



# Headmaster's Letter

15th May 2026

Dear parents/carers and students,

## New Instruments for the Music Department Appeal

The old school piano, so central to the life and work of the music department, to whole school events, and for the development of musicality amongst generations of piano students at Crypt, is in urgent need of replacement; indeed, this is also the case for many of our other musical instruments.

All students benefit from having a grand piano in school, not only those many students who use it to practice on, but everyone else who can listen to it being played. Sadly, the cost of maintaining and repairing it is now uneconomic, so we are launching an appeal to raise funds to enable us to purchase a second hand, but newer grand piano to replace the current model and to also fund the purchase of other much needed instruments for the music department. We are seeking to raise £25,000 and have already had two very generous donations pledged to this appeal.

The music department is now busy planning a 'pianothon': a 12 hour sponsored piano playing event, which we know many students will wish to get involved with, and through their involvement raise money towards our total of £25,000. More details will follow; however, if anyone would like to donate to this important fundraising appeal, in advance of the 'pianothon' then please do contact me at school via my email: [Nick.Dyer@crypt.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:Nick.Dyer@crypt.gloucs.sch.uk). Thank you for your support of the rich musical life of our school.



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



## **Use of student images on website and social media**

As parents/carers will know, Mrs Hargraves (Deputy Head Pastoral and our Designated Safeguarding Lead) wrote home to all of our families earlier this week, setting out concerns that have emerged with regard to the danger that criminals could use photographs of children to create explicit or demeaning images for their own gratification or for sharing.

The Internet Watch Foundation report in March 2026 identified 8,029 AI-generated images and videos of realistic child sexual abuse. That represented a 14% increase in criminal AI content in the previous year. In light of these concerns, the school is reviewing the current use of pupil photographs on its website and social media accounts: whilst we strongly believe that showcasing students' achievements and school stories is important, we also need to be mindful of these concerns. Therefore, earlier this year Mrs Hargraves wrote home to ask all parents/carers to review their photo consent for your child or children and update it if you no longer wish for them to feature on the school website, school social media or in this weekly newsletter. However, the school currently plans to continue to feature staff and children on our website and social media pages but where possible will share images that are less vulnerable to exploitation; for example, lower quality images of pupils further away, or of the sides and backs of heads rather than close up portraits. Additionally, if parents or carers have any technical questions, or would like an image of their child taken down from our school website or social media they can contact [itsupport@crypt.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:itsupport@crypt.gloucs.sch.uk) now, or at any time in the future.

## **Academic studies and examinations**

A Levels and GCSE examination started in earnest this week, with Monday seeing all of year 11 sit their important GCSE English Literature exam by example. I do hope that the public examinations progress well for all of our exam candidates. Year 7 started their internal end of year assessment this week too, and year 8 will follow next week. A busy time for all of our students.

## **Personal development**

It's been a busy week for many students in relation to their learning beyond the classroom. Across this week, students in year 12 participated in road safety workshops, important as many are now either learning to drive or have passed their test. Year 12s also attended careers insights talks on Wednesday, as part of their careers guidance programme in the sixth form. On Thursday, our choir enjoyed a choral workshop held at the Bath Spa University and performed at Bath Abbey, whilst today our Flying Start team enjoyed a trip to Bristol Aerospace. Good luck to our DoE teams as they canoe on the River Wye this weekend. Many students have also participated in sporting teams across this week, including fixtures in cricket, tennis, athletics and rounders, as well as in golf and rugby.

## Representing the school in a sports team

Many of our students enjoy representing the school in competitive, and friendly fixtures across the academic year in a wide variety of sports. Through representing the school, and playing in a team, or developing their individual sporting talents, each student gains so much: confidence, friendships, resilience, and enjoyment through their participation; they experience as well the delights of victory and equally, how to overcome the disappointment of defeat.

