The Crypt School

EST. 1539

FRIDAY 20 NOVEMBER 2026 ◆ ISSUE 81



Nicholas Dyer
HEADMASTER

HEADMASTER'S LETTER

Academic update

Dear parents/carers and students,

I hope that this letter finds you all well.

Students are always busy working on their academic studies, and for year 13 and 11 this year is of particular importance with A Level and GCSE examinations beginning in May, 2027. To help support them in their work, and to assess their progress to date, important assessments and mock exams are, or will be taking place in school for these two year groups. Year 13 are currently undertaking their November assessments, and year 11 will have their formal mock examinations (held in the school hall) the week commencing the 7th of December, lasting for the last two weeks of term 2. Information about year 11 mocks has already been communicated home and to year 11 students (that information is also on our website). The outcomes of these assessments will help inform teaching, interventions, and students' own revision planning across terms 3-5.

I do hope Year 11 parent/carer evening, held last night in school, was helpful in parents'/carers' ability to both support their child with ongoing work, and to support their decisions regarding their post-16 destinations.

Each year group has now received a data/effort report home, with year 13 and now year 11 also having a parents'/carers' consultation evening. I do hope that those reports are useful to parents/carers in support of your child's education and progress in whichever year group they might be in.

Well done to those mathematicians involved in the Senior Kangaroo and Maths Olympiad held in school on Wednesday - we shall now await their results, but I am sure that all involved benefited from the experience.

Cologne Trip Years 9 and 10

40 pupils, accompanied by staff, and led by Mrs Thompson left for Cologne on the annual Christmas Market trip on Thursday after-school and who are away for the weekend. I am sure that all those travelling to Germany to visit the historic city of Cologne, to practise their German and to enjoy the culture, food and Christmas festivities on offer will enjoy a wonderful trip away.

Personal development and enrichment

Many of our talented young school singers enjoyed singing at the Teenage Voices Project, held at Gloucester Cathedral on Thursday evening, and organised by our music staff Mrs Banda and Mr Slemensek. I understand that it was a very worthwhile event to be part of and well done to all involved. As part of our whole school commitment to creating a school environment that is free of any form of bullying, Mr Bevan (Assistant Headteacher: Pastoral) and our anti-bullying student ambassadors, led an anti bullying assembly on Tuesday morning, in which they set out how damaging bullying can be to those affected by it, and reminded everyone that bully-

ing in any form is simply not acceptable at our school. Kindness is one of our five school values and we expect all of our students to display kindness towards others in school, and also to show responsibility (another one of our school values) in reporting any form of bullying they may observe to a member of staff.

Sport

Sport continues to enthuse many of our students, and this week has been no exception, with fixtures in a variety of sports, including football, netball, and rugby. Good luck to our U17 rugby first team, who take on Hereford Sixth Form College, Friday night lights, at Old Cryptians!

School Prefects

At this time of year, we look to year 12 students to step up into student leadership roles, as year 13 students increasingly look forward to their A level examination and future plans. Applications from Y12 for School Prefect closed today, and I am delighted that we have received over 80 applications. Our prefects play an important part in school life, with their duty rota responsibilities, mentoring and student voice. Thank you to everyone who has put themselves forward.

Staff achievements

After two years of work, many congratulations to Mr Lipscombe (biology) for achieving his MSc in Psychology and Neuroscience of Mental Health from King's College London. A wonderful achievement.

My continued best wishes,



Nicholas Dyer
HEADMASTER

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

24th Nov	Y9 Options Evening in school	**2nd Dec**	CSPTA Movie Night 3.30-6.30pm
25th Nov	Gabrieli Roar, Tewkesbury Abbey	**4th Dec**	Lockdown practice 10.45am
25th Nov	Y11 Sports Science Trip Gloucester University	**7th Dec**	Y11 mock examinations begin
27th Nov	Animal Farm 7pm Main Hall	**10th Dec**	Carol Service, St Barnabas' Church
28th Nov	Animal Farm 7pm Main Hall		

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.

SCHOOL UPDATE

Trustee Vacancies



A reminder that the School is currently seeking applications to join its Board of Trustees/Governors. This is an important role that offers the chance to make a lasting difference to the young people in our community. We aspire to have a welcoming Board that reflects the diversity of our school community and encourage any parent or carer who wishes to be involved with the governing body to put themselves forward. Alternatively, if you have a friend or colleague who might be interested in the role, please point them towards the information and application forms on our website. Applications should be submitted by 30 November 2026.

CSPTA

The CSPTA Advent Raffle



There's not one but TWELVE chances to win in our Advent Raffle!

