride, kindness and respect. Happy Diwali!






STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Golden success for Amelia and Xin



Congratulations to Amelia (Year 8) and Xin (Year 7), both in Henley House, who won gold in the South West Regional Duets Competition for artistic (synchronised) swimming. A brilliant achievement for them both.

The girls have trained in the same squad since Xin was in Year 5 and Amelia was in Year 6. Their success reflects the hard work, commitment and teamwork they have put into their swimming, and they can be very proud of how far they have come together.

Amelia and Xin are now looking forward to competing at national level in July. We look forward to hearing how they get on and wish them both the very best of luck. Well done, Amelia and Xin!

HOUSE EVENTS

House Pumpkin Results

Thank you to everybody that entered the House Pumpkin Competition, over 40 entries were recieved, with the winning design by Arunpat in Y10 with her incredibly imaginative design. Special mention to the following: Amelie, Aarthav, Nakshatra, Leo, Mya , Vishwesh, Ben, George & Fergus



District Cross Country



A massive well done to all of our students who competed at the District Cross Country Championships at Plock Court, proudly representing The Crypt School!

On Tuesday 10th November 64 students represented Crypt. All of the runners earned their place following some fantastic performances at our House Cross Country event in Term 1. They certainly had to dig deep, taking on the challenging courses in some very cold conditions!

There was some incredible individual performances as well as strong team results. Highlights included: Bethany H winning the Junior race, Kimberley H coming second in the Inter race and Andrew C coming second in the seniors.

There were some brilliant team performances too:



Year 7 & 8 Girls – 2nd

Year 9 & 10 Girls – 2nd

Girls' Overall Team – 4th out of 8 schools

Year 7 & 8 Boys – 3rd

Year 9 & 10 Boys – 3rd

Boys' Overall Team – 4th

We have 14 students selected for the County team and overall Crypt came 3rd. A special well done to all the students who have qualified for the next round. We wish you the very best of luck.

An outstanding effort from everyone involved. Huge congratulations to all our runners for their determination, resilience and team spirit. We are incredibly proud of you all!

Thank you to Mrs Hargraves, Mr Atkinson and Mr Windsor for their help.



SPORTS & ATHLETICS

British Pistol Shooting

Bethany in Y7 had a brilliant performance at the Welsh Schools Pistol Shooting Championships, qualifying for the final and finishing an impressive 4th place individually.

Her success means she has now qualified for the British Championships in Birmingham this February.

Congratulations, Bethany a fantastic achievement and good luck at the next stage!





SCHOOL UPDATE

School funding in the news

Dear Parents,

School funding is always a subject of considerable debate, and the challenges facing schools across the UK continue to attract attention. You may be interested in this article from The Telegraph last week, which highlights some of the pressures schools are currently facing.

We are fortunate to have many parents who generously support the school through regular donations. We are extremely grateful for this support, which makes a real difference to the opportunities and experiences we can provide for our students.

We fully appreciate that contributing financially is not possible for every family, and we would never want anyone to feel under any pressure to do so. However, for those who are in a position to help, regular donations of any amount, however modest, would be greatly appreciated. Together, these contributions can help us provide additional opportunities for our students at a time when school budgets are under considerable pressure.

Thank you for your continued support of The Crypt School.

You can make donations and/or set up regular payments through our donations portal, Give as you Live, by scanning the QR code.

SPORTS & ATHLETICS

Y9 Netball Success



District Netball:

Fantastic effort from our Year 9 netball team at the County Tournament at Plock Court on Monday.

Competing against Ribston, Dean Close, Farmers and Cheltenham Ladies' College, the girls played some brilliant netball to finish 2nd in their pool and secure a place in the semi-finals.

A fantastic performance against Cheltenham College followed, showing real grit, determination and team spirit. Unfortunately, we narrowly missed out by just three goals before facing Pate's in the 3rd/4th place play-off.



The girls finished 3rd overall in the district – an outstanding achievement.

A brilliant team effort, and plenty more to come from this talented group. Well done, girls.

A fantastic result for our brilliant Year 9 netball team last week as they took on Malvern College in the last 32 of the Sisters in Sport competition.

The girls produced an outstanding performance to secure a convincing 33–12 victory, booking their place in the last 16.

A special shout-out to Megan for her excellent shooting and Mya for her outstanding defensive work.

Next up, the girls face Clifton College in the last 16. A huge good luck to the whole team

CSPTA

CSPTA 12 Days of Christmas Raffle

Buy your tickets for a chance to win one of these lovely prizes while supporting the school. There are twelve prizes to be won: One Fortnum & Mason hamper worth £120 (!), one Champneys hamper, one Lego hamper containing two lego sets, one bottle of Baileys, one bottle of red wine, one bottle of prosecco, one £20 PlayStation voucher, one £20 Cineworld voucher, a bundle of Crypt School goodies, a Cadburys gift set, a £25 restaurant voucher for Mumbai N Co and a selection of Christmas treats. Good luck.



