



Headmaster's Letter

17th April 2026

Dear parents/carers and students,

I do hope that all of our students enjoyed a good break over Easter, with our exam candidates of course using that time wisely to support their ongoing revision as they prepare for their examinations which commence in May.

It's been a busy week back with many events taking place - with photographs and write ups of many of them posted onto our social media accounts and housed in this newsletter by example. I hope that the students who went on the ski trip over Easter had a great time, although I understand that there were some broken bones, and I hope that those affected are now recovering. It was good to welcome Matt Pinkett back into school on Monday, to talk to our students in years 9 and 10 with regards to the issue of misogyny, as we continue to work to ensure our relationships in school are based on mutual respect.

Year 12 students are being strongly encouraged to develop clear plans for their post 18 options. On Wednesday afternoon, the career's programme for year 12 across terms 5 and 6 was introduced to them and which includes a number of external speakers, workshops, UCAS preparation work and other events which aim to ensure that each student is given a clear perspective with regards to the various pathways that are open to them after they complete their A levels here at Crypt in a year's time.

Thank you to all those students who were involved in the photoshoot on Tuesday - another one is scheduled for next Tuesday. The new photographs will populate our website, our social media sites, and also be used to replace internal imagery in school.



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



As parents and carers will know, the school, along with all the other Gloucestershire grammar schools, has determined to move our entrance test provider to FSCE (based at Reading School): the FSCE Entrance Test is a modern and inclusive entrance test developed and reviewed in collaboration with experienced educators. It is designed to assess a child's academic ability in the most holistic manner permissible. The Test is designed to ensure all children have an equal opportunity to succeed and showcase their academic ability. This new test will come into effect for September 2028 entry - the current year 4 cohort.

My continued best wishes



Nicholas Dyer
Headmaster

Dates For Your Diary

20th April	Culture Day - Non Uniform
23rd April	Y8 Parents and carers evening online
28th April	CSPTA AGM and Meeting 6.30pm all welcome
29th April	Junior Maths Challenge
1st - 3rd May	DofE Silver walking practice
4th May	Mayday Bank Holiday school closed
5th, 6th, 8th May	Y7 Business Visits

Updated Privacy Notice

The School has recently updated its privacy notice for pupils and parents, which may be found on the School website. The privacy notice sets out how and why we use your data and your data protection rights. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at: foi@crypt.gloucs.sch.uk

Drama department - Easter performances

Over the Easter holidays we had a number of students perform in local shows!

Oscar and Lulu performed in Chitty Chitty Bang Bang at the Everyman Theatre, produced by Cheltenham Operatic Dramatics Society.

Megan performed in Hometown: Teen Edition at Cheltenham Playhouse, produced by Theatre Studio Cheltenham. Mr Slemensek was also the Musical Director for this show!

Tilly and Seren performed in We Will Rock You, produced by Chepstow Youth Musical Theatre.

A huge congratulations to everyone that performed in shows throughout the holidays - we are so proud of our students (and staff!) for getting involved in extra performance opportunities.



© Neil R Smith www.sosfilmphotographyand.com

Library Newsletter

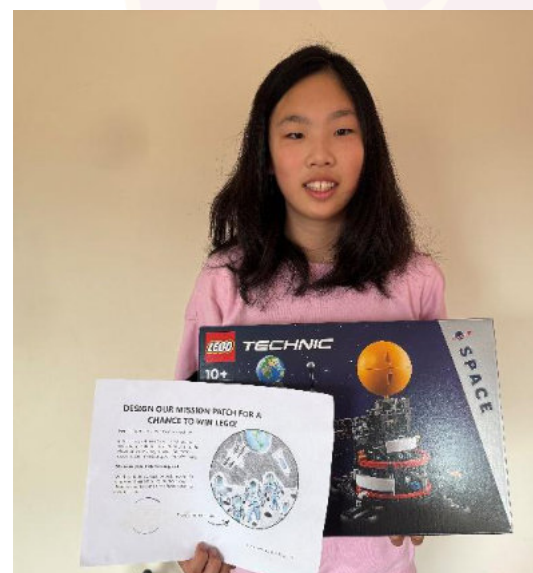
Year 7 and 8 received an out-of-this-world opportunity from the National Space Academy — to win LEGO! We received a brand-new book 'Moon Rescue', which follows five young explorers on an exciting mission from Earth to the Moon. Year 7 and 8 were given the opportunity to take part in a Mission Patch Competition to design an original patch to represent the incredible journey in the story

The top three designs win LEGO prizes!

