



Headmaster's Letter

16th October 2026

Dear parents/carers and students,

I hope that this letter home finds you all well.

Open Day and Evening

On Wednesday, school filled with prospective parents and pupils at our very popular year 5 open event. My thanks indeed to all my colleagues, supported by many students and the CSPTA for their work in ensuring the success of that event. My thanks in particular go to the following students who gave really impressive talks to our guests on Wednesday:

- Rakshith (7JC)
- Iris (7JM)
- Naira (7DW)
- Jesse (7RR)
- Head Girl - Ella
- Head Boy - Ollie

Next week, we are fully booked for our year 6 'qualified cohort' open event and we look forward to welcoming prospective Cryptians and their families into school for an event, which we hope will encourage them all to place Crypt as their first choice of secondary school for September, 2027 entry.



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



Academic update

As a teacher of history, and of A Level Government and Politics, it would be remiss of me not to highlight in the newsletter the extraordinary work of the School's History and Politics department, and of its senior students. Over the past few years, and under the leadership of Mr Higgs, the department have refreshed its curriculum offer, grown the number of students studying History at GCSE and at A level, built even larger numbers studying A Level Politics, while also offering a rich and diverse enrichment programme, at the center of which is the ever popular Hidden Histories Club, run by senior students. As part of the Politics enrichment programme, we now look forward to taking a large group of year 12 and 13 Politics students to London on Monday, to visit the House of Parliament and the UK Supreme Court.

Personal development and enrichment

As students from across the school continue to rehearse for the forthcoming production of Animal Farm, our GCSE drama students benefited from a visit by an actor, who held workshops with them during the school day on Monday. Overseen by (acting) Head of Drama, Mr Walthew, I am sure that these workshops, with a professional actor, both inspired our dramatists, whilst helping them develop further as they move forward with their studies of GCSE drama. We very much look forward to the staging of Animal Farm, on the 27th and 28th of November (tickets still available), here in our school hall. Crypt Alumnus and Choral Director, Charles MacDougall, visited school on Thursday to lead a wonderful choral workshop with students attending from across the age range. The sound emanating from the main hall was really inspiring and I know the students will have benefited greatly from Charles enthusiasm as they develop their musicality further. Mr Rice, Director of Digital Strategy and Head of Computing, is today at Oxstalls campus with two groups of year 8 and 9 pupils at the annual EmpowerCyber 2026 challenge on Tuesday. We look forward to hearing how they got on in next week's newsletter.

Careers

Today, our year 13 students all benefited from an employer engagement event, which involved them being interviewed by an external business person, to help support their confidence and develop their experience of a job/university interview situation. My thanks to all our external partners, including a number of Crypt alumni, who gave up their time to support that event.

The school's comprehensive careers guidance programme for term 1, will culminate next Wednesday in our annual careers convention, to be held in school and which will offer years 8-13 an opportunity to speak with employers, charities and universities about the opportunities available to them when they leave school. My thanks to all our external partners for their participation in that forthcoming event, and to Mr Germaine for his organisation of that event, and of our careers programme more generally.

My continued best wishes,



Nicholas Dyer
Headmaster

Dates For Your Diary

20th October	Autumn Concert 7-9pm
21st October	Careers Convention
22nd October	Y13 Parents/Carers Evening in school
23rd October	End of term
2nd November	Staff Inset School closed to pupils
3rd November	Term 2 starts
5th November	Sixth form open evening from 5pm for Crypt Students

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

Animal Farm - Winter Production

Friday 27th November – Saturday 28th November - The Crypt School

The Crypt School proudly presents our 2026 Winter production, Animal Farm. This Tatty Hennessy adaptation of George Orwell's 1945 novella tells the tale of power & corruption, the betrayal of ideals and control through propaganda.

"All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others"

DOORS OPEN 6.30pm - PERFORMANCE STARTS at 7pm

Tickets available now through our donations portal, Give as You Live. Simply scan the QR code or click this [link](#)



HA Richard Slessor Prize Essay Entry

Aveek (8JM) created a brilliant essay evaluating the importance of Margaret Thatcher's 1979 General Election victory. This was entered in to the Historical Association's Richard Slessor Prize - which allows the very best history students to show off their amazing ideas & analysis.

Please view Aveeks essay [here](#).

Sporting success for Matilda

Congratulations to Matilda M in Year 8, who has recently been selected for Gloucestershire County Netball, Birmingham Panthers Netball and Gloucestershire County Cricket.

These achievements reflect Matilda's hard work and commitment to both sports. She has an exciting and busy year ahead, and we wish her every success as she takes up these fantastic opportunities.



Celebrating Black History Month

Last week, our Black History Month assembly initially focused on media bias before pupils shared stories of Roly Gregoire, Islan Nettles, Josephine Baker, Thurgood Marshall and Dr Charles Drew. The following hour each year group discovered and discussed other stories and sources to learn more about Black history. This included learning about Malcolm X, protest

through music, how identity is shaped and reading extracts from Natives by Akala.

Thank you to Mrs Stoneman and team (some of whom are pictured) for all their work on this important Community Hour. Black History is all our history and is taught throughout the year in the History curriculum too.



The Library Book Raffle

Our Library Book Raffle is now open, with a bundle of 18 books for one lucky winner. Every entry will help fund an author visit this year and buy more books for our school library.

The bundle includes Life of Pi, The Girl Who Stole an Elephant, Stitch Head and Becoming Muhammad Ali, with the full list available from Mrs Jordan in the Library.

For £2, you will receive two raffle tickets. Tickets are available until Thursday 22 October, and the winner will be drawn at midday on Friday 23 October.

Buy your raffle tickets through [Give as you Live](#).

Thank you for supporting our library, and good luck!

The winner will be drawn randomly from all entries at midday on Friday 23rd October, by the Librarian, at The Crypt School, Podsmead, GL2 5AE. Charity No. 280200.

All proceeds from the raffle will be used to pay for an author visit this year and more books for the school library.



Crypt parent takes on the London Marathon

Crypt parent Pauline Rudkin will be running the London Marathon in 2027 in memory of her brother Alan, who died suddenly from a stroke nearly two years ago.

Pauline is raising money for Calon Hearts, with the aim of funding a local heart screening day in Alan's memory. The charity provides heart screening, CPR training and defibrillators.

Any support would be warmly welcomed

You can read Pauline's story and support her fundraising [here](#)

Tennis leading opportunity

Tennis leaders course running at Oxstalls Sports Park. It is open to anyone aged between 11-16 years old.

The link to book on is [here](#) you will need to search Oxstalls, Tennis Leaders course, 26th Oct

YOUNGMINDS

**Hello
Yellow**
FRIDAY 9 OCT

You're inspiring!

This is to certify that

The Crypt School

has helped show young people they're
not alone with their mental health by raising:

£ 532

Date:

October 2026



Nas Morley, Director of Income Generation

