



Headmaster's Letter

27th March 2026

Dear parents/carers and students,

I hope all of our students have benefited from and enjoyed the past term at Crypt, making progress in all aspects of their lives, and can now enjoy a well-earned break over the holidays.

My thanks to our parental body for your continued support of the school and to the many parents/carers who contribute so much to the life of the school through their work in supporting the activities of the CSPTA.

It's been a busy week at school, as the final newsletter of term 4 testifies to.

Old Cryptian Annual Meal

The OC Annual Dinner was held last Saturday in the Crush Hall and attended by over 60 former students of the school. The evening was hosted by OC President and BBC correspondent Steve Knibbs - Steve left the school in late 1980s and studied for a degree in journalism before beginning his career in local radio and television, and who also spent some time last year seconded to Broadcasting House in London. A thoroughly enjoyable evening was had by all and we were entertained by guest speaker and former Crypt student and BBC local journalist Graham Gardner.

Music

It has has been a very busy term for the music department, which began with a wonderful choir tour of Belgium and culminated on Wednesday evening with an ambitious Spring Concert, in which the the School Choir and Orchestra,



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



conducted by Mr Whittaker, offered us a brilliant performance of Faure's Requiem, in a concert entitled Peace in our Time, with other works from Palestrina, Grieg and Rogers and Hammerstein. It was simply sublime. My congratulations to everyone involved and thanks to the CSPTA for providing refreshments.

Academic update

Our year 10 GCSE geography students enjoyed a field study trip to the centre of Gloucester on Monday morning, as part of their studies into urban landscape and the local economy. GCSE drama students performed in front of the external examiner on Tuesday and A Level PE moderation took place on Thursday - I do hope both these examination-based events went well for all involved. Data from the recent year 11 examinations was sent home yesterday, and provide a good opportunity for relevant parents/carers to discuss those grades with their child, as each year 11 student embarks on their holiday revision programme. With revision in mind, I urge all examination candidates in years 11, 13 and indeed in year 9 to use the holiday now upon us to work hard on revising across their GCSE, or A Level subjects, as time in school in term 5 will be relative short, with GCSE examinations beginning in the 7th of May, and A level exams beginning on the 11th of May; however, all students must also enjoy some rest as well.

Personal Development and enrichment

Our two F1 in Schools teams competed in the national finals on Wednesday and Thursday, held this year at the Magna Science Adventure Centre in Rotherham. This event was an exciting opportunity for our two teams to showcase the work they have been undertaking across many months, and which culminated in the finals. Both teams performed very well indeed, falling just short of progressing into the world finals. My thanks to Ms Hall, Mr Baldwin and Mr Nicoll for supporting



our senior students with this very challenging, but equally rewarding global competition.

Our Year 12 Politics students enjoyed an online education session - "Learn with the Lords - on

Wednesday, designed to help strengthen their understanding of how our Parliament and wider democracy work and function. On Wednesday, students studying German from across the school enjoyed a live German language play performance, organised by German language teacher Mrs Jacob-Reilly, to help support their study of the German language.

Best wishes to those nearly 90 students and accompanying staff, who are skiing over the first week of the holiday at the fabulous resort of Deux Alps in France; I skied there nearly twenty years ago now, and can testify to its great skiing pistes, and other facilities.

Sport

Rosslyn Park Sevens Tournament for the U18 (senior) and U13 (junior) teams took place earlier this week. It was great to watch Crypt U18 beat Radnor Hall school on Monday at lunchtime, although other matches proved tougher challenges such as against Millfield by example. However, well done to all involved in those matches at both the senior and junior level. Well done as well to our netball players, who won their tournament on Tuesday against strong local competition.

Student Executive Team, 2025-26

I would like to thank all those students in year 13 who have given up a considerable amount of time this past year, to act as school prefects and to serve as members of our sixth form student executive team. They have all been outstanding leaders of the sixth form and of the wider school body. In particular though, I would like to thank outgoing Head Boy - Liam - and Head Girl - Tianna - for their outstanding leadership of that group, and of the wider student body too.

Student Executive Team, 2026-27

Congratulations to the Year 12 students listed below who, following a very demanding and competitive selection process, have been selected to become a member of our prestigious Student Executive Team. These students will work to support staff to both lead and manage the work and development of the school and sixth form over the coming year and lead our wider student body. The new Student Executive Team are:

Dina, Ollie, Rafferty, Harry, Ella, Anushka, Eva , Olivia, Ahmed, Dani, Harry, Holly, Edgar, Riley Sullivan and Ameenah.