Entries were judged on creativity, originality and effort. All entries were submitted to the National Space Academy, who judged the winners.

Congratulations to Joanna (7JC).

We're delighted to announce that she was awarded third place. Joanna really enjoyed working on her piece and put a lot of thought and creativity into it, so it's wonderful to see her efforts recognised.



Music Newsletter

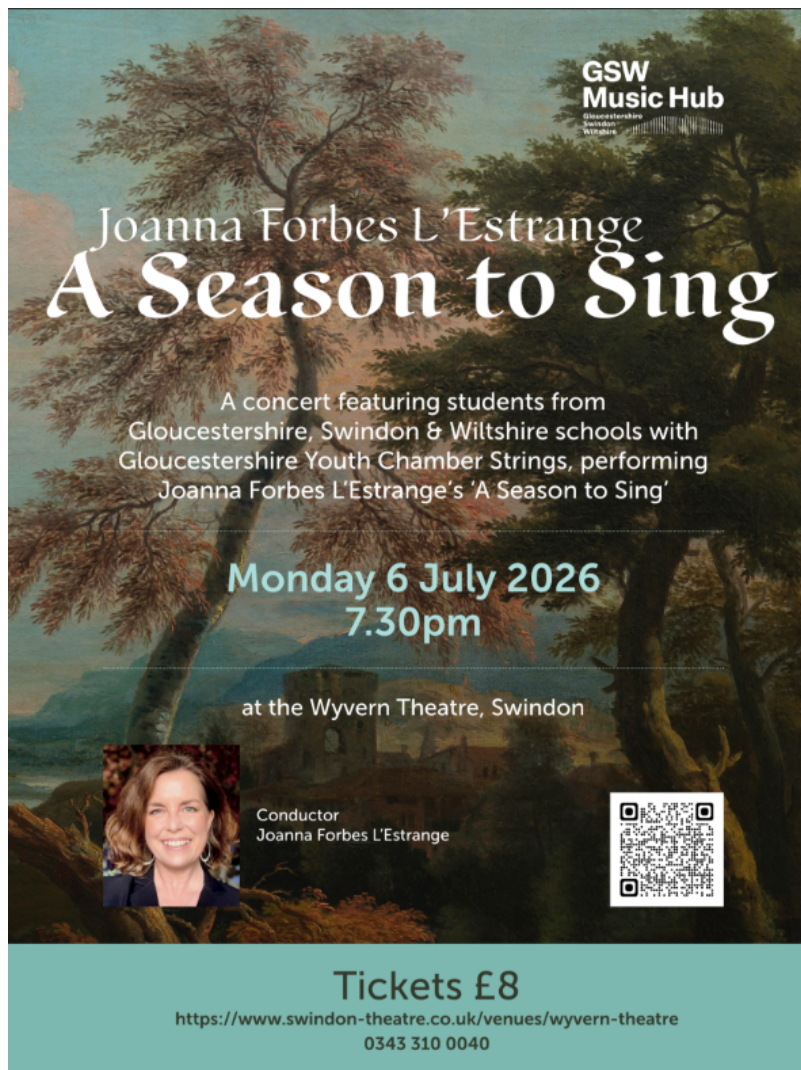
With the spring term now upon us, we are looking ahead to preparations for exciting collaborations with our choral community. Vox Floreat have been invited to perform a joint concert with Bath Spa University on Thursday 14th May, with a chance to explore the many opportunities for study in their Performing Arts faculty. The concert will take place at Bath Abbey with a selection of Belgian tour favourites as well as the wonderful Ubi Caritas by Ola Gjelio and Eatnemen Vuelie by Frode Fjellheim. Please can you complete the Google Form to confirm your child's attendance by the end of the day.

We are really excited to be taking part in 'A Season to Sing Secondary Vocal Project', led by Joanna Forbes L'Estrange on Monday 6th July. The choral suite is inspired by Vivaldi's Four Seasons and is a joint project with other schools in the GSW Music Hub, for which we are a lead school. More details will be sent out next week.

The Three Choirs Festival is one of the world's oldest and most prestigious classical music festivals, and the Youth Choir brings together talented young singers from across the region for an intensive and rewarding week of music-making. In 2026, the festival will take place in Gloucester from 25 July – 1 August, and Youth Choir members will rehearse during the festival week and perform in Gloucester Cathedral. This is a wonderful opportunity to sing with professional musicians and be part of a major international music festival, with Mr Partington as Artistic Director!

