



Headmaster's Letter

25th September 2026

Dear parents/carers and students,

I hope that this letter home finds you all well.

Academic update

It has been a busy week for our exceptional Modern Foreign Languages department as - and through a variety of activities - they celebrated European Day of Languages across this week (which is officially celebrated on Saturday - tomorrow!). Academic outcomes in the modern foreign language subjects offered at Crypt - at both GCSE and at A Level - were exceptional this summer, and I am delighted to see so many of our students opting to study a Modern Foreign Language at GCSE, with numbers progressing onto A Level growing steadily. Learning another language is so important, both for an individual's own wider cultural understanding and for the confidence learning and speaking another language can bring; and being able to communicate in more than one language is also a powerful gateway to myriad career opportunities. I know that many of our students are already bi-lingual, but committing to learning Spanish, French or German from year 7 to GCSE in years 10 and 11, and then at A Level, is so valuable and important and to be strongly encouraged.

It was good to see a number of our girls from across the age range, sitting the Mathematical Olympiad for Girls, organised by the UK Mathematical Trust, and held in school on Tuesday. Many mathematical challenges/competitions occur across the year, with our students always performing highly. We now look forward to the outcome of this particular challenge, but well done to all



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



involved in Tuesday's event.

Personal development and enrichment

It has been a busy week away from the classroom, as we continue to offer all our students a rich and varied educational experience, which is so important to their development as a young person to their understanding of our society, of the wider world and of their place in it, and in our school community too.

On Tuesday, all of our new year 7 cohort attended our annual year 7 Heritage Day, held at St Mary de Crypt Church and Schoolroom, where the school was founded in 1539. I know that year 7 found the morning's activities, as well as the final service, both informative and helpful as they continue to settle into their new school. I do hope that each new student feels, as I do, that great sense of pride in being part of an educational journey that can be traced back to the sixteenth century, and feel already that Crypt is a place within which they can all really flourish - academically and personally. Today, Year 7 are enjoying a team building day on site, as part of their wider induction programme, and it looks like they have had a thoroughly enjoyable day - my thanks indeed to head of year Mr Rausch for organising both of these events.

On Wednesday, I was delighted to welcome Crypt alumnus Ollie Hale back into school. Ollie left Crypt in 2019 and now runs his own technology company in Berlin. Ollie gave a talk to students at lunchtime about his career path to date, which was absolutely fascinating to listen to. At school, Ollie enjoyed academic study, was already entrepreneurial and enjoyed learning about technology. He has now put all the skills he learned at school, and subsequently, together with outstanding personal qualities and skills - not least his capacity for hard work, such as learning German over the last few years - to good use raising millions to enable the establishment and success of what is now his second start up tech company.

As part of their personal education programme, earlier today year 8 watched a play in the main hall - Chelsea's story - which was created to raise awareness of child sexual exploitation and the devastating impact it can have on a young person's life, while educating young people about how they can keep themselves safe. A vitally important issue to educate our students about and the play was a very effective mechanism to send some really strong messages to all of our young people in that year group about how they can stay safe.



Sport

Many sporting fixtures have taken place across the week, in a variety of sports. I do hope that all involved in school sport enjoy and benefit from the experience of playing sport, being part of a team, of winning and of losing and of the huge benefits that being active physically through team, or individual sports can bring.

Staff achievements

Our wonderful Director Music Mr Julian Whittaker, who is a key member of the Music Teachers Association, and has been invited to speak at the Music and Drama Expo 2027 event about his passion and vision for school music; he was recently interviewed for the Music Teacher magazine, and in his interview, Mr Whittaker reflects on why learning about, enjoying and participating in music is so important to every young person. Read that interview [here](#).

My continued best wishes,



Nicholas Dyer
Headmaster

Dates For Your Diary

6th October	6-7.15pm Y7 Meet the Tutor
8th October	Harry Potter Book Night 3.45pm-6.15pm
9th October	Hello Yellow Mental Health Awareness
13th October	Early Closure for all students 1.15pm
14th October	Open event for Y4 and Y5 students
16th October	Y13 Mock Interviews
20th October	Autumn Concert 7-9pm
21st October	Careers Convention
22nd October	Y13 Parents/Carers Evening in school
23rd October	End of term

Heritage Day

On Tuesday all of our Year 7 pupils visited St Mary de Crypt church and school room where the school was founded in 1539. The school song in Latin was sung loudly and enthusiastically, stained glass windows were sketched beautifully and children were taught about the history and heritage of the school, as well as exploring key sites in the city. We expressed gratitude for the work of those who came before us and today we gave thanks to John and Joan Cooke and to St Mary de Crypt church and community for hosting us today. In the address to close the morning, Mrs Hargraves shared some of Ann Boleyn's last words to show how faith, being humble and appreciating friendships were all important around the time our school was founded. We also talked more about Joan Cooke and what an achievement it was for her to found a school at this time. Pupils were reminded that they matter, and their actions matter and that they will write their own story - this is just the start of their journey as the newest members of our community. Pupils were encouraged to take responsibility for their journey, have integrity, respect each other and the community and be kind. But on Heritage Day especially, sitting in St Mary de Crypt - to be proud.