Our new Head Boy for 2026-27 is Ollie and our new Head Girl for 2026-27 is Ella. Congratulations indeed to both Ollie and Ella on this achievement and my best wishes to this new student leadership group as they now embark on their leadership roles in school.

I wish everyone connected to the life and work of the school, a wonderful holiday.

With my continued best wishes,



Nicholas Dyer
Headmaster



Dates For Your Diary

13 April	Term 5 starts Week 1
15 April	Flying Start Challenge
20 April	Multicultural Day
23 April	Y8 Parent Carers Evening Virtual
28 April	CSPTA AGM
30 April	Y10 Business Trip Allianz Stadium

Economics Olympiad - Success for Crypt Students

Following the strong turnout for the initial round of the Economics Olympiad in school earlier this term, we are delighted to share an update on our students' progress. Several of our Year 12 and 13 students demonstrated top-tier analytical skills in a highly competitive regional round at the University of Worcester on 13th March. Several other local schools were represented as well as many other schools from the 'Severn' region.

We are incredibly proud to announce that, as a result of their performance in the regional round, Lily H (year 12) and Rohan R (year 13) have officially qualified for the National Round of the competition. This is a significant achievement, placing them among the top tier of young economists in the country.

The National Round will take place on 22nd June at the prestigious SOAS University of London. This stage of the competition will involve a written examination (judged by an academic panel), a presentation on a current economic problem, guest speakers and gruelling high-level economic challenges. Should they place in the top five students at this event they will earn a place at the International Final in Ancient Olympia, Greece, representing the UK.

Please join us in congratulating Lily and Rohan on this excellent accomplishment and wishing them the very best of luck as they head to London to tackle the next round.

House treat

On Wednesday Moore House celebrated their 2025 success being crowned winners of the house competition. Every student in Moore had a non uniform day and 147 students went to Gloucester Bowl. All students thoroughly enjoyed themselves. We are currently a term into the new house competition with Cooke currently leading from Moore, Henley, Waboso and Raikes. Plenty to play for still so good luck to all.

Lost property

We have gathered a number of lost property items. Where items were clearly named, these have now been returned to students.

All other items will be placed on the Crush Hall table on Monday 13th April for students to have a look through and collect anything that belongs to them.

Any unclaimed items after this date will be donated via the CSPTA, given to a charity shop, or recycled, so please do encourage your child to check.

Meet the Employer Event Inspires Future Pathways

On Tuesday 17 March 2026, our school was delighted to host a highly successful Meet the Employer event for our Year 8 and Year 9 students. We welcomed nearly 25 employers from a wide range of industries, all of whom generously gave their time to speak with students about their career journeys, job roles, and the many different pathways into employment.

Throughout the event, students had the opportunity to engage in meaningful conversations with professionals, learning not only about specific careers but also about the skills, qualifications, and personal attributes that employers value most. These included communication, teamwork, resilience, and a strong work ethic - qualities that are essential regardless of the career path students may choose.

Providing opportunities for early career exploration is incredibly valuable. At this stage, students begin to broaden their horizons, challenge stereotypes about certain industries, and make more informed decisions about their future studies. Events like this help to build confidence, raise aspirations, and give students a clearer sense of purpose as they progress through their education.

The feedback from both students and employers was overwhelmingly positive. One Year 9 student shared:

"This was a very enriching experience that gave me more knowledge about future careers that are worth exploring. My favourite one was MDZ, as it was very eye-opening. I would like to do this workshop again, as it made me realise how many different pathways can lead to various occupations." Tito - Year 9

Employers also highlighted the enthusiasm and curiosity shown by our students. One visiting professional commented:

Just to say I was very impressed with the level of engagement from a set of year 8&9 pupils. Lots of great questions. The general atmosphere and culture seems to be super positive... which is lovely to see as a parent. Tom Howard

We are extremely grateful to all the employers who supported this event. Their willingness to share their experiences and insights has made a lasting impact on our students, helping to inspire and inform the next generation as they begin to consider their future careers.



Second World War box

Mrs Hayes organised a 'Second World War box' on loan from the Soldiers of Gloucestershire Museum. This was a great opportunity for students in our Hidden Histories lunchtime club to get their hands on a range of artefacts, from helmets, newspapers & gas mask!



Year 10 Geography Fieldwork

With the weather improving, year 10 GCSE geography students were able to enjoy a sunny morning in Gloucester city centre last Monday. Students have to complete fieldwork as part of the course and so they spent their time investigating whether Gloucester city centre provides an attractive location for tourists. This enabled students to practise a range of fieldwork techniques including land use surveys, pedestrian counts, noise surveys, environmental quality assessments and questionnaires. It was wonderful to see students showing respect to members of the public when conducting their interviews as well as efficient team work to ensure that all the data was collected in the time allocated. The geography department is now looking forward to taking these students to the Forest of Dean in June where they will look at the characteristics of a river.