If you would like to take part, please sign up using the Three Choirs Festival website here:

<https://3choirs.org/join-in/youth-choir/>



GSW Music Hub
Gloucestershire Swindon & Wiltshire

Joanna Forbes L'Estrange
A Season to Sing

A concert featuring students from Gloucestershire, Swindon & Wiltshire schools with Gloucestershire Youth Chamber Strings, performing Joanna Forbes L'Estrange's 'A Season to Sing'

Monday 6 July 2026
7.30pm

at the Wyvern Theatre, Swindon


Conductor
Joanna Forbes L'Estrange



Tickets £8
<https://www.swindon-theatre.co.uk/venues/wyvern-theatre>
0343 310 0040

Once signed up, please email Mr Whittaker to let him know your attendance.

Our Founders' Day is being held on Monday 29th June and shaping up to be a majestic event with the delightful sounds of our Cantores Cryptienses choir and Symphony Orchestra.

Finally, our Year 7 and 8 Showcase, with our musical theatre showcase Into The Spotlight: Cabaret Night will be performed in July, with more details to follow in the coming weeks.

Celebrating Romaine's Success in Ju-Jitsu and Wrestling

We are delighted to share some fantastic news about Romaine, who has been achieving impressive success in both ju-jitsu and wrestling outside of school.

Romaine trains regularly at a local fight school, where his dedication, discipline, and positive attitude have really stood out. Through his commitment to training, he has developed not only his physical skills but also resilience, focus, and determination - qualities that support his learning and growth in school as well.

His achievements are a wonderful example of how students can excel beyond the classroom, and we are incredibly proud of the effort he continues to put into his sport. It is always inspiring to see our students pursuing their passions and representing themselves so positively in the wider community.

At The Crypt, we strongly believe in celebrating successes both inside and outside of school. Romaine's journey is a great reminder of the importance of perseverance and the benefits of engaging in activities that build confidence and character.

Well done, Romaine - we look forward to seeing your continued success!



PED This Term

In PED this term, students will be working with their teachers to explore a range of subject matter. External support is sign posted for each year group.

Y7 - To understand the importance of living in an equitable community & how to be a good citizen, abiding by those laws. The Equality Act 2010. The Kindness Project - ways to encourage kind behaviour in schools.

<https://crae.org.uk/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/government-equalities-office>

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/gb/basics/happines>

Y8 - To understand the rights of children. To consider how charities help us to have more meaningful lives, to understand the role of charities and know some jobs that exist within charities. To identify different types of racism and to evaluate ways we could reduce racism.

Investigate practical steps we can take to live a happier life and commit to personal actions to create more happiness, for ourselves and others as we work towards end of year assessments - keeping mentally and physically healthy.

<https://www.youthemployment.org.uk/>

<https://www.childline.org.uk>

<https://www.relate.org.uk>

<https://actionforhappiness.org/>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/children-race-racism-racial-bullying/>

<https://www.barnardos.org.uk/blog/talking-your-children-about-racism>

Y9 - To understand why economic wellbeing is important, and how this will be useful in the future.

The Bank of England, Consumer Choice.

<https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/education/education-resources>

Y10 - To understand the importance of respecting diversity and to assess the impact of media, social media and actions on people's attitudes around diversity. To be able to distinguish extremism from legitimate behaviours in a democracy. To demonstrate the ability to advise someone who is worried about another's behaviour and to be able to identify behaviours which contribute to community efforts to reduce the risk of extremism. To understand the Equality Act 2010, why it is important and how it can be applied in different cases.

www.childline.org.uk

<http://www.report-it.org.uk/home>

Y11 - To develop knowledge of how Britain is ruled. To be able to debate a key political issue.

To explore whether citizenship is a right or a privilege. What are the benefits of being a British citizen? What responsibilities come with being a citizen?

<https://www.youngcitizens.org/>

Y12 - To understand the different types of car insurance for young drivers. To be able to purchase car insurance successfully. To understand the components of the driving theory test. To be aware of the dangers facing new drivers. To take steps to avoid those dangers.

<https://toptests.co.uk/>

<https://www.rospa.com/road-safety>

Y13 - An understanding of British values, the impact of the media and unconscious bias & the importance of affirming & celebrating diversity.