Inspired Lecture Series

"This week, we were delighted to welcome former Crypt student Oliver Hale back to school as part of our Inspired Lecture Series. Oliver attended The Crypt from 2012 to 2019, and his talk, "What If? The Power of Curiosity, Creativity and Entrepreneurship", gave students a refreshingly open account of the opportunities, mistakes, risks and unexpected decisions that have shaped his life since leaving school.

One of Oliver's strongest messages was that young people do not need to have their lives completely mapped out. Reflecting on his own time at The Crypt, he explained that he had "no master plan" and instead followed the things that genuinely interested him. His message to students was simple: curiosity can sometimes take you further than a perfectly constructed plan.

That curiosity started early. At just 15, Oliver and some friends began reselling limited-edition trainers, spotting demand and learning first-hand about customers, pricing, negotiation and risk. One particularly ambitious purchase involved putting almost all of their available money into a pair of Nike Dior trainers, which they later sold for around £20,000. Rather than presenting entrepreneurship as something that begins with a business plan or a large investment, Oliver encouraged students to see it as the willingness to notice an opportunity and try something.

His journey since leaving The Crypt has certainly not followed a conventional route. Faced with the choice between university and a degree apprenticeship, Oliver chose the pathway that he felt suited him, reminding students that there is no single correct route after school. A chance conversation while staying in a hostel in Croatia later introduced him to the world of start-ups. He subsequently joined an accelerator programme, lived and worked alongside other entrepreneurs and began putting himself into situations where new ideas and opportunities could emerge.

Importantly, Oliver did not disguise the setbacks. One of the businesses he worked extremely hard to build ultimately failed. Rather than seeing this as the end of the story, he described failure as a powerful teacher. That experience helped lead him towards Faircado, where he joined the founding team and helped build a product used by more than one million people. Today, at just 25, he is building Vyril Labs with friends – his fourth company – employing a team of 12.

What made Oliver's story particularly valuable was its honesty. It was not a polished story of effortless success. It was about trying things, making mistakes, changing direction, meeting people, taking calculated risks and learning along the way. For our students, this was a powerful reminder that progress is rarely linear and that some of the most valuable opportunities may initially look uncertain or unconventional.

Oliver finished with four pieces of advice for students: protect your curiosity, build before you feel ready, talk to people and do not allow your age to become a barrier. Perhaps most importantly, he reminded them that "the next opportunity probably won't look like an opportunity."

We are extremely grateful to Oliver for returning to The Crypt and sharing his story. He is an inspiring example of a former student who has been prepared to find his own way in life: making mistakes, learning quickly, being creative and having the confidence to ask, "What if?"





LUNCHTIME CLUBS

TERMS 1 & 2

MONDAY

- Y7 RUGBY SKILLS -FIELD (ZH)
- Y8/9 TABLE TENNIS - SPORTS HALL (CP/NCD)
- Y12 MEDSOC - LAB 3 (HB) WK 1 TERM 2
- Y10 ENGLISH LIT CLINIC -RM 27 (NS)
- CREATIVE WRITING - RM 30 (NS & EG)
- DRAMA TECH - DRAMA STUDIO (UNTIL 5TH OCT) (ACR)
- KS3 DRAMA - DRAMA STUDIO
- KS 3 DT - 9 (EL)
- KS 5GEOGRAPHY EXTRA RM 39 (CBSO)
- GCSE ART / DT -RM 13 (CM)
- HIDDEN HISTORIES -RM 35 (HBA / JH)
- BRASS GROUP - PAVILLION (PS)
- POKEMON CLUB - S5
- PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE -MUSIC RM (JS)
- Y7 PYTHON ADVENTURE PROGRAMMING RM 7 (JR)
- READING - RM 25 (NMC & MH)
- KS3 & 4 MATHS SOCIETY - RM S1 (DF)

TUESDAY

- SENIOR CAPTAINS RUN - FIELD
- KS 3 GYMNASTICS CLUB - JD
- SPORTS JOURNALISM - C3 (AL)
- SPRINT & MIDDLE DISTANCE - TRACK (AHT)
- Y7&8 SPHERO BOT - RM 17 (DRO)
- KS 3 LEGO & MAGNETIC TILE - PASTORAL (SLO & SWI)
- ROCK BANDS - MUSIC STUDIO
- KS3 KODU GAME DEVELOPER - RM 15 (JR)
- STUDENT EXEC MTG RM 20 (RBS)
- READING - RM25 (NMC & MH)
- Y8 CLUB - RM 32 (DDY)
- KS5 CHEMISTRY DROP IN - LAB 2



