



Headmaster's Letter

30th January 2026

Dear parents/carers and students,

Creative and Performing Arts

Drama students have had quite a week, with a trip to the University of Gloucestershire on Monday, followed by a streaming of "Things I know To Be True" after school in the main hall; on Tuesday, many attended a theatre trip in Birmingham to see The Woman in Black; and finally, many students in year 9 enjoyed a Producer Workshop held in the drama studio yesterday. My thanks to Mrs Crozier (head of drama) for organising all of those wonderful events. On Tuesday, Mr Whittaker (director of music) led a professional development event for 100 primary and secondary music teachers, as part of the school's work as the Lead School for Music in the region.

Holocaust Memorial Day - Tuesday 27th of January

The school marked this important and poignant day in the national calendar with a whole school assembly led by Mrs Hargraves (Deputy Head) and Mrs Hayes (Inclusion Lead), and three of our year 12 historians. In that impactful assembly, they remembered the 6 million Jews and 5 million other minorities murdered by the Nazis and their collaborators and also recognised the millions of men, women and children who have been murdered in the genocides which followed - in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. The assembly also highlighted ongoing conflicts, not least in Palestine and Ukraine, and that all victims of persecution are in our thoughts. The continued occurrences of genocide and of persecution reminds us that whilst history can act as a warning to us all, an awareness of the past cannot on its own prevent history from being repeated in one guise or another. History can and does offer a strong guide to help us all understand and navigate the challenges in the present, and indeed those to come in the future too; however, whilst we must be willing to listen to the



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



past, and seek to learn from it, we must as well accept that knowledge alone is not enough: knowledge of the past must be accompanied with appropriate and rational action in the present if we are to avoid the worst mistakes of the past. Ignorance of the past is though always likely to lead to failure in addressing the issues and concerns of the present; in relation to the terrible series of events that came to be collectively known as the Holocaust, one lesson above remains clear: that we all have a duty to remember.

Academic Enrichment

Our students enjoy being challenged academically, in their thinking and in their subjects and through academic challenges grow and flourish as learners. This week, two external academic challenges saw many students from across the year groups come together in the hall, to sit the Chemistry Olympiad and Intermediate Maths Challenge. We shall learn of the outcomes of those challenges in due course, but my thanks to both the chemistry and maths departments and exams office for organising this for the students.

Parents/carers survey

We will be seeking the views of our parents/carers next week through a whole school parental survey, which will be sent out in a separate communication via parentpay. I encourage as many of our parents/carers to respond to that survey as possible, so we can really gain a good understanding of your views about our school. The questions are based on those used during an Ofsted inspection, with one or two additional questions, the results of which will help inform our whole school improvement agenda moving forwards.

Nicholas Dyer
Headmaster

Dates For Your Diary

Monday 2nd February	Y11 Info Evening (Online)
Tuesday 3rd February	Ski Trip Meeting (Online)
Thursday 5th February	Y9 Fame Lab
Friday 6th February	Y10 University of Bath trip
Wednesday 11th February	Even Song Gloucester Cathedral
Thursday 12th February	Y12 Parent/carers evening (Online)

Crypt F1 Bake Sale

Crypt F1 Altais Racing Team has achieved an outstanding result this year, securing 3rd place at the Regional STEM Racing competition and earning a place at the UK National Finals in March, selected from all regional teams nationwide. STEM Racing is an enrichment club where students design, model, and manufacture an F1 drag car using 3D design software and CNC machining, then race it down a track powered by a CO₂ canister.

The team has worked incredibly hard to reach this stage, and, as part of the competition, students are responsible for raising and managing all costs themselves, developing real-world business and financial skills. To help fund the national entry fee and travel costs, the team will be running cake sales on Friday, 6th February.



**CAKE SALE
CRUSH HALL
FRIDAY 6TH
FEBRUARY**


ALTAS

Music Newsletter

On Tuesday 20th January, students took part in an insightful and exciting workshop led by Longborough Opera. Exploring Verdi's opera, 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>

Library Newsletter

Over the last couple of weeks there has been a Hobbit/Lord of the Rings quiz running to celebrate the birthday of JRR Tolkien. We had 35 entries from year 7 to 9 plus a member of staff. The students all receive merits for taking part and all of the correct answer entries get put into a draw. The winner was Oliver 7RR who received a wonderful book about Hobbits. Congratulations Oliver.

We also had a throwing at a target competition on the Friday. All students who took part received a chocolate golden coin and merits. Lots of fun and excitement, trying to get the highest score. Our winner was Cole 9JC who scored the highest total of 400 with 3 throws, he received a Lord of the Rings notebook.

This week we have had non-fiction and fiction displays in the library to remember the Holocaust. The students have been very interested in them. Our next display will be celebrating the International Day of Women and Girls in Science and a little romance for Valentines Day.

Mrs Jordan - Librarian



CRYPT DRAMA

It's been a very busy week in the Drama Department, with lots of trips and events going on!

Performing Arts Masterclass at the University of Gloucester

On Monday our exam year group students attended a Performing Arts Masterclass held by the University of Gloucester. The day began with a brief talk from the outreach co-ordinator about life at University and the many future careers that creative degrees can lead to. Students enjoyed a few practical warm-up exercises, led by a current final year performing arts student.

Next up was an acting for screen workshop, led by Simon, the University's screen acting lecturer (who also runs the Musical Theatre course). Students were given a script in pairs and several had the opportunity to try out their acting live on screen, for the rest of the group to observe and feedback.

After lunch we met Karen, who leads the improvisation module, but also supports students with audition and interview preparation. She got Crypt students to demonstrate several techniques to apply to the initial stages of script work, which was a fantastic practical insight and gave depth to the work that we already do on this in class.

