



Headmaster's Letter

23rd January 2026

Dear parents/carers and students

Royal Visit to Crypt

Well not quite, but the Her Majesty the Queen's helicopter landed at Crypt on Wednesday morning, and it was a great honour for the Head Boy (Liam) and Head Girl (Tianna) to present Her Majesty with a lovely bunch of flowers to welcome her to The Crypt School and to Gloucestershire. After landing on the school field, the motorcade headed off into Quedgely for some engagements, and then onto Cheltenham. I'm sure the fleeting visit will last long in the memories of all who were present, and in particular in the memory of our head boy and head girl.

Academic work

Across this week, the MFL department has been running the Linguists Olympiad, a very challenging event for our most able linguists. Revision and support sessions for our exam candidates in year 11 and 13 are in full swing now, as year 13 work towards their mock exams in two weeks' time, year 11 another set of internal assessments in , and of course the actual public examinations this summer. I have the great privilege, with other senior leadership team colleagues, to drop into many lessons across the academic year; I am always deeply impressed with the positive interactions that I observe taking place between our teaching staff and our students, the high level answers that are given by students and the strong determination I observe on behalf of all parties to really make, and encourage strong progress across the curriculum. In a year 7 English lesson by example, I enjoyed talking with students about their reading, and was impressed to learn of the the novel they are



studying which i though was both challenging in its content, informative in terms of its relevance to their lives and to our



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



world today, and structurally complex enabling all students to make strong progress in their learning. In a year 13 philosophy lesson, students were tackling really challenging questions on folk philosophy and expressing their ideas in highly academic ways, making reference to key thinkers and offering a critique of the philosophy under discussion and debate. In a year 13, English Literature lesson, students were revisiting year 12 work on Gothic literature, using their study of Frankenstein as the vehicle to pull out the key themes of that genre of literature, whilst also considering plot, characterisation, and historical setting. Fascinating and very educative for me!

Year 11 - Post 16 destinations

Applications to study A levels at The Crypt School Sixth Form closed today, and once again the school has received a record number from both our own students, who are all guaranteed a place in year 12 subject to them meeting our entry grades, and from students in other schools and colleges in the area. Letters offering provisional places to year 11 students who have applied to study in year 12 from September, will be sent home in due course and, as the year progresses, year 11 applicants will receive further information on the enrolment and admissions process, including an invitation to join us at our annual Year 12 Summer School, to be held in June.

Enrichment

It has been a memorable and exciting week for those involved in the performing and creative arts. On Monday afternoon, students enjoyed a Macbeth operatic workshop with Longborough Festival Opera, who are based in Moreton-in-March. Mr Whittaker sets out more details on this workshop later in this newsletter. On Wednesday, we enjoyed a year 9 music concert, attended by many of our year 9 families, with everyone present thoroughly impressed by the standard of musicality on show. Music and performance continue to flourish at the Crypt. On Thursday, members of year 11 enjoyed a session with the National Space Academy, organised by the physics department. Across the week many sporting fixtures have happened, including the first year 7 boys football match against Chosen Hill (a draw I understand) and girls netball.

F1 in Schools

The school received some great news this week: that both our F1 teams are now progressing to the National finals in March. Both teams have worked incredibly hard in this project and now both our teams - Ceres and Altai Racing - will be heading to Rotherham, competing against teams from across the nation, and competing against each other as well. Good luck and best wishes to both teams.

Community Hour

Wednesday morning saw a break from the routine of lessons, with our third community hour of the academic year. This one was focused on future careers, and the importance of work experience. Years 7-9 heard from an external speaker, whilst years 10 and 12 considered work experience options for them to consider undertaking later in the year. Years 7-10 and 12 also completed a future skills questionnaire (from the Careers Enterprise Company) which we hope they found useful as they continue to consider the skills and personal qualities they will need to develop to successfully navigate the future labour market. Thanks to Ms Glock and Mr Germaine, our career leader, for organising this event.

With my continued best wishes,



Nicholas Dyer
Headmaster

Dates For Your Diary

Monday 26th January	Drama Trip – University of Gloucestershire
Tuesday 27th January	Theatre Trip – The Woman in Black Birmingham
Tuesday 27th January	CSPTA meeting 6:30pm
Thursday 29th January	Year 9 Parent/Carer Evening (Virtual)
Monday 29th January	Y9 Drama Producer Workshop
Monday 2nd February	Y11 Intro Evening
Tuesday 3rd February	Ski Trip Meeting
Thursday 5th February	Y9 Fame Lab
Friday 6th February	Y10 University of Bath trip
Wednesday 11th February	Evening GWS Cathedral
Thursday 12th February	Y12 Parent/carers evening
Friday 13th February	Y12 MP Visit Music Trip Belgium Term 3 Ends

The Crypt School Academy Trust – Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of The Crypt School Academy Trust will be held at The Crypt School on Monday 9 February 2026, 4pm (Room 24). Parents/carers may attend the AGM in school and are asked to notify the Clerk or the School Office (01452 530291, email clerk@crypt.gloucs.sch.uk) by 5pm on 4th February 2026 that they will attend in person.

