



Headmaster's Letter

20th March 2026

Dear parents/carers and students,

Neurodiverity Week

The school has been celebrating Neurodiversity Week across the whole of this week, which began in school last Friday with a wonderful whole school assembly. This week has witnessed a range of talks by staff and outside speakers such as Inclusion Gloucestershire, whilst around the school posters document the many famous people who are neurodiverse, including: Steven Spielberg, Richard Branson, James Dyson, Emma Watson, Simone Biles, Kiera Knightly and Chris Packham by example. Thank you to Mrs Whiting (SEND TA) for her work in organising this week's events, which aims to heighten awareness of neurodiversity at school and in our wider society.

Academic update

Thank you to Mr Whittaker, who held a GCSE support day last Saturday and who also held a GCSE Performance Recital after school on Monday in front of a live audience: both events were designed to help support our GCSE musicians to perform to their very best in their formal non-examined performance, which happened today in school. GCSE food technology students undertook their practical food assessment on Thursday, under the guidance of food technology teacher Mrs Vine, and food technician Mrs Workman. I do hope all students involved in GCSE music and food technology performed to the very best of their ability in their assessments.

On Monday, the whole of Year 9 benefited from a 'drop-down' day to focus on their RS GCSE work, under the leadership of Dr Young and Mr Pinless; my thanks to both teachers for their support of the year 9 cohort's preparation for their



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



forthcoming RS examination. On Thursday, a number of students sat the intermediate maths challenge, a more demanding stage of the national mathematics challenges, in which our students perform highly in each year - thank you to Mr Foster for organising the event.

I do hope that the 7 parent/carer evening on Thursday was useful for our newest set of parents/carers; an opportunity for parents/carers to attend school to discuss their child's progress and development since joining the school in September.

Personal Development and enrichment

Thank you to the careers leader, Mr Germaine, for organising an Employer 'speed dating' careers information morning on Wednesday for years 8 and 9. A really useful event and I'd like to thank all employers who gave up their time to attend this employer engagement event in school. On Thursday, year 12 travelled to Worcester to attend a 'UCAS Discovery Day' event held at the university, as part of our ongoing university preparation programme in the sixth form.

As Year 11 move to the final stage of their GCSE studies, Ms Glock (Director of Post 16 Education) held an informational webinar with prospective sixth form applicants and their families. On Thursday afternoon, Mr Croft (physics) enabled a small team of year 8 and 9 students to take part in the annual Flying Start engineering challenge, with this initial stage held at Crypt.

Gold and Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award participants have a practice expedition session this weekend - Gold on Saturday and Silver on Sunday. The Gold award participants are planning a canoeing expedition to Scotland in the summer, as part of the award scheme and I'm sure they will also enjoy this weekend's practice session at Cromhall Quarry, Wotton under Edge.

Sport

The U18 senior seven's rugby squad head off to Roselyn Park on Sunday to take part in the prestigious schools' seven's tournament, and next Thursday the U13s will attend - good luck to those taking part. Our U16 girls (Y11) won the district netball tournament against all the local schools in Gloucester earlier in the week, and our senior netball teams held a tournament on Wednesday, in the bright sunshine here at Crypt, against DRHS with our teams performing very well. Also on Wednesday afternoon, our senior boy's football team played well in a tight FA Cup match against Marling School, and narrowly lost 2.1; however, well done to our senior footballers for their effort and commitment to their team's success across this last year. The U14 mixed touch rugby team travelled to Twickenham on Thursday morning to take part in the T1 Rugby National Finals in London. They performed very well indeed in the rounds, which were



hosted at Richmond Athletic Ground, winning 3 out of 5 group stage games. They then progressed to the final matches, which were held at the Allianz Twickenham Stadium, and only narrowly lost out on winning the competition. Thank you to the head of boys' PE, Mr Farmer and to Mr Atkinson for organising that event for them to attend.

Open Day

Open day, held on Wednesday and Thursday in the sunshine, was extremely well attended by many families and their children from across the city and wider region. My thanks to our year 7 students Sophie L, Anu and Alistair for their very well presented talks, and to Liam and Tianna - our head boy and head girl - for their talks too. My thanks also to the CSPTA for their support on both days, to our year 7 tour guides and to some year 10 students who acted as car marshals and who also welcomed our visitors into school.