LUNCHTIME CLUBS

TERMS 1 & 2

WEDNESDAY

- SENIOR SQUAD FOOTBALL - ASTRO (AL)
- Y9 GOLD & SILVER SPORTS ACADEMY - FITNESS SUITE
- UNPOLISHED PLAYGROUND - DRAMA STUDIO
- WARHAMMER - RM 31 (JHO)
- KS3 ENTERPRISE - RM 32 LS
- CANTORES CRYPTIENSES - MUSIC RM (JMW)
- KS3 ART - RM12 (KM)
- JAPANESE - S5 (PJ)
- READING - 25 - (NMC & MH)
- GCSE ART / DT - RM 13 (CM)
- CREATIVE WRITING - RM 30 (NS & EG)

THURSDAY

- CROSS COUNTRY - VARIOUS (GH)
- Y7-10 GIRLS FOOTBALL -FIELD (AL)
- Y7 TABLE TENNIS -SPORTSHALL (TF)
- MUSICAL THEATRE - DRAMA STUDIO (AGR/GS)
- CHESS - E3 (ADC)
- STRING ORCHESTRA - MUSIC ROOM (RC)
- JOURNALISM CLUB - RM 29 (GC)
- READING- RM 25 (NMC & MH)
- KS5 'OUR NATURAL WORLD' - RM 18 (ALP)
- KS5 PHYSICS ALEVEL DROPIN - E4 (SJ)

FRIDAY

- HOUSE COMPS - VARIOUS (AHT)
- GAMES CLUB - LIBRARY (DJO)
- CHRISTIAN UNION - 33 WK 2 MP
- WAARIOR CATS - RM 32 LS + STUDENT
- GCSE ART / DT - RM 13 (CM)
- JAZZ BAND - MUSIC RM (AR)
- ROCK BAND - PAVILION (AM)
- Y7&8 ROBOTICS -E1 WK2 TERM 2 SJ
- Y12 STEM - E5 (AHA)
- READING - 25 (NMC & MH)

Calling all military families (including reservists)

"We have some free reading and wellbeing journals from the charity Reading Force - it's a fab small charity encouraging reading and wellbeing for children in military families. This journal is more than a place to write or draw about a book. It's a place where children can express their thoughts and feelings – about books they're reading and about how they are feeling day to day. These are for children of serving military personnel, veterans, reservists or separated families with a military connection. You can learn more about the charity here: <https://www.readingforce.org.uk/>

If you feel your child would like a reading and wellbeing journal and hasn't got one yet, please email Mrs Hargraves and she can deliver one to your child."



A Level Physics - Free online Parent Masterclasses

We subscribe to A Level Physics Online for revision resources and videos. This company are delivering two free online parent masterclasses to support parents of students taking A Level Physics.

Supporting Your Child Through A Levels. Thursday 15 October, 7pm.

Book here: <https://www.alevelphysicsonline.com/event-details/supporting-your-child-through-a-levels>

Free with code: SUPPORT30

Physics, Careers and University. Thursday 3 December, 7pm.

Book here: <https://www.alevelphysicsonline.com/event-details/physics-careers-and-university>

Free with code: PHYSICS30

There is also a free student online masterclass coming up:

Exam Technique: Where Marks Are Actually Lost. Wednesday 11 November, 7pm.

Book here: <https://www.alevelphysicsonline.com/event-details/exam-technique-where-marks-are-actually-lost>

Free with code: WMAL30



Free Masterclasses

for Autumn Term 2026

For Students

Thursday 10th September @ 7pm

How to Actually Learn Physics

Study techniques that work from day one, using past papers properly, and planning revision around this term's end of unit tests. Year 12 and Year 13.

Free with code: **HTALP30**

Wednesday 11th November @ 7pm

Exam Technique: Where Marks Are Lost

Command words, laying out working, significant figures and how examiners mark the 6-markers. Timed for the weeks before school mocks.

Free with code: **WMAL30**

For Parents

Thursday 15th October @ 7pm

Supporting Your Child Through A Levels

What the course involves, the milestones through the two years, and how the grades are worked out. No physics knowledge needed.

Free with code: **SUPPORT30**

Thursday 3rd December @ 7pm

Physics, Careers and University

Where the subject leads, from degrees well beyond physics to apprenticeships, plus the UCAS process and the dates that matter.

Free with code: **PHYSICS30**

For Teachers

Wednesday 7th October @ 7pm

Maths Skills for A Level Physics

Why students who did well at GCSE Maths struggle to transfer it, ways to scaffold questions, and what they can use independently.

Free with code: **TEACHMATHS30**

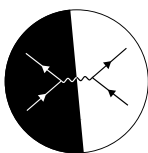
Wednesday 4th November @ 7pm

Required Practicals (and Alternative Methods)

More than one way to run each required practical, and teaching the skills underneath rather than a method sheet. Technicians welcome.

Free with code: **PRACTICAL30**

Book all using the codes for free at: ALEvelPhysicsOnline.com/classes



ALEvelPhysicsOnline.com/classes