If parents/carers have any questions for the Trustees at this meeting, these must be sent in writing to Mrs Nicola Donlon, Clerk to the Trustees (email clerk@crypt.gloucs.sch.uk) by 5pm on Monday 2nd February 2026.

Going the Extra Mile for Talk Well

The Crypt School presented a cheque for £5000 to the Talk Well Charity on Monday. Students and Staff were challenged to see how far around the world they could go, running, walking, cycling, or swimming. As a school, we managed to cover just under 20,000 miles and raised £5000. Those pictured took on the extra challenge of seeing if they could complete the marathon distance of 26.2 miles in a week, which they all did. Thank you to everyone in the school community who donated to a wonderful charity.



Library Newsletter

We have had a very busy couple of weeks with students returning from the Christmas break and telling me they have enjoyed the book they borrowed over the holiday.

Over the past week students have been collecting the Hobbit/Lord of the Rings quiz which is taking place to celebrate J.R.R. Tolkien's birthday. At the end of this week, we will be having an event in the library for all students to take part to win prizes.

A special thankyou to Jane from Cheltenham who donated a wonderful selection of fiction books for years 7 to 11.

They are now on our shelves and students are enjoying the new choice of books.

We always welcome donations – so if you do have any book(s) you no longer want please do think of us; all donations are gratefully received.

Students are asked regularly if they have any recommendations and it is always nice to hear students talk with enthusiasm about a book they have enjoyed. This helps us keep up to date with the types of genres the students enjoy as well as new titles and book series.



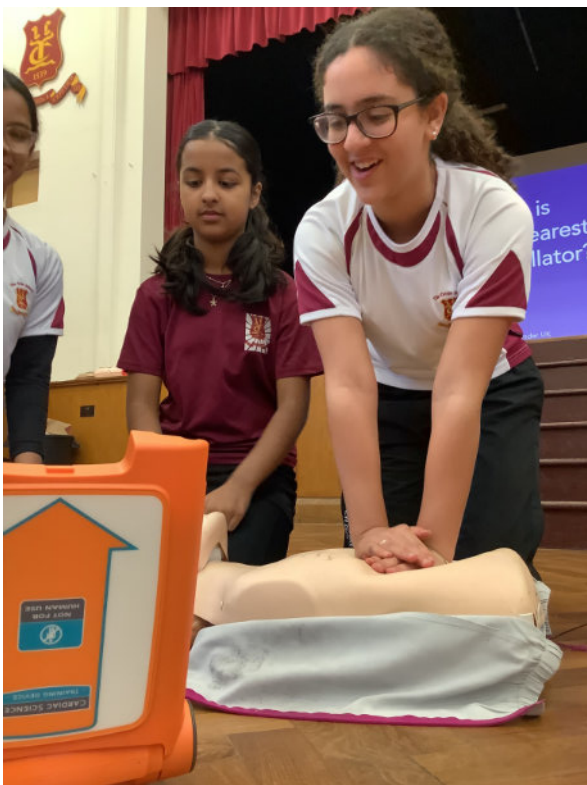
Year 8 Learn Life-Saving CPR Skills

On Tuesday 13 January, all students in Year 8 took part in an important and inspiring CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) training session, delivered by the Great Western Air Ambulance Charity.

Every student in the year group participated in this hands-on workshop, learning essential life-saving skills that could one day help them respond confidently and effectively in an emergency. The sessions were practical, engaging, and age-appropriate, giving students the opportunity to practise CPR techniques and understand when and how to act.

Why learning CPR matters

- Cardiac arrest can happen to anyone, anywhere, and immediate action is critical. Research shows that:
- Early CPR can double or even triple a person's



chance of survival For someone in cardiac arrest, every minute without CPR reduces survival by around 10%

- Many cardiac arrests happen at home, meaning bystanders — often family members — are the first and most important responders



By learning CPR at school, our students are gaining skills that could save a life in their community, now or in the future.

Students showed excellent focus, maturity, and enthusiasm throughout the sessions. Many commented on how empowering it felt to know they could make a real difference in an emergency situation.

"I didn't realise how important CPR was until the workshop. It was hands-on and really interesting, and now I feel more confident that I could actually help someone in an emergency." **Year 8 student**



"Working with students at The Crypt during the CPR workshop was a real highlight — they were attentive, enthusiastic, and genuinely eager to learn life-saving skills." **Forrest Wheeler, GWAAC volunteer**

"It was great to watch all of 8DW fully engaged the whole session. They listened well, contributed positively during discussion, and then actively carried out emergency first aid sensibly and energetically on their 'people'. The pupils would have learnt a great deal about how to respond to an emergency situation and the staff were fantastic in the way they explained each stage of DRSABCD". **Mrs Duxbury, Head of Year 10.**

We are extremely grateful to the Great Western Air Ambulance Charity for giving up their time to come into school and work with our students. Their volunteers shared their expertise with passion and professionalism, helping to make the sessions both memorable and impactful.

To find out more about their life-saving work or how to support them, please visit:

www.greatwesternairambulance.com

This training has equipped our Year 8 students with knowledge, confidence, and skills that truly can save lives — an invaluable part of their education.