Unfortunately, our hard -working PE and games department is increasingly experiencing situations where students are withdrawing from sporting fixtures and competitions on the day of the event: whilst we understand the pressures some students have on their time, such late withdrawals make it extremely difficult for the PE/games department to manage fixtures effectively. When students pull out on the day, the school is often left attending competitions with significantly reduced teams and, due to the short notice, there is rarely enough time to organise suitable replacements. This can have a considerable impact on both the students who are still participating and on school teams as a whole. Please can students communicate their availability to whomever is organising the relevant team as early as possible, so that alternative arrangements can be made where necessary for fixtures.

I believe it is a privilege to be asked to represent a school team, to take part in competitions, to be involved in a team activity: I therefore urge all students, who are given that privilege and responsibility, to ensure that they fulfil their commitments to their team and school.

With my continued best wishes



Nicholas Dyer  
Headmaster

## Dates For Your Diary

|                 |                                                                                        |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>18th May</b> | CSPTA meeting 6.30pm                                                                   |
| <b>19th May</b> | Y12 Road Safety talk                                                                   |
| <b>20th May</b> | Y9 GCSE RS Exam                                                                        |
| <b>21st May</b> | Y12 Road Safety talk                                                                   |
| <b>22nd May</b> | Sports Day<br>End of term 3.15pm                                                       |
| <b>1st June</b> | Term 6 begins 8.35am                                                                   |
| <b>4th June</b> | School planning day - school closed to pupils except those taking GCSE & A Level exams |
| <b>5th June</b> | Sports Award Evening                                                                   |

## Library Newsletter

Over the past couple of weeks, we have been celebrating Earth Day with a display of fiction and non-fiction books plus running a quiz.

Congratulations to both Isabel and Bella 7JM who worked together getting all the answers correct and being pulled from our draw. They won a £5.00 book voucher and a card game discovering our wonderful planet.

Our next quiz which is running now to celebrate May 4<sup>th</sup> is a Star Wars theme. This is proving to be very popular. All students who take part in the quiz receive merits and all correct entries are put in a draw.

We are now in the full swing of reading the Carnegie shortlist.

We are known as the Crypt Bookworms, we read and write reviews about the selected books on the shadowing site. This helps our students to develop reading for pleasure, critical thinking and confidence in sharing their opinions. Every 2 weeks our shadowing reading group of years 7, 8 and 9 meet and discuss the shortlist. The meetings are very lively and full of a mixture of opinions about the books they have read. We have until 9<sup>th</sup> June for the group to decide on their favourite with the overall winner being announce on 19<sup>th</sup> June.



## County Honours for Three Student Cricketers

We are delighted to celebrate the achievements of three of our talented student cricketers who have been selected for the Gloucestershire County Age Group performance squads for the 2026 summer season.

Congratulations to Otis Evans and Ollo Howard in Year 8, who have both earned selection for the Boys' Under 13s performance squad, and to Eloise Maggs in Year 10, who has been selected for the Girls' Under 16s performance squad.

Following a fantastic winter training programme and facing strong competition from across the county, all three students impressed selectors with their performances and commitment to secure their places in the summer squads.

Eloise also enjoyed a memorable Easter break in Dubai with the Girls' Under 18 squad, where she took on wicketkeeping duties for the first time and produced a series of sterling performances.

With county age group fixtures taking place throughout the summer, there will be plenty of opportunities for Otis, Ollo and Eloise to continue developing their skills and showcasing their talents with both bat and ball.

Congratulations to all three players on this outstanding achievement, and we wish them every success for the season ahead.

## Crypt 1st XI v MCC – A Highlight of the Cricketing Calendar

We are delighted to announce the return of one of the most prestigious fixtures in The Crypt School's sporting calendar as our 1st XI take on the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) on Wednesday 10 June 2026, with play beginning at 11:00am at The Crypt Oval.

Now in our fourth year of hosting this distinguished fixture, the match continues to be a significant occasion for the school, offering our players the opportunity to compete against one of the most iconic and respected institutions in world cricket.

This match is played in a timed format, reflecting the traditions of the longer form of the game. One team will bat first and look to set a challenging total before declaring, leaving the opposing side to chase that target within the allotted time. This format places a premium on tactical awareness, patience, and decision-making, providing a rich and authentic cricketing experience.