The prizes: an overnight stay for two at Broom Hill Retreat including a private wood fired hot tub; a Fortnum & Mason hamper; a Champneys hamper; a £25 restaurant voucher for Mumbai N Co; two Lego sets; a £20 PlayStation voucher; a £20 Cineworld voucher; a Chameleon travel game and Xmas snacks; a Cadburys chocolate Santa house gift set; a bottle of Baileys; a bottle of prosecco; and a bottle of red wine.

All monies raised go directly to projects and resources to benefit Crypt School students. Examples of recent projects we've supported include sports equipment, books for the library and a contribution to musical instruments.

Tickets are available now via ParentPay (£1 each) and entries close on 27th November.

SCHOOL EVENT

Last call for tickets: Animal Farm



We are very much looking forward to two performances of Animal Farm on Friday 27 and Saturday 28 November. Tickets are currently available but are selling fast, so please grab yours via the QR code here, through our donation portal, Give as you Live. While tickets will be available at the door, we encourage you to buy in advance to ensure there is sufficient seating for everyone to enjoy the performances. Thank you.

SCHOOL EVENT

Jolabokaflod: join something special!



We are inviting all students to participate in our Jolabokaflod event!

We are asking students to donate books for all ages that they no longer want at home. They should be of good quality and we are asking for fiction texts only - no non-fiction, please. They need to be taken to Mrs McAvoy in room 25, Mrs Stoneman in room 24 or Mrs Jordan in the library. If donations could reach us by 27th November, that would be amazing.

Students are all then invited to come and choose one of the donated books to gift to someone at home ready for the festive holidays. There will be a gift-wrapping station available! Dates for this will be shared soon...

As the festive season approaches, let's all share the adventure and joy that a new story brings.

SIXTH FORM

Are you a dentist or vet?

We are looking for guest speakers to come and talk to our students about a career in either Dentistry or Veterinary Science. Please get in touch if you currently work in either of these fields and would be prepared to come in and talk at a lunchtime to sixth form students who are looking at these careers.

Please email Susan Glock on sglock@crypt.gloucs.sch.uk if you think you can help us.

CSPTA

CSPTA Movie Night: Year 7 & Year 8

Home Alone in the Hall on Wednesday 2 December, from 3.30pm to 6.30pm

There's no charge to watch the film, but please buy popcorn and squash for £3 in advance on ParentPay to support the CSPTA. Please do this by Friday 27 November. (If your child would still like to come and not have the squash or popcorn please complete this Google Form to book their free place.)

Hot chocolate, cans of soft drink, hot dogs and sweets will also be available to buy on the evening.

TRIPS & VISITS

GCSE History trip to London



Our Year 11 History students had a very enjoyable trip to London on Friday, starting very early with a full day of activities. Students started with a walking tour from Westminster to Lincoln's Inn Fields, taking in many of the major landmarks & narrating the story of 17th century London (highlights included the site of Charles I's execution at Whitehall, and ended near Covent Garden, rebuilt in the years after the Great Fire). On a beautiful autumnal day, students could soak up the sights & sounds of London. Students then had time at the Hunterian Museum, which links to their GCSE medicine through time module. They could explore the weird & wonderful collection left by John Hunter, the 'father of surgery'. The day culminated in a wonderful visit to St Paul's Cathedral (which links to their Restoration England module - it was rebuilt after the Great Fire 1666). Students were able to go behind the scenes and see the (huge!) model, the Cathedral's crypt, and experience the dome lying down in the centre of the cathedral, a truly special experience.







Music Newsletter



It has been a wonderful and exciting time for the Music Department!

Young Voices and our other talented student musicians gave a brilliant performance at Gloucester Cathedral on Thursday, joining forces with St. Peter's High School, Gloucester Academy and Newent Community School. The rich and diverse programme of music included Panis Angelicus, The Old Superb with Bohemian Rhapsody and You Can't Stop the Beat. Sebastian and Charles provided drums and bass guitar and The Magnificats gave a strong performance of Finzi's My Spirit Sang All Day. William gave an excellent performance of Greenwood's The Acrobat. It was a fantastic celebration of music-making and collaboration, and we are incredibly proud of everyone involved.

We would like to congratulate Oscar and Sophie for their exceptional performance in Nativity! The Musical at the Cheltenham Playhouse last week.

Looking ahead, excitement is building for Mr Handel's Christmas Story with Gabrieli Roar, taking place at Tewkesbury Abbey next Wednesday, 25th November. Our choir have been preparing with great dedication and impressive vocal prowess. Highlights of the programme include the spectacular Hallelujah Chorus, And the Glory of the Lord, Hark! How All the Welkin Rings and Shepherds, Rejoice.

Preparations are underway for our annual Carol Service, which will take place at St. Barnabas' Church on Thursday, 10th December. The service will feature performances from our Symphony Orchestra, Cantores Cryptienses choir and a range of other student-based ensembles. A letter containing further details will be sent out soon.

