

Headmaster's Letter

23rd October 2026

Dear parents/carers and students,

I hope that this letter finds you all well as we head into the half term break.

It's certainly been a busy term for all students, and staff with strong progress being made across the full spectrum of school life: in the academic sphere, in enrichment and in supporting each student's individual personal development; in our career and futures guidance work; in the development and strengthening of students' personal skills and qualities; in the forging of new of friendships and in the development of one's own understanding of self. I hope that all our students can take into half term both personal accomplishments made and much satisfaction in their progress to date in their work, and development as an individual and as a Cryptian.

Open Events

We have been exceptionally busy over the last two weeks hosting many prospectvie Cryptians and their families at our open events - my thanks to all students and staff, and the CSPTA for their support of these events. On Thursday 5th of November, we will be holding our Sixth Form Open Evening for both our own, and other Year 11 students and their families to attend. The evening is intended to help all year 11 students and their families find out more about our exceptional sixth form offer here at Crypt, as these students begin to make decisions around their post 16 options.

Academic update

As Year 11, move further into their GCSE studies, and look forward to their mock examinations in December, we once again hosted a GCSE revision and support workshop, given by external

company Elevate Education. The workshops were very well received, giving individuals valuable ideas and techniques on how best to manage their studies and revision as they move towards their exams.

Personal development and enrichment

As noted last week, it was a pleasure to accompany 34 A Level Politics students to London, on our visit to the Westminster Parliament and the UK Supreme Court. Thank you to Goucester MP Alex McIntyre for taking the time to meet with us and to answer many questions posed by our inquisitive and well informed students.





The musical calendar for term 1 finished on Tuesday, with a wonderful Autumn concert, led and curated by Director Music, Mr Whittaker. My congratulations to all involved in what was a wonderful evening of music.

Sport

The PE and games department provide a full write up of the incredible range of sporting activities from across term 1. I would like to express my thanks to all staff and others who support the sporting life of the school, and who enable so many opportunities at Crypt for participation, for development and for involvement in competitive fixtures and tournaments.

As some parents/carers and students will know, our strength and conditioning programme, run over the past ten or so years, has unfortunately not been running this term. However, Mrs Leask and I have been in discussion about how we can move our S&C programme forwards, and with that in mind, I am delighted to announce the establishment of a new partnership for strength and conditioning at Crypt with sprint coach and Hartpury lecturer, Justin Smith. Justin works at Hartpury University, alongside the elite sports pathways as well as within the Athlete Performance Academy. He is a very well known sprint coach and will bring experience, expertise and new vision to our S&C programme at school, a programme that will grow and develop strongly over the coming years.

Our futures programme

Thank you to all our employer and FE partners for attending our annual Career Fair, which was held in school on Wednesday, and which was organised by Futures (Careers) Leader, Mr Germaine. The event was attended by students across the school, and aimed to raise awareness of the wide range of options available to students both after GCSEs and, in particular after they have completed their A Level studies here at Crypt. In an ever-changing employment and career (or futures) landscape, having advice and guidance from our external partners is invaluable. I would like to offer my thanks to all those who gave up their time to attend; it was especially pleasing to see so many from our alumni network come back to school, to offer their support to the current generation of Crypt students

Alumni success

Congratulations to Crypt alumnus Jack Bywater, who dropped into school last week, to let us - and the current FI in Schools' team - know that he had accepted an offer to work at Atlassian Williams Racing Formula One Team. When he was in the sixth form, Jack was a keen member of the F1 in Schools' teams, and that experience has clearly been of huge benefit to him, as he now embarks on his chosen career path. Jack emailed the school to say that (he would) "like to thank you (FI Lead Teacher, Ms Hall) for believing in me during F1 in schools and helping guide me to where I am today." What a wonderful message to have received.