Crypt CSPTA Easter Egg Raffle

A huge thank you to everyone who bought tickets – together we raised an amazing £600!

Congratulations to our winners:

- Y8 Soham
- Y8 Elliot
- Y9 Morgan
- Y10 Monty
- Y11 Oliver
- Y12 Isabella
- Y13 Samuel



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.

Music Newsletter

We have had an exceptional week with our Spring Concert on Wednesday. Beginning with our Symphony Orchestra and a rich mix of A Cappella Choir, Young Voices and Jazz Band. The Vox Floreat and Cantores Cryptienses Choir sounded majestic in their performance of Faure Requiem, which is truly reflective of our concert theme of 'Peace in our time'. Thank you to everyone for their support and wishing you all a wonderful Easter break.



Governors (Trustees) meeting, 23 March

The School's Governors met on Monday this week and focused their attention on the School's strategic plans. The new Ofsted inspection framework, the Francis Review on Curriculum and Assessment, and the Government's recently announced plans for SEND provision and other aspects of the education sector, are changing the context in which the School works. The Board spent some time reviewing the School's strategy in this light, focusing particularly on how the goal of strengthening inclusion should underpin all our work. Following further consultations, our updated strategic plan will be published in the summer term.

Fundraising for Young Lives Vs Cancer

Thank you to all staff and pupils who supported our cake and wristband sale for Young Lives vs Cancer this week. Mrs Hargraves would particularly like to thank the pupils who volunteered to help staff the stall, and baked or bought donations - really demonstrating our school values of responsibility and kindness.



Celebrating Sporting Excellence: Mia Shines in County Tennis

We are delighted to celebrate the outstanding achievement of Mia, who proudly represented the Gloucestershire U18 tennis team in the LTA County Cup over the weekend.

Competing at Grantham Tennis Club across three days, Mia and her teammates faced strong opposition from three other counties in a series of both singles and doubles matches. The standard of play throughout the competition was exceptionally high, with each match showcasing not only technical skill but also impressive mental strength and tactical awareness.

Mia demonstrated remarkable resilience and determination across the tournament, consistently rising to the challenge in a fiercely competitive environment. Her positive attitude on court, coupled with her ability to stay focused under pressure, exemplifies the qualities we value so highly—commitment, perseverance, and sportsmanship.

Representing one's county is a significant accomplishment, and Mia should be incredibly proud of her contribution to the team's efforts. Her dedication to training and continuous improvement is evident, and she serves as an excellent role model for her peers.

We warmly congratulate Mia on this fantastic achievement and look forward to following her continued success both on and off the court.



Year 12 Students Take the Next Step at UCAS Discovery Day

On Thursday 19 March 2026, our Year 12 cohort travelled to the University of Worcester to attend one of the UCAS Discovery Day roadshows - part of a nationwide series of events designed to support students as they begin to consider their next steps beyond school.

The day provided a valuable opportunity for students to engage directly with universities, apprenticeship providers, and employers from across the UK. Through a combination of interactive stands, subject-specific discussions, and informative talks, students explored a wide range of pathways, helping them make more informed decisions about their futures.

One of the key benefits of attending the UCAS Discovery Day is the access it provides to first-hand information. Students were able to ask detailed questions about courses, entry requirements, and student life, gaining insights that go beyond what can be found online. For many, it was also an opportunity to discover new courses or career routes they had not previously considered, broadening their horizons at a crucial stage in their decision-making process.

In addition, the event helped students to better understand the range of options available after Sixth Form, including higher education, apprenticeships, and alternative career pathways. This exposure is particularly important in enabling students to align their academic choices with long-term career ambitions.

The visit marks the beginning of a focused careers and progression programme within school. As we move into Terms 5 and 6, our enrichment programme shifts towards a strong careers focus. Students will benefit from a comprehensive series of Career Insight talks, with over 25 sessions spanning a wide variety of sectors - from Accountancy to Aviation, and from Veterinary Science to Cyber Security. These sessions are designed to give students a clearer understanding of different industries and the routes into them.

Alongside this, students will attend a work experience briefing to support them in securing meaningful placements, as well as a specialist session delivered in collaboration with Bath University on how to write impactful Personal Statements - an essential component of the university application process.

Towards the end of term, students will take part in our Employment and University Conference. This event is designed to equip them with the practical skills needed for the next stage of their journey. Students will begin setting up their UCAS profiles and formally start their application process. In addition, they will engage in a range of employability-focused activities, including a short assessment centre task, CV writing workshops, and guidance on how to maximise the use of professional networking platforms such as LinkedIn.