Year 7 Entrance Test for 2027 entry - key dates

If you know anyone who has a child who may wish to sit the grammar school entrance test in September, for September 2027 entry, or if you have a child in the current year 5, then the following dates may be helpful:

To register for The Crypt Entrance test please visit our website, www.cryptschool.org, from noon on Monday 18th May – noon on Friday 26th June 2026 where you will find an online registration form to register your child to sit the test. Registration must be completed by noon on Friday, 26th June 2026.

The entrance test will take place on Saturday, 12th September 2026

I am sure that many of our families and students are busy celebrating the end of Ramadan, which was signalled by the sighting of the crescent moon in Saudi Arabia, and marked by the Eid-al-Fitr ("the festival of breaking the fast") celebration that marks the end of the holy month of Ramadan. Well done indeed to all our students who observed the fast across the last month and I do hope the celebration goes really well with your family and friends.

We look forward to the annual Old Cryptian Club meal, which is being held tomorrow in the Crush Hall, with about 70 Old Cryptians and their guests in attendance. The evening will be hosted by OC President Steve Knibbs.

Finally, thank you for your generous donations for the non-uniform day, which will be donated to Comic Relief and will make such a difference to the causes they help to fund.



Nicholas Dyer
Headmaster

Dates For Your Diary

23rd March	CSPTA Online Meeting 6.30pm All Welcome
25 March	Spring Concert 7-9pm
26 March	Young Live Vs Cancer Bake Sale
27 March	3.15pm Term Ends
13 April	Term Starts Week 1

We're Looking for a New Trustee

The Crypt School is seeking to appoint a new Trustee (Governor) with skills/experience in accountancy to the Board of the School, starting in summer 2026. The Trustees, who are all volunteers, are responsible for providing strong strategic leadership to help the school develop and thrive, alongside effective oversight of educational performance and operations.

This is a rewarding role, in which you can really make a difference. More information on the responsibilities and time commitment is provided in the full application pack on the school website. If you would like to find out more or speak to a current member of the Board about the role, please contact Mrs Nicola Donlon at clerk@crypt.gloucs.sch.uk Applications should be made via application form (available on the website) by Monday 13 April.

International π day

Saturday the 14th March was international pi day (3.14 in the American system). To celebrate we challenged the students to recall as many digits of the number π , the ratio between a circle's circumference and its diameter, as they could for a house competition. 34 students remembered an average of almost 52 digits each, nearly ten more than last year's mean.

Eight students recalled at least a hundred digits: Louisa E (Henley), Neha P (Raikes), Arjun S (Moore), Jack H (Cooke) and Saumyah R (Waboso) whilst both Tito A and Fola O (both Henley) remembered over 150 but our winner, the reigning champion from Waboso, Shivani S, came in at a remarkable 323 digits.



Children of Peace: 22 MILE RUN

Ellia, in Year 12, is currently working with a non-partisan charity called 'Children of Peace' to raise money and awareness for the children killed in the Israel-Palestine conflict. In mid-July she will be running around 22 miles, 1 mile for every 1,000 children killed in this conflict. You read more about her challenge and sponsor [here here](#):

https://www.justgiving.com/page/ella-crowley-children-of-peace?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL&utm_campaign=020

Neurodiversity Celebration Week

This week, we were proud to take part in Neurodiversity Celebration Week, a global initiative founded by Siena Castellon in 2018. This important week challenged stereotypes and misconceptions about neurological differences, while celebrating the unique strengths and talents of neurodivergent individuals. It provided a valuable opportunity for our school community to continue building an inclusive environment where all students feel valued, supported, and empowered to succeed.

As part of the week, students and staff took part in a range of activities designed to raise awareness and promote understanding. The programme began with a whole school assembly featuring guest speaker Charli Clements, a speaker, trainer, and consultant with lived experience of being multiply neurodivergent, chronically ill, and queer. Charli shared insights into their experiences and work supporting organisations to develop meaningful and sustainable inclusion, encouraging open conversations and practical strategies to better support diverse individuals.

There were also opportunities for both students and staff to engage more deeply with key topics. A drop-in session organised by Miss Whiting, enabled staff and students to discuss barriers and explore ways to improve inclusion across school life, covering areas such as learning differences, autism, sensory needs, physical challenges, and mental health. Staff also took part in dedicated professional development sessions, including a focus on ADHD and autism, as well as sessions led by Mr Lipscombe and Mrs Vine on supporting students with ADHD and Autism in the classroom, highlighting how young people with ADHD can thrive with the right strategies and support.