My continued best wishes,



Nicholas Dyer
Headmaster

Dates For Your Diary

2nd November	Staff Inset School closed to pupils
3rd November	Term 2 starts
5th November	Sixth form open evening from 5pm for Crypt Students

The 2027/28 term dates are now on our website

Board of Governors Meeting

Governors have held their first meeting of this school year and received a report from our Head Girl and Head Boy, Ella and Ollie, on the Student Executive's plans for the year ahead on diversity and inclusion, fundraising and social events. The main item of business was to look in detail at the summer external examination results and expectations for this year's exam groups in Years 11 and 13. The Board also reviewed the terms of reference and membership of its committees and departmental links, and approved its policies for 2026-27 on safeguarding, attendance, health & safety, staff use of Artificial Intelligence and the staff code of conduct. Finally, Governor Suzanne Aspden reported on her review of Teaching and Learning Challenge, and the Board commended all staff for their successful engagement in developing and implementing a whole-school, evidence-based teaching style.

Looking forward, the Board approved plans to recruit some new governors in 2026-27; if anyone is interested in these vacancies, please contact the Clerk, Nicola Donlon, for more information.

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



Senior Maths Challenge

The results of the senior maths challenge arrived this week. 139 students from years 9 to 13 sat the challenge and 83 won a bronze, silver or gold award.

Best in year 9 was Freddie T who also came joint second with the year 10s. Best in year 10 was Rowan M again with silver. Leo W, also silver, was best in year 11. These are terrific results considering the challenge is aimed at VI form students.

Ryan S was best in year 12 with gold and a qualification to a next round, the senior kangaroo. Vikranth Gunam Reddy, second in year 13 also qualified.

Best in school was Eeshaan Perla who qualified for the higher tier follow on round, the British Mathematical Olympiad round 1. Only the top 1,000 candidates qualify for this, and they had to score 101 marks to do so; Eeshaan scored 115.

Empower 2026

On Thursday 16th October, a group of our talented students visited Oxstalls Arena to participate in the regional Empower Cyber Event, an initiative designed to inspire the next generation of digital pioneers and cybersecurity specialists.

Our day was split into two impactful sessions. In the morning, our Year 8/9 girls attended a dedicated session focused on encouraging young women to explore technology and cybersecurity pathways—an initiative aligned with our ongoing commitment to promoting STEM careers among female students. In the afternoon, a second mixed group of students took to the arena floor to tackle the challenges.

Throughout the day, students took part in hands-on workshops run by key industry partners, tech firms, and academic institutions. Across their sessions, our groups completed activities led by:

- NCC Group
- Savient
- University of Gloucestershire
- Curious Coders
- Interrupt Labs
- Capgemini
- NCSC (National Cyber Security Centre)
- Gemba

Working through these interactive workshops, Crypt students demonstrated exceptional logical reasoning, computational thinking, and teamwork as they solved complex cyber problems with ease.

Visiting industry specialists were particularly vocal in their praise, commenting on our students' impressive problem-solving skills, curiosity, and mature approach to complex digital challenges.

Adding to the excitement of the day, our students had the opportunity to meet Alex McIntyre, the local Labour MP, who was attending in support of the event.

Events like Empower Cyber provide invaluable real-world context to our Computer Science curriculum, highlighting the vast array of career opportunities open to our students in the rapidly growing cyber sector. We are extremely proud of how brilliantly both groups represented The Crypt School!











To parents of Musical students – all year groups

You may have heard that Rendcomb College, the independent school in Cirencester, sadly closed in July after 106 years, following significant financial pressures and falling student numbers. Despite efforts to secure a buyer, merger or alternative funding, the College was unable to continue operating.

As part of the closure, the College is now selling its assets, with NCM Auctions managing the sale of equipment, fixtures and fittings. The auction includes a range of musical instruments and associated equipment, which may be of interest to our Musical families.

While the school is exploring potential opportunities to acquire items for student use, there are also many individual lots that parents and students may wish to consider for personal use.

You can browse the auction catalogue here:

https://bidonline.ncmauctions.co.uk/auctions/9806/ncm-au11478

Please note that all purchases would be made directly through the auction, subject to the auctioneer's terms and conditions. The Crypt School is not connected with the auction.