Star soloists Ella, Reuben and Calvin plus Liv from Y13 on the cello, will be joining to perform with Newent Choral Society on Saturday 5th December for Light in Winter, with a selection of festive music including A Ceremony of Carols (Benjamin Britten), Fantasia on Christmas Carols (Ralph Vaughan Williams) along with traditional carols.

Finally, we have an Upper Voices choir performing in the Britten's St Nicolas with Ross Choral Society on Saturday 12th December.



There is certainly plenty to look forward to as we head towards the festive season. Well done to all our wonderful young musicians for their hard work, commitment and enthusiasm!

COMMUNITY & EXTERNAL NOTICES

How to help your child study with ADHD

Elevate Education will be hosting their next parent webinar on helping your child study with ADHD on Tuesday 24th November, 6-7pm (GMT). Register here.

COMMUNITY & EXTERNAL NOTICES

Poets Pantry food appeal in Podsmead

They are collecting tinned and long-life food items to help support local people and families in our community, and are asking for donations of: tinned vegetables, tinned fruit, tinned beans and pulses, tinned soup, tinned meat and fish, tinned pasta and ready meals, pasta and rice, cereals, and other non-perishable, long-life food items.

Every tin and every donation can make a difference. By working together, we can help keep the Poets Pantry stocked and support people and families in our local community.

Please place any donations on the Crush Hall table.



SCHOOL UPDATE

Children in Need: thank you!

Well done to the whole Crypt School community for raising a fantastic £1,629 for Children in Need through donations on ParentPay. Thank you to everyone who took part in our non-uniform day and to all those who donated. Your generosity will help support children and young people across the UK.

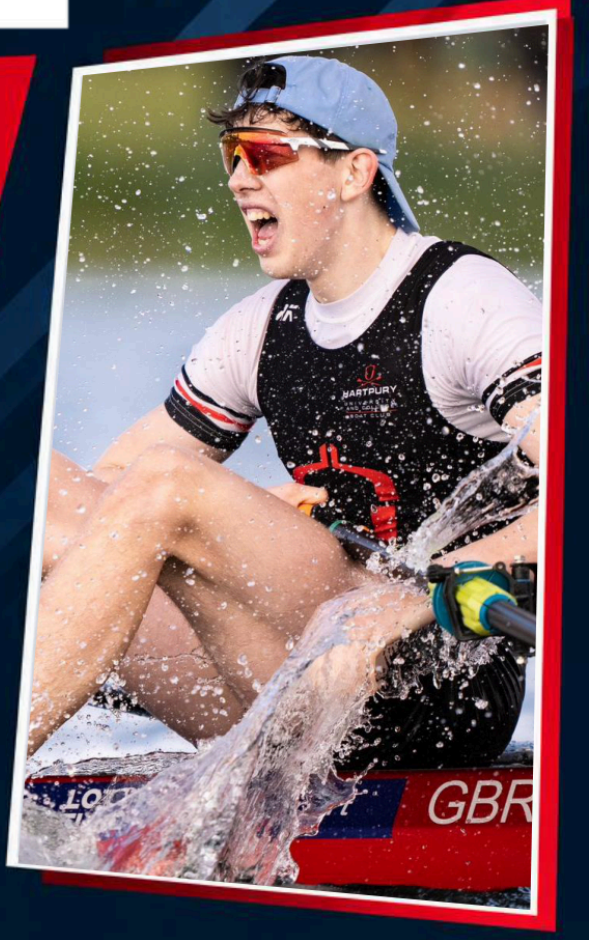


GB Performance Development Academy – Hartpury

BRITISH ROWING

TESTING DAY

COULD YOU BE THE NEXT OLYMPIAN?



SATURDAY 12TH DECEMBER
1:30PM – 3PM

GLOUCESTER BOATHOUSE
David Hook Way, Gloucestershire

STRENGTH TESTING | **ENDURANCE TESTING** | **HEIGHT MEASUREMENTS**

RUN BY BRITISH ROWING AND HARTPURY COLLEGE STAFF

CASE STUDY: FERGUS WOOLNOUGH

From Stonehouse, Fergus was recruited through this programme and is now a funded athlete with the GB Rowing Team, has won countless medals at the World Championships, and is now working towards the **LA Olympics.**

SIGN UP NOW!



BRITISH ROWING | HARTPURY COLLEGE

tom.jenkinson@britishrowing.org

HAF WINTER

2026

Key dates

16-30TH NOVEMBER

SEND family priority bookings open

30TH NOVEMBER

HAF LISTING GO LIVE

21ST DECEMBER

ACTIVITIES BEGIN





ALL ENQUIRES

HAF@PARENTANDCARERALLIANCE.ORG.UK

WWW.PARENTANDCARERALLIANCE.ORG.UK