Students participated in tutor-led activities throughout the week, including videos and interactive 'Roll the Dice' games designed to encourage discussion and reflection. In addition, a SEND invited workshop run by Inclusion Gloucestershire was held in the library, providing further opportunities for support and engagement.

Overall, the week was a meaningful opportunity to celebrate diversity, build understanding, and reinforce our commitment to creating a school culture where every individual feels recognised, respected, and able to flourish.



SPRING WEATHER REMINDER

For Parents & Students



Warmer Days Are Here!

Temperatures are rising and pollen levels are increasing.

Please come prepared for the change in weather.



Bring a Refillable Water Bottle

Stay hydrated throughout the school day—especially as it gets warmer!



Hayfever Awareness

If you suffer from hayfever, please remember to:

- ✓ Take medication before school
- ✓ Bring tissues if needed
- ✓ Let staff know if symptoms worsen

 **Let's Stay Healthy & Comfortable This Spring!** 

Thank you for your support 
— The Crypt School

CSPTA Committee Meeting – All Welcome

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The next CSPTA Committee Meeting will take place on Monday 23rd March at 6:30pm.

This meeting will be held online, and all parents and carers are very welcome to join.

Join via Zoom:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81690443486>

We look forward to seeing you there

Last chance to get your tickets for the CSPTA Easter raffle!

One
hamper per
year group



Tickets £1

Tickets can be bought via 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



The Crypt School Parent Teacher Association

Parents, Teachers and Friends

cspta@cryptschool.org

Our next meeting to be held on
Monday 23rd March 2026 at 6.30pm

Venue: Online

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**

Upcoming Vacancies for Treasurer, Vice-Chairman and 200 Club

25 March Spring Concert

18 June New Y7 Pastoral Evening

24 June Open Morning

1 July Y7 and 8 Showcase Concert

4 July Cabaret Evening – possibility to have optional food and drink tickets (Ms Crozier)

7. **School Clothing Sales**
Possible sale of school scarves

8. **200 Club**

9. **Dates of next meetings**
Tuesday 28th April – Annual General Meeting
Monday 18th May
Tuesday 30th June

Young Lives Vs Cancer Bakesale

**YOUNG LIVES
vs CANCER**

We're holding a bake sale on Thursday 26th March to raise funds for Young Lives vs Cancer, a charity that provides vital support to young people and their families.

We would be very grateful for any donations of cakes, biscuits or other baked treats (homemade or shop-bought). **NO NUTS PLEASE** Donations can be dropped off at reception on the day.

Thank you, as always, for your support – it will help provide great care and support to young people who really need it.



Music Newsletter

On Wednesday, our Year 11 students performed their GCSE performance pieces to a small audience of family and friends. They have all practised and refined their technique and delivered a strong and diverse range of music, from Purcell to The Beatles. This also signifies that 30% of their GCSE is now complete and we look forward to hearing their composition work soon.

A massive well done to Daniel, Layla, Zachary, Jai, Charles B, Charles D, Will, Samuel and Abigail for taking on all their feedback and showing a strong ethic to succeed in music.





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

Celebrating Eirwen's Incredible Cotswold Marathon Victory!

What an extraordinary feat for Eirwen in Year 8, who has once again embraced the challenge of the Cotswold Marathon—and this time emerged victorious as part of the winning team on the Bronze route!

Representing 1st Upton St Leonard's Scout Group, Eirwen and her teammates navigated the gruelling 10-mile night hike across the Cotswolds. Starting from Scout Headquarters at Murray Hall, their route took them over Robinswood Hill, Painswick Beacon, and through Cranham before finishing at Birdlip.

Organised by the Scouts, the event is famously described as “a test of endurance, teamwork, and orienteering in the dark.” This year's conditions made it even tougher: cold, heavy rain, slippery slopes, and foot-deep mud—one unlucky boot didn't survive! At times they were practically skiing downhill, yet spirits remained high, with plenty of laughter. One teammate quipped that Eirwen was constantly urging them on: “Go faster—there's no pleasing that woman!”