500 Years of The Crypt's History: REVEALED!

Ever wondered what life was like at The Crypt School decades ago?

Or is there a moment in Crypt history that you'd like to know more about?

🎉 Well, wonder no more: Our NEW DIGITAL ARCHIVE is now open!

Explore documents, mementoes and memories spanning more than a century of school life. Discover how the school has changed, revisit moments from the past, and celebrate the people and stories that have made The Crypt what it is today.

Whether you're a former pupil, a current student, a parent, a member of staff or simply curious about our history, there's so much to discover.

🔎 Find your piece of Crypt history and explore the archive now: https://archive.cryptschool.org/login

Medications reminder

If your child requires any medication (including paracetamol and ibuprofen) during the school day this should be left with Reception, please. Your child can then go to Reception as required to receive this medication. This is for the safety of all members of our community. Thank you for understanding.

Library Newsletter

This term has been very busy in the library. Lots of new books, new year 7's enjoying the choice of books, quizzes and events.

Congratulations to Elaina yr 8 for winning our Percy Jackson Quiz, which was to celebrate the fictional characters birthday in August and to Noah B year 8 for winning our language quiz, which was held to celebrate Language week in the school.

Our latest quiz was with a space theme to celebrate Space Week. Congratulations to Trevis yr 8 who won a nice Lego box with spaceships to build.

Everyone who enters the quizzes always receive merits for their efforts.

We also celebrated Harry Potter World Book Day with a quiz after school. Once again, it was a wonderful evening with lots of students celebrating Harry Potter, enjoying the quiz, chocolate frogs, pizza, science experiments and fancy dress. The following week, for those who could not make the afternoon event, a small quiz was held in the library on Friday lunchtime. Again, lots of fun and chocolate frogs.

Our year 7's has now received their choice of the Bookbuzz selection. This is funded by the library and the English department to allow every year 7 get a free book, to keep from the choices they are given. More information can be found on this link.

https://www.booktrust.org.uk/deliver-bookbuzz-secondary













Sports Journalism Club

Emily, a Sixth Form student, is leading our Sports Journalism Club. She is passionate about Formula 1 journalism and has already had her work published in The Paddock Journal.

It is fantastic to see her developing her interests and taking the initiative to inspire other students to explore sports journalism, share their views and develop their writing skills.

Sports journalism club is every Tuesday in C2 at 1:30



TPJ

Tommy Hilfiger made way for adidas, as the sportswear giant became the official fashion sponsor for Mercedes Formula 1 Team.

THE ARRIVAL OF ADIDAS

Words by Emily Ferrett | Illustration by Surina Belk-Gupta

In 2018, Tommy Hilfiger became the official fashion partner of Mercedes-AMG PETRONAS F1. This long-standing relationship resulted in multiple limited-edition clothing collections and helped to transform then Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton into a global ambassador for the brand. In February 2025, as Hamilton made the dramatic move to Scuderia Ferrari, Mercedes announced that it had signed a partnership deal which would see adidas become the new official fashion sponsor for the team.

A Good Replacement?

At first glance, it makes sense for any sportswear brand to sponsor a Formula 1 team, given a clear shared commitment to performance and excellence and adidas certainly represents a fresh perspective as a brand with a set connection to youth culture.

From the start of the brands' partnership with one another, social media has acted as a leading marketing avenue, with numerous posts across the season showing driver George Russell in branded gear. adidas has also begun featuring on Mercedes rookie Kimi Antonelli's social media. Much like we saw with Hamilton and the Tommy Hilfiger relationship, adidas is leveraging its partnership with Mercedes both on and off the track with every member of the Mercedes team, from drivers to mechanics, now wearing adidas merchandise, making it impossible to ignore the new deal.

F1 isn't the only sport that adidas sponsors; they supply equipment for tennis players, sponsor marathons, and numerous football teams. But while F1 is not a new sport, it has never been as popular as it is now. By bagging one of the most successful teams as their official fashion sponsor, adidas is keeping itself a step ahead of other major brands.