Music Newsletter



The Cantores Cryptienses choir delivered a truly moving and memorable performance at this year's school Remembrance Service, singing with honour, pride and heartfelt respect for all those who made the ultimate sacrifice. Their tremendous preparation, dedication and commitment were evident as they opened both services with Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer, setting a fittingly reflective tone. Following Mrs Hargraves' deeply emotional address, John Rutter's A Flower Remembered was sung with great tenderness, while I Vow to Thee, My Country and Jerusalem were performed with great triumph and spirit. Douglas Guest's For the Fallen was beautifully conveyed a cappella, allowing the poignant words, "They shall grow not old", to resonate with everyone present. A very special mention and heartfelt thank you to Monty for his outstanding trumpet solo of The Last Post at both services – a truly poignant and unforgettable moment. We are immensely proud of all our singers for such a dignified and heartfelt contribution. Lest we forget.

As we reflect on this special occasion, the Music Department is already looking ahead to a busy and exciting season of performances. Our Teenage Voices choir will be performing at Gloucester Cathedral on Thursday 19th November, presenting a wonderfully diverse programme ranging from You Can't Stop the Beat and Panis Angelicus to The Old Superb and Bohemian Rhapsody.

Meanwhile, Gabrieli Roar is sounding truly majestic as they prepare for Mr Handel's Christmas Story at Tewkesbury Abbey on Wednesday 25th November. The programme features highlights from Handel's Messiah, including And the Glory of the Lord, For Unto Us a Child Is Born and the magnificent Hallelujah Chorus, alongside much-loved hymns including Hark! How All the Welkin Rings, Mourn, Israel and Rejoice, the Lord Is King. It promises to be a spectacular celebration of music in a truly atmospheric setting. Tickets are available via this link.

We wish all our wonderful singers and musicians the very best for the weeks ahead and look forward to sharing more musical highlights soon.





Complimentary performing arts places

My Stage School has offered five complimentary performing arts places to Crypt students in Years 7–11, aged 11–16, starting immediately.

Classes run on Saturdays from 10am–1pm at The King's School, Gloucester, with an hour each of dance, drama and singing. Students have opportunities to perform each term, and the school will shortly begin working towards its next production at the Roses Theatre.

This could be a lovely opportunity to develop confidence, creativity and performance skills. There is no obligation to continue beyond the free placement.

For details, including the length of the complimentary placement, please contact info@mystageschool.co.uk.

Gloucester City HAF

holiday activities & food

GLOUCESTER CITY HAF PROVIDES FREE ACTIVITIES AND FOOD FOR SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN.

HAF takes place three times a year during school holidays in:

- Spring
- Summer
- Winter



Activities

Free activities that can be booked online including:

- Family activities
- Children and young people activities
- Ticketed attractions



Signposting

You can contact us for support and we can signpost you to organisations that can help you.



Food

Food is available during activities making sure your children have access to a healthy meal.



If you need help to sign up or book activities contact us:

gloshafconnector@gmail.com

07340709871

familyhubs.gloucestershire.gov.uk

Glos city HAF

Gloucester City HAF

holiday activities & food

Gloucester City HAF provides free activities and food for school age young people







- Music - Arts and Crafts - Sports Camps
- Tickets for Various Family Activities.
- And Much More...

contact us:

gloshafconnector@gmail.com

07340709871

To get involved go to

familyhubs.gloucestershire.gov.uk



Free Winter Activities for Children, Young People & Families

Gloucester City HAF
holiday activities & food

The Holiday Activity and Food programme (HAF) returns this Winter with lots of fun activities and delicious food available for children and families from **21st of December.**



HAF activities are available for children and young people who receive benefits-related free school meals.

Bookings open from midday on 1st of December.
Make sure you're ready to book by checking your account now.

familyhubs.gloucestershire.gov.uk



Activities are available to view from
16th November



Use our handy checklist below to make sure that:

- All your children have an individual profile added to your account.
- Emergency contact details are filled in for each child profile.
- Any additional needs or disability information is included for each child profile.





Scan this QR Code with a phone camera for quick access

If you need any HAF related help then please contact us:

T: 07340 709 871 E: gloshafconnector@gmail.com

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD
DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS

Physics for Years 10 & 11

Curious about where physics or astrophysics could take you?
Two ways to get involved this year.

1 Physics Taster Mornings

Interactive workshops, insights into studying physics at university, and the chance to put your questions to current undergraduate students. Join live online, or catch up afterwards with on-demand videos.

Online on Zoom | Saturdays, 10:00 – 12:45 | Once a term

For all students studying maths and physics

SATURDAY	SATURDAY	SATURDAY
28 November 2026	20 March 2027	26 June 2027
Find out more & register	Find out more & register	Find out more & register

2 EMPower Oxford

A programme for Year 10 and 11 students of Black heritage. Discover Physics, Engineering and Materials Science, connect with inspiring scientists and role models, and build your confidence and skills in STEM.

Online workshops | Academic mentoring

Residential at Oxford for some Year 10 students

OPEN NOW **Year 11:** applications are open

NOT YET OPEN **Year 10:** applications are not open yet

Find out more & sign up for 2026/27

Tap a link to find out more

physics.ox.ac.uk/engage/young-people/years-10-and-11