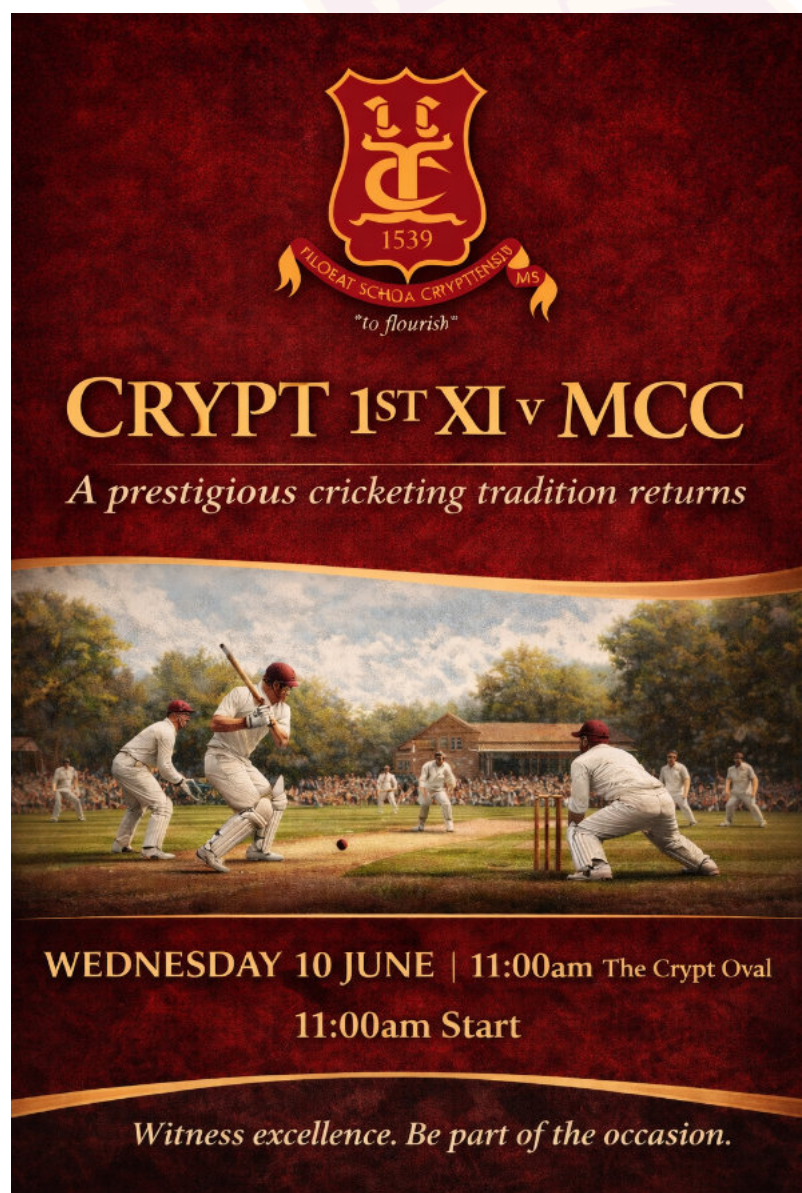
Playing against high-quality opposition such as MCC in this format offers considerable developmental benefits for our students. It encourages resilience, concentration, and strategic thinking, while also allowing players to refine their technical skills over an extended period - key attributes that are less emphasised in shorter formats of the game.

We warmly invite parents and members of the community to join us for what promises to be an excellent day of cricket.

Please sign in at reception upon arrival, and light refreshments will be available.

Your support helps to create a fantastic atmosphere and makes the occasion even more special for our players.

We look forward to welcoming you to The Crypt Oval for a wonderful celebration of cricket.