Competing alongside around 60 teams from across the region—including Bristol—Eirwen's team completed the course in just 2 hours 53 minutes, a huge improvement on last year and far ahead of many teams, some of whom took over six hours. Their performance secured first place in the Bronze event, earning the prestigious Gait Trophy for their Scout unit—a moment of real pride.

This success was no accident. Eirwen committed fully to training hikes and pushed herself every step of the way. Choosing to take on the marathon, entirely voluntarily, demonstrates her courage, determination, and team spirit.

Despite sore legs the next day, she—and we—have every reason to feel immensely proud. A brilliant example of perseverance, camaraderie, and positivity in action.

Official results: <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1AwDJbvUdW/>

Event website: <https://cotswoldmarathon.org.uk/>

Huge congratulations, Eirwen



Healthcare Study on Children and Young People

The school has been asked to share this request for volunteers to participate in healthcare research for 0-18 year olds. Participation in research interviews must be arranged outside school hours.

"Healthcare Opinions recruit participants for healthcare market research studies, working alongside Acumen Health (the Healthcare department of Acumen Fieldwork) and our clients. We work on a range of studies, including medical device testing, patient and healthcare professional feedback, as well as online accessibility testing. To find out more about what we do, you can visit our Healthcare Opinions website, as well as our Acumen Health website.

"We are looking to speak to parents/guardians of 0-7-year-olds, parents/guardians and young children aged 8-15, as well as 16-18-year-olds, where the child has been admitted to hospital (either overnight or as a day-case) within the past 4 months."

Any child taking part, who is 8-15-years-old, will not be expected to join the interview for the full 90-minutes – approximately 45-60 minutes.

<https://www.healthcareopinions.co.uk/projects/0-18s-andhospital-visits/>

Try Sailing this Spring with Frampton-on-Severn Sailing Club!

Looking for a fun, affordable, outdoor activity for your child? The local Frampton-on-Severn Sailing Club is running spring beginner courses for ages 7–17. No boat or prior experience is required—all equipment is provided, and friendly instructors teach in small groups. These spring sessions are the perfect way to build confidence and prepare for their fun-filled Summer Junior Week! It's also a great activity for older students working toward their DofE awards.

Find out more and sign up here: <https://www.fossc.org.uk/sailing/frampton-juniors>

Junior Sail Training 2026



Learn to sail safely & with confidence
Ages 7 – 17
Covers all the skills needed to use club facilities and sign up for Junior Week!

✓ RYA Qualified
Instructors teaching
in small groups (6:1)

Optimist Course (IOCA) - £80

Ages 7-12

Sunday mornings 10th May – 28th June

RYA Stage 1 & 2 - £90

Ages 10-17

All-day Saturdays 18th April – 16th May

Advanced courses also available, see website for info)



← Sign Up Here!

www.fossc.org.uk/training-courses/rya-youth-sailing-courses-ysc

ONBOARD
RYA



Meningitis outbreak: Symptoms and what you need to know



Following an outbreak in Kent, here's a clear guide to what meningitis is, how it spreads and the symptoms to look for...

What meningitis is

Meningitis is an infection of the protective membranes around the brain and spinal cord. It can affect anyone, but it's most common in babies, children, teenagers and young adults.

Causes of meningitis

It is usually caused by a bacterial or viral infection. Bacterial meningitis is rarer but more serious than viral meningitis.

How serious meningitis can be

Without quick treatment, meningitis can lead to sepsis, brain or nerve damage, hearing loss - or can be fatal. Some people are left with long-term complications even after treatment.

Symptoms of meningitis

A high temperature, headache, vomiting and a stiff neck. People may also become sensitive to bright lights, feel very sleepy or confused, or have seizures.

How meningitis spreads

Through coughing, sneezing, kissing or close contact with someone carrying the bacteria or viruses in their nose or throat. It can spread from someone with meningitis, but this is less common.

Treatment for meningitis

- Viral meningitis usually gets better on its own.
- Bacterial meningitis needs urgent hospital treatment - typically antibiotics, fluids and oxygen. Most people treated quickly make a full recovery.

If you think you or someone you know has meningitis, call 999 for an ambulance or go to the nearest A&E

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



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.