<https://www.stophateuk.org/>



Culture Week

A reminder that Monday 20th April is our non-uniform Culture Day! Please come dressed in clothing that represents you and your culture/identity. Y10 must attend exams in uniform but are free to change afterwards.

Students are also invited to put an artefact on the Crush Hall from something of home that is significant to them (please nothing valuable/breakable).

CULTURE WEEK

Celebrate our diversity, identity, and global heritage!

Monday General Activities



Non-Uniform Day

House points for everyone who represents their culture or identity!



Group Photo

Join us at breaktime to celebrate our Multicultural School! (**Crush Hall**)



Artefacts of Home

Bring items of cultural significance. Do this anonymously or with a short caption.



Library Display

Check out our special cultural display, up for you to enjoy across the week.



In the week, **Year 8** will be doing an African Drumming and Samba Project in Music!

Lunchtime Events Schedule

Monday

Mon



Global Food Showcase

Room 35

Bring in family recipes and food from your culture to celebrate (and taste) with others!



Henna Tattoos

Room 35



'Do different cultures produce different philosophy?'

Room 34



Hidden Histories

Room 37

Tuesday

Tue



Commedia Dell'Arte - The art of comedy!

Drama Studio



Foreign Film Club: "Twisted Wonderland"

Room 30



Aussie Rules

PE Dept (Y7/Y8)

Wednesday

Wed



Explore our Local History

Room 35



Creative Writing Club

Room 30

"Exploring voices in poetry"

Thursday

Thu



LGBTQ+ Club

Room 35

"LGBTQ+ around the world"



Scottish Dancing

Drama Studio



Aussie Rules

PE Dept (Y9/Y10)

Summer Term Parent Support Series

elevate
education

Free Parent Webinars

Join us and Elevate Education for FREE 60- minute webinars designed to help you support your child's studies at home.

Scan the QR code
to register



In the Summer Term, we'll cover:

1. **Ask Me Anything (Live Q&A)**
- 28th April @6:00pm (BST)
2. **How You Can Help Improve Your Child's Memory**
- 12th May @6:00pm (BST)
3. **How to Help Your Child Alleviate Stress**
- 9th June @6:00pm (BST)
4. **How to Get (And Keep!) Your Child Motivated**
- 23rd June @6:00pm (BST)
5. **How You Can Set Your Child Up for Success**
- 7th July @6:00pm (BST)



Supporting a teenager can feel overwhelming ...

You don't have to do it alone!



Our NEW & FREE live Zoom webinars are here to support you!

Our NEW live webinars give parents and carers practical tools, expert guidance, and a safe space to support young people's emotional wellbeing.

By taking part, parents and carers can:

- Understand their young person's challenges
- Learn practical strategies for resilience and wellbeing
- Gain tools to manage difficult conversations, set boundaries, and resolve conflict
- Feel more confident, supported, and less alone
- Access live Zoom Webinar sessions easily from home

Join us online and take the next step in supporting your child's wellbeing.

To find out more, or to book onto a session, visit

www.letstalkwell.org.uk/parents-carers/webinars

Limited spaces

Who: Tailored for Gloucestershire parents and carers of children ages 11-18.

When: A range of topics delivered across the year.

Where: Online Zoom Webinar

FREE COUNSELLING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN GLOUCESTER

Who is Ignite Life?

Ignite Life is a Bristol-based youth charity that supports young people and families facing disadvantage. In 2025, we supported 99 young people with counselling, 56 young people with mentoring and 105 households a week with food provision. We have received funding to expand our counselling service into Gloucester.

**HAVE YOU BEEN FEELING SAD,
STRESSED OR OVERWHELMED? YOU
DON'T HAVE TO DEAL WITH IT ALONE.**

What is the service?

- Free 7 week block of 1:1 counselling sessions.
- For young people aged 5-25 in Gloucester.
- A safe, confidential space to talk.
- Support to build resilience, confidence and coping strategies.
- Based in Gloucester.
- Referrals welcome from schools, parent/carers, and young people.

To make a referral and further information,
please contact gloucester@ignite-life.co.uk.



Parent Webinars with GT Scholars



The Success Habits Workshop:
*Discover The Framework That Drives Lasting
Motivation and Academic Achievement*



FREE Parent Webinar April 2026

Date: Tue 21st April 2026

Time: 7:30 - 8:45pm (UK time)

Sign up to join us LIVE or get
access to the replay:

gtscholars.org/parent-webinar