# The Crypt School Parent Teacher Association

Parents, Teachers and Friends

[cspta@cryptschool.org](mailto:cspta@cryptschool.org)

Our next meeting to be held on  
**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 6.30pm**

**Venue: The Crypt School, Classroom S1 (Sports Block)**

**This is a group open to all parents and carers and all are welcome to attend and support meetings/events**

## Agenda

1. **Present**
2. **Apologies**
3. **Treasurer's Report**
4. **Bids**
5. **School Report**
6. **Events and Staffing**
  - Plans for replacing officers
  - 18 June New Y7 Pastoral Evening
  - 24 June Open Morning
  - 1 July Y7 and 8 Showcase Concert
  - 4 July Cabaret Evening –optional food and drink tickets (Ms Crozier)
  - Annual List of Events – what kind of Christmas event
7. **School Clothing Sales**  
Sale of school scarves
8. **200 Club**
9. **Dates of next meetings**  
Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June
10. **AOB**

Chairman: Mike Byfield

Vice Chairman: Tracy Scott

Secretary: Sharon Byfield

Treasurer: Steve Scott

Web: <http://www.cryptschool.org/association-aims/> Email: [cspta@cryptschool.org](mailto:cspta@cryptschool.org)

# SPORTS DAY ICE LOLLIES!!!

FRIDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> MAY ON THE TRACK!  
DON'T MISS OUT!



**GUARANTEE  
YOUR LOLLY  
BY PAYING  
£1 ON  
PARENT  
PAY!**

## Have Your Say: Guidance for the 'Growing Up Online' Consultation

The Government has launched a national consultation on potential measures to limit the influence of social media platforms on the lives of young people, and is inviting parents, teachers, young people and concerned citizens to have their voices heard.

The consultation closes on 26 May. There are three different surveys: one for parents and carers, one for children and young people and one for anyone – which should be used by teachers, civil society, industry and concerned members of the public.

You, and your children, can respond to the consultation here: Growing up in the online world: a national consultation - GOV.UK - <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/growing-up-in-the-online-world-a-national-consultation>

## SEND Sufficiency Strategy Consultation

The local authority has launched a public consultation on SEND provision in Gloucestershire.

The strategy outlines how they aim to ensure there is sufficient provision of the right type, in the right locations, and available at the right time to meet children and young people's needs.

If you would like to take part in the consultation, please follow the link below:

<https://haveyoursaygloucestershire.uk.engagementhq.com/send-sufficiency-strategy-consultation>

Mrs Prout

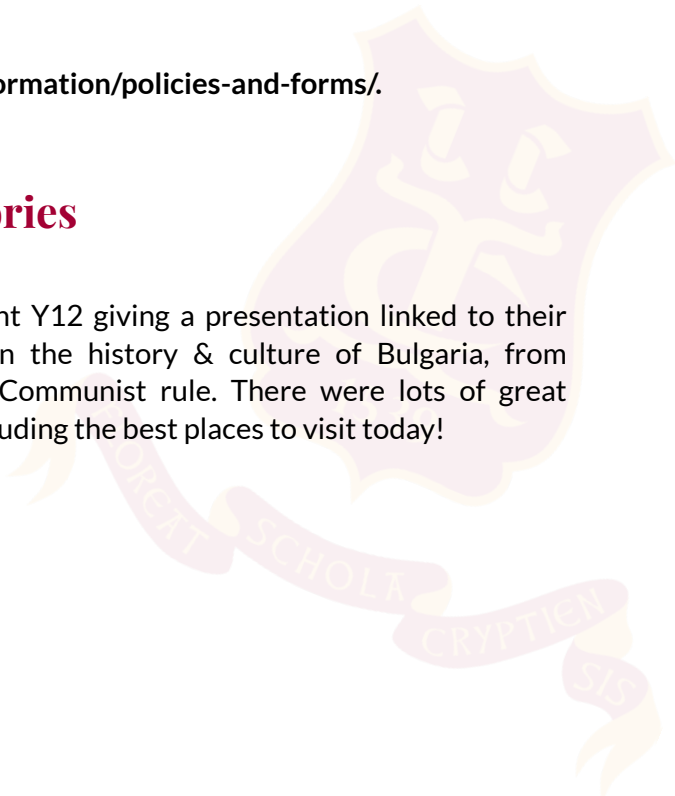
## Change to Pupils and Parents Privacy Notice

The School has recently updated its privacy notice for pupils and parents to reflect that we are no longer collecting by consent or routinely processing data on the religious background of students. A copy of the updated notice is available on our website:

<https://cryptschool.org/explore-our-school/statutory-information/policies-and-forms/>

## Hidden Histories

This week's Hidden Histories session saw another brilliant Y12 giving a presentation linked to their cultural heritage. Aleksia Atanasova led a discussion on the history & culture of Bulgaria, from independence from Ottoman Rule and then life under Communist rule. There were lots of great questions which Aleksia was able to enlighten us all on, including the best places to visit today!