Activities

Free activities that can be booked online including:

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



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

glos hafconnector@gmail.com

07340709871

familyhubs.gloucestershire.gov.uk



Glos city HAF

Free Spring Activities for Children, Young People & Families



The Holiday Activity and Food programme (HAF) returns this Spring with lots of fun activities and delicious food available for children and families from **28th March**

HAF activities are available for children and young people who receive benefits-related free school meals. This Spring we are also able to extend this offer to any child who may benefit from attending the programme, through our grant funded Holiday Activities Programme (HAP).

Bookings open from midday on 23rd March. Make sure you're ready to book by checking your account now

familyhubs.gloucestershire.gov.uk

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
- Your details reflect any recent changes (e.g. new address, phone contact details)

Setting up an account is easy:

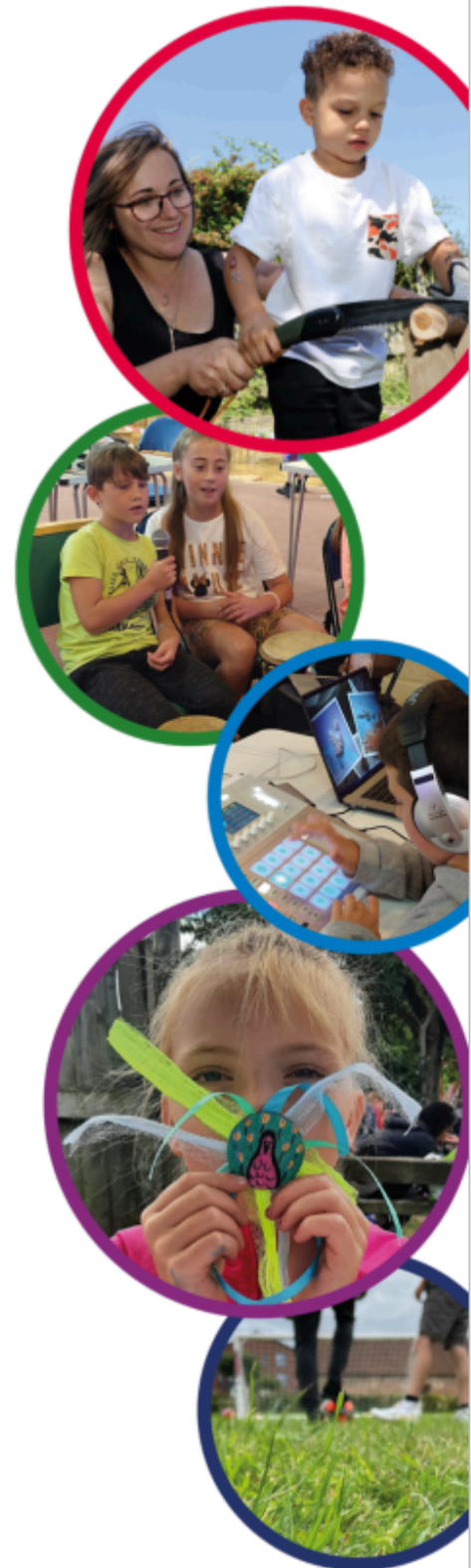
Scan this QR Code with a phone camera for quick access



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

T: 07340 709 871

E: gloshafconnector@gmail.com



Discover your future in Accountancy with Bishop Fleming

Join us in Cheltenham for our in-person insight evening

If you're considering a career in accountancy after school or college, join us for our in-person insight evening to discover Bishop Fleming and the accountancy Apprenticeships we offer. Whether you're exploring career options or ready to begin a professional accountancy journey while earning, this event will give you the insights you need.

You'll not only learn about the apprenticeship pathway, but also:

- **See where you could be working** - get a feel for the environment you could be part of
- **Meet our people** - hear from our team, from current Apprentices to experienced Partners
- **Understand what a career in accountancy really looks like** - learn more about our firm and the services we offer to our clients
- **Get ready to take the next**  about our recruitment process and the support and training we provide for our Apprentices

This is your chance to see what a career in accountancy is all about, connect with inspiring professionals, and take the first step toward building a rewarding career with Bishop Fleming.

Date

Wednesday 25th March 2026

Time

Time: 5:00pm - 7:00pm

Location

Bishop Fleming, 10 North Place, Cheltenham GL50 4DW



Scan to sign up

Accept Invitation - I'd like to attend