Finally, Chris (a member of the outreach team) talked about her personal experience of training at a conservatoire, and talked students through the differences in studying at a university, drama school or a conservatoire.

The day gave students a fantastic experience of options available after sixth form, and definitely got many of them thinking about their future plans!



Live stream: Things I Know To Be True

On Monday evening we streamed "Things I Know To Be True" in the main hall to students in years 9 and above – a stunning play written by Andrew Bovell, with physicality directed by Frantic Assembly. The piece covered a range of themes as it explored the complexities of family life. Running these live streams gives all students a wonderful opportunity to view live theatre that they may not otherwise see.

Theatre trip: The Woman In Black

On Tuesday evening, 60 students and 5 members of staff travelled to Birmingham to watch 'The Woman In Black', one of the most renowned and celebrated ghost stories. The book (by Susan Hill) was written in 1983, while the play was first staged in 2001 and has been scaring audiences ever since! Students had a fantastic time, with lots of screams (from most of the entire audience!) and jump scares throughout the show.

Director Workshop: Year 9

On Thursday students who are considering GCSE Drama were invited to partake in a free workshop with local director Matthew Jones.

Matthew introduced students to the various performance styles that are studied during GCSE Drama, with some practical exercises focused on the practitioners that we study. This was to give students a taste of what the GCSE course is like, as well as a fantastic opportunity to work with a professional!

UPCOMING AUDITION NOTICES

ALICE IN WONDERLAND

On Thursday 12th February we are holding auditions for students in year 7-10 in the drama studio for the summer production of Alice in Wonderland (abridged). Auditions will begin promptly at 1.30pm and the audition script is on the school website, drama page. Students do not need to be off script for the audition, just familiar with all lines. Students do not audition for a specific part, they will be asked to read any role on the day, and will be allocated the character that the directors feel suits them best.

The cast for the show will be announced after half term, with rehearsals beginning on Wednesday 11th March (lunchtimes in the Drama Studio).

Please note that the performance is taking place in the evening on Friday 19th June, so all auditionees must be able to make that date.

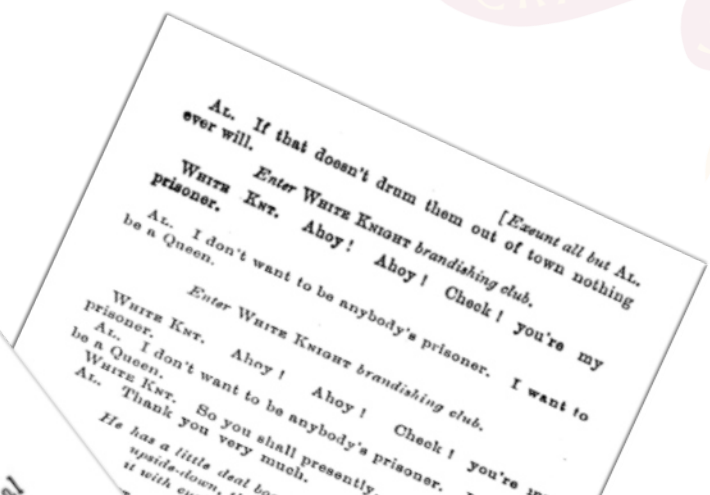
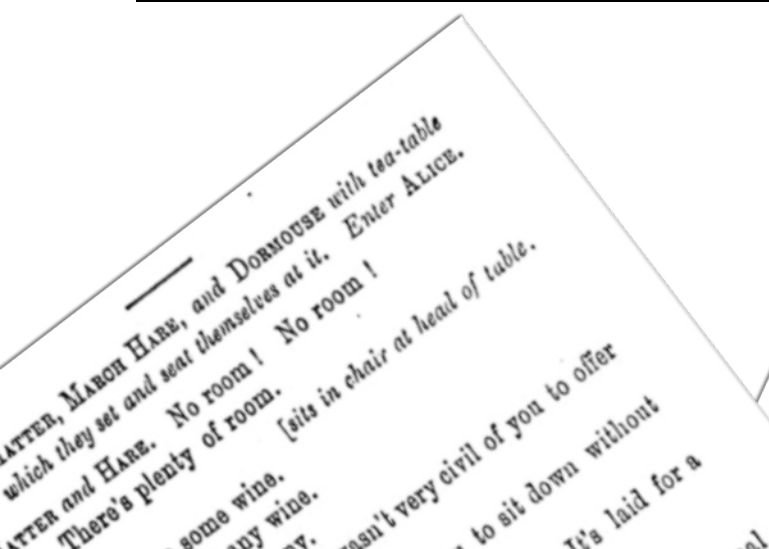
SUMMER CABARET SHOWCASE

On Monday 23rd February (first day of the new term) we are holding auditions for the Musical Theatre summer cabaret showcase. The auditions will begin promptly at 1.20pm and details of what to prepare can be found on the school website's drama page.

Please note that the performance is taking place on Saturday 4th July (students will be needed from 4pm for a 6pm start), so auditionees must be able to make that date.

Please visit the school's drama page for audition scripts:

<https://cryptschool.org/learning-at-the-crypt/subjects-1/drama-3/>





SHROVE TUESDAY!



Celebrate the start and end of Lent, with a
double dose of pancake joy!

Tuesday 10th & Tuesday 24th February



**PRE-ORDER
PIZZA**

**LICENSED BAR
AND SNACKS
AVAILABLE ALL
EVENING**

**RAFFLE
TICKETS
FOR SALE
ON THE
NIGHT**

Join us for the CSPTA

QUIZ NIGHT

Friday 27th Feb 2026

Doors open: 18:15
Quiz starts: 19:00
At The Crypt School

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

**Adults: £5
Under 18s: £2.50**



Book via ParentPay or email cspta@cryptschool.org