## Sporting Success Beyond the Classroom

We are delighted to celebrate the fantastic achievements of two of our Year 8 students, Matty (8RR) and Obi (8JC), who continue to make us proud through their sporting success outside of school.

Both students are key members of the Longlevens AFC U13s Lions football team, who enjoyed an incredible triumph this weekend by winning the Severn Valley League Cup Final. In an exciting and hard-fought match, the team secured an impressive 5–2 victory over Perdiswell FC to lift the trophy in style.

This outstanding achievement is a testament to the dedication, teamwork, resilience, and commitment shown by Matty, Obi, and their teammates throughout the season. Balancing school life alongside competitive sport takes determination and discipline, and their success is something the whole school community can celebrate.

We are incredibly proud of both boys for representing themselves, their team, and the school so positively. Congratulations to Matty, Obi, and everyone at Longlevens AFC U13s Lions on a brilliant achievement — we look forward to hearing about more sporting success in the future!

## DofE Silver Walking Practice Expedition

From 1st–3rd May 2026, our walking cohort of students took part in their Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award practice expedition in the beautiful Black Mountains of Wales. Split into two groups, students planned and navigated their own routes while carrying all of the equipment they needed for the three-day, two-night expedition. The challenging terrain and changing weather conditions provided a real test of both physical and mental resilience.

Throughout the weekend, students demonstrated excellent teamwork, communication, and determination. From setting up camp and preparing meals to supporting each other during difficult sections of the walk, every student played an important role in ensuring their group worked successfully together. Students also developed valuable expedition skills including map reading, navigation, and decision making in unfamiliar surroundings.



Staff were extremely impressed with the maturity, independence, and positive attitude shown by all students across the expedition. Although there were some tired legs by the end of the weekend, both groups completed the practice expedition successfully and should be very proud of their achievements. The experience provided fantastic preparation for their assessed Silver expedition at the end of this month.



# PARENTS: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT OMOGGLE



Omoggle is an 18+ random video chat platform that adds AI face ratings.

That mix can expose young people to strangers, appearance pressure and harmful content.



## 18+ ONLY

Omoggle's official terms say the live arena is for adults only.

## LIVE VIDEO WITH STRANGERS



Users are matched on webcam with people they do not know.



## AI FACE RATING

The platform uses the PSL Scale to score appearance.

## KEY TERMS PARENTS SHOULD KNOW



## PSL SCALE

A number-based system used to judge how attractive a face is.



## MOGGING

Slang for 'beating' someone else on looks or rating higher than them.



## LOOKSMAXXING

An online culture focused on maximising appearance and chasing ideal looks.

## WHY THIS CAN BE HARMFUL



## EXPLICIT CONTENT

May include nudity or sexual pressure.



## BODY IMAGE HARM

Scores can fuel comparison and self-doubt.



## PUBLIC HUMILIATION

Leaderboards can turn looks into bullying.



## BIOMETRIC PRIVACY

Face scans raise data privacy concerns.



## ALGORITHMIC VALIDATION

Ratings can affect a child's self-worth.

## WHAT PARENTS CAN DO



## ASK OPENLY

Ask: 'Have you seen Omoggle?'



## EXPLAIN THE TERMS

Explain that PSL and mogging judge people by looks.



## TALK ABOUT SELF-WORTH

Remind them looks do not define value.



## KEEP THE DOOR OPEN

Let them know they can always come to you.

**A SCORE SHOULD NOT DEFINE A PERSON**

[www.kidsnclicks.com](http://www.kidsnclicks.com)