There can be no doubt that this multi-million dollar deal will expand both Mercedes and adidas' audiences. The partnership with adidas is bringing a new overall energy to Mercedes. Tommy Hilfiger embodied a classy, elegant, and arguably upper-class aesthetic. Under Tommy Hilfiger, Mercedes was provided with office, travel, and teamwear consisting of crisp white shirts and black trousers. However, with adidas, the team now dons a relaxed, all-black ensemble. Team Principal Toto Wolff has also adopted a more youthful appearance. During the Miami Grand Prix, he sported a burgundy t-shirt and white trousers, marking a notable departure from his previous, perhaps uptight, Tommy Hilfiger style.

The partnership is enabling advances in technology, too. When drivers Russell and Antonelli donned silver puffer jackets at the Bahrain Grand Prix at the start of the 2025 season, they somewhat resembled astronauts. However, these coats feature an adidas CLIMACOOL system that 'maximises the benefit of cooling vests for drivers'. This new technology regulates body temperature in just 20 minutes, making CLIMACOOL jackets more effective than the ice vests preferred by other drivers on the grid. This may not have been a deliberate business move, but it has been an excellent way to draw attention to Mercedes and adidas, sparking conversation online.

Tommy Hilfiger's Future?

While no longer associated with Mercedes, Tommy Hilfiger was the Official Sponsor of the F1 movie and its fictional team APX, crafting a line for them as if it were a real team. While Hamilton attended the Met Gala with Tommy Hilfiger in 2015, this year, Damson Idris, the star of the F1 movie and driver for the APX team, donned Tommy Hilfiger instead. His entrance was a showstopper, arriving in an F1 car while wearing his APX driver's suit and a bedazzled driver's helmet. When revealed, beneath this outfit was a sleek red Tommy Hilfiger suit. Tommy Hilfiger remains an Official Partner of the F1 Academy, an all-female single-seater junior series, and will be making its return to F1 proper as the official apparel partner of Cadillac in 2026.

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Zack crowned national chess champion

Congratulations to Zack Y9 who won the Under 14 title at the 2026 Delancey UK Chess Challenge Terafinal at Blenheim Palace on 17–18 October.

Going into the final round half a point behind the leader, Zack knew only a win would secure the championship. After a tense and hard-fought game against his closest rival, he claimed victory, finishing with an impressive nine points from 11 games.

Zack first discovered chess during lockdown and has since represented England in junior competitions. He is also one of just ten juniors selected for the Chess Trust Accelerator Programme, receiving coaching from Grandmaster John Emms.

A fantastic achievement recognising Zack's hard work, determination and talent. Well done, Zack!



200 Club Winners!

"August 2026

- 424 – Ms C Morris – £50
- 181 – Mrs K Hall – £40
- 190 – Mrs A Ashley – £30
- 333 – Mr & Mrs Dundas – £10
- 5 – Mrs Woolerton – £10
- 1 – Mrs N Atkin – £10

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- 105 – Mr Sebastien – £50
- 252 – Mrs S Byrne – £40
- 251 – Mrs S Williams – £30
- 75 – Dr B Taylor – £10
- 117 – Mrs J Gibson – £10
- 13 – Mr K Tudor – £10

To join and help raise funds for the school please email cspta@cryptschool.org

Gaming - stay safe online

Do your children play video games? If so, they're not alone - in the UK, millions of children play video games on consoles, tablets, phones and computers. Gaming can be a great way for children to play, learn and create, but it can also come with risks.

As the UK's online safety regulator, keeping children safe online is a priority for Ofcom. That's why they have created Power Up Parents, a campaign to help parents navigate the ever-changing world of online video games. Find out more here: https://www.ofcom.org.uk/online-safety/protecting-children/parents-power-up-how-you-can-help-your-child-stay-safe-while-gaming-online?utm_source=chatgpt.com