Together, these experiences ensure that our students are not only well-informed but also well-prepared, confident, and proactive as they take their next steps beyond Sixth Form. The UCAS Discovery Day was an excellent starting point, and we look forward to supporting our Year 12 students as they continue their journey towards higher education and future careers.

Spring Menu 2026

Spring Summer Menu 2026

Week 1

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Option one

Smokey Beef Chilli Tacos and Wedges

with Fresh Tomato, Pineapple and Cucumber Salsas



STREET FOOD

Chicken Shawarma
with Tabouleh, Tomato Salad, Pickles and Dips

Roast Chicken with all the Trimmings

with Roast Potatoes, Stuffing, Carrots, Broccoli and Gravy



SPICE & RICE

Your Chef's choice of Currys from around the Globe!

with Rice and Sambals

Fishfinger Sandwich

with Chips, Peas and Tartare Sauce

Option two

Vegetable Quesadilla and Wedges

with Fresh Tomato, Pineapple and Cucumber Salsas

STREET FOOD

Falafel Bowl
with Tabouleh, Tomato Salad, Pickles and Dips



Quorn Roast with all the Trimmings

with Roast Potatoes, Stuffing, Seasonal Veg and Gravy



SPICE & RICE

Your Chef's choice of Currys from around the Globe!

with Rice and Sambals

Delhi Hound Dog
with Mango Chutney, Served with Chips



Dessert of the day

Selection of Home bakes

Selection of Home bakes

Selection of Home bakes

Selection of Home bakes

Selection of Home bakes

Allergies

Please speak to a member of staff if you have an allergy and need to know what's inside our food dishes. They will advise you of your available choices

Menu Key



Vegan option



Added plant protein



Source of wholemeal

Also Available..

Our hot and cold grab & go selection alongside pasta and filled jacket potatoes

Spring Summer Menu 2026

Week 2

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Option one

Mac and Cheese with Toppings
Garlic Croutons or HALAL Pepperoni Pieces

Original Spice Chicken
with Spicy Rice and Rainbow Slaw

BBQ Pulled Pork Slider
with Paprika Wedges and Slaw

SPICE & RICE
Your Chef's choice of Currys from around the Globe!
with 50/50 Rice & Sambals

Battered Fish or Salmon Fishcake
and Chips with Garden Peas

Option two

With fresh house salad

Smokey Bean Burger
with Spicy Rice and Rainbow Slaw

Burrito Bowl
with Rice, Charred Corn Salad, Salsa and Sour Cream

SPICE & RICE
Your Chef's choice of Currys from around the Globe!
With 50/50 Rice and Sambals

Summer Quiche
with Mixed Salad and Chips

Dessert of the day

Selection of Home bakes

Selection of Home bakes

Selection of Home bakes

Selection of Home bakes

Selection of Home bakes

Allergies

Please speak to a member of staff if you have an allergy and need to know what's inside our food dishes. They will advise you of your available choices

Menu Key



Vegan option

Added plant protein

Source of wholemeal

Also Available..

Our hot and cold grab & go selection alongside pasta and filled jacket potatoes

caterlink
feeding the imagination

Spring Summer Menu 2026

Week 3

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Option one

Sticky Korean Chicken
with Rice and Cucumber Shaker Salad

YAMAS!
Chicken Souvlaki
with Seasoned Potatoes, Tzatziki and Greek Salad

Classic Beef Lasagne
with Garlic Bread and Chunky Roasted Summer Veg

caribbean CARNIVAL
Jerk Chicken Thighs
with Rice & Peas, Broccoli and Spiced Pineapple Slaw

Chip Shop Fish or Sausage
with Chips, Peas and Curry Sauce

Option two

Yakisoba Soya Noodles
Stir Fry with Edamame Beans

YAMAS!
Spanakopita
With Seasoned Potatoes, Tzatziki and Greek Salad

Tuscan Chickpea Pasta
with Garlic Bread and Chunky Roasted Summer Veg

caribbean CARNIVAL
Curried Squash & Butterbeans
with Rice & Peas, Broccoli and Pineapple Slaw

Chip Shop Vegan Sausage
with Chips, Peas and Gravy or Curry Sauce

Dessert of the day

Selection of Home bakes

Selection of Home bakes

Selection of Home bakes

Selection of Home bakes

Selection of Home bakes

Allergies

Please speak to a member of staff if you have an allergy and need to know what's inside our food dishes. They will advise you of your available choices

Menu Key



Vegan option

Added plant protein

Source of wholemeal

Also Available..

Our hot and cold grab & go selection alongside pasta and filled jacket potatoes

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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