CRYPT SPORT

National Quarter Finalists!

The Crypt School U15 girls delivered a superb performance to secure their place in the quarter-finals of the ESFA Small Schools Cup, defeating Forres Sandle School 8-0 despite some awful weather conditions.

From the first whistle, Crypt took control of the match, playing confident, attacking football on a pitch made challenging by heavy rain and standing water. The team adapted brilliantly, moving the ball well and showing great determination, skill, and teamwork throughout.

Although chances were limited at the Crypt end, goalkeeper Libby remained fully focused and produced an outstanding save, quite literally launching herself into a puddle to keep a clean sheet. It summed up the commitment and bravery shown by every player on the pitch.

Goals flowed at the other end as Crypt dominated possession and converted their opportunities clinically, resulting in an impressive 8-0 scoreline and a thoroughly deserved victory.

A huge thank you also goes to Mrs Knight and Mrs Dyer, who provided fantastic support, great company, and served as unofficial team mascots on the long journey. Their encouragement was greatly appreciated by players and staff alike.

An outstanding team performance in difficult conditions, well done to all involved!



Music Newsletter

On Tuesday 20th January, students took part in an insightful and exciting workshop led by Longborough Opera. Exploring the works of Macbeth, pupils developed skills in stagecraft and expressive singing, gaining valuable insight into professional operatic practice.

We were delighted to host an extraordinary Year 9 Showcase on Wednesday 21st January, featuring a vibrant programme of classical, musical theatre, pop and jazz performances. The evening was warmly received by family and friends of the school, making it a truly memorable celebration of our students' talent. We hope many will continue onto GCSE Music.

Looking ahead, Vox Floreat are just three weeks away from their concert tour of Belgium and are sounding delightful in rehearsal. Their programme includes Parry's I Was Glad, Palestrina's Sicut Cervus, Stainer's God So Loved the World, alongside secular favourites such as ELO's Mr Blue Sky and Queen's Bohemian Rhapsody.

Finally, our Spring Concert will take place on Wednesday 25th March. We are pleased to extend an invitation to all parents and carers who would like to sing with Cantores Cryptienses in a performance of the magnificent Fauré Requiem. We would love you to join us for this special occasion and included an invite link below to complete by Friday 30th January.

Spring Concert Parent Invitation Link
<https://forms.gle/Ws74uPdn1z1dHMzK8>





The Crypt School Parent Teacher Association

Parents, Teachers and Friends

cspta@cryptschool.org

Our next meeting to be held on
Monday 27th January 2026 at 6.30pm

Venue: Sports Classroom 1, Sports Block, The Crypt School

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**
Football bid
5. **School Report**
Sarah Veal – Development Manager
6. **Events and Staffing**
27 February Quiz Night
Open Mornings 18 and 19 March (one 9.30am session each day)
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**
8. **200 Club**
9. **Dates of next meetings**
Tuesday 24th February
Monday 23rd March
Tuesday 28th April
Monday 18th May
Tuesday 30th June
10. **AOB**
Date of AGM

Chairman: Mike Byfield

Vice Chairman: Tracy Scott

Secretary: Sharon Byfield

Treasurer: Steve Scott

Web: <http://www.cryptschool.org/association-aims/> Email: cspta@cryptschool.org

The Crypt School Association, Podsmead Road, Gloucester GL2 5AE

The Crypt School Association is a registered charity dedicated to supporting the school, registration number 280200

Join us for the CSPTA

QUIZ NIGHT

Friday 27th Feb 2026

Doors open: 18:15

Quiz starts: 19:00

At The Crypt School

**LICENSED BAR
AND SNACKS
AVAILABLE ALL
EVENING**

**Teams of up to 6
(8 if including children)
or join a team on the night**

**Adults: £5
Under 18s: £2.50**

**RAFFLE
TICKETS
FOR SALE
ON THE
NIGHT**



Book via ParentPay or email cspta@cryptschool.org

The Great Gloucestershire Mouse Hunt

Mon 26th - Fri 30th January 2026

Donate your working USB mice, USB keyboards and computer power leads to our charity. We will re-home them with people in need.



Find your closest drop-off point



ITSA is a computer recycling and IT education charity in Cheltenham, helping disadvantaged people to access IT in Gloucestershire and Africa.

Charity No: 1146157 | Tel: 01242 228800 | itsadigitaltrust.org

Study Cafe

Join us in a relaxed youth space to study, make friends, and chill out after school



What?

Free snacks and hot drinks, sofas, plugs, desks, wifi, good music, chill vibes, and other young people in a safe, warm space

Run by?

Flo and Harriet from Fair Shares. We won't be 'running' the sessions, just on hand to make hot drinks and snacks



Who is it for?

Any young person (11-18, you don't have to be in school) who wants a calm, warm space to relax, study, and be with other young people outside of education and without teachers!

When & Where?

Tuesdays, 3:30pm-6:00pm
Bartongate Children's and
Family Centre
Sinope St, Gloucester GL1 4AW



Contact Flo
07859062016
flo@fairshares.org.uk

Fair Shares
community time banks