



FEBRUARY 2012 NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the February edition of our newsletter.

Our **building works** continue with very good progress being made. The works will be completed for the start of the summer term. It is remarkable that at this time of national financial constraint, thanks to Academy status the school is benefitting from nearly £1 million pounds of investment in its facilities. The new driveway, pedestrian footpath, lighting, CCTV, and electronic gates will improve health and safety for teachers, pupils, parents and visitors. It will also give a positive first impression of the school for prospective parents. In this regard I am also very grateful for the work that Mr Dyer has undertaken commissioning our new **website**. I am sure that parents will agree that this too gives a more professional image of the school. Works to the Old Gym and changing rooms are also progressing well. The Old Gym is being converted into a Drama Studio and a Fitness Suite. The boys changing rooms are also being completely refurbished, and the old PE office is being converted into a changing room for VI Form girls. Finally we have also been able to commission the refurbishment of the Music rooms.



The **Kirkland Rowell** surveys have just been returned. I shall present a full report in my next newsletter after half term. I am very grateful to the many parents who responded, enabling the results to be based on robust data. Kirkland Rowell specialise in this field, and work with well over a thousand schools, which enables them to make comparisons with performance in other schools. Ofsted made good use of the first Kirkland Rowell report in their inspection in 2008. In that first report, the overall parental rating for the school was 74%, which was interpreted as “good.” That had increased to 84% in 2010, rated as “outstanding.” **The latest report shows the overall rating up to 87.5%, again “outstanding.”** 41% of parents whose children were not in year 7 said that the school had improved over the past year, while no-one thought that the performance was worse. Of new parents, 37% said the school was better than expected, with just 2% saying it had not lived up to expectations. This is a fantastic report, and the staff are delighted at the confidence expressed by parents in them. There is a huge amount of detail in the report, and I shall take time to analyse this before reporting further. There are always things we can do better, and this report will help us to focus on those key parental concerns.

The pupil survey is also very pleasing. It has always been the case that our students are a little harder on the school than their parents, something which might be connected to teenage years! For the first time, our pupils also rate the school overall as outstanding, with the overall result at 80%, up 6% from 2010. Significantly 73% of pupils who were not in year 7 said that the school had improved in the past year, whilst just 5% said the school's performance was worse. We will analyse the details, and put the document to School Council, enabling our students to work with us as we strive to maintain these outstanding judgements and of course improve still further.

We will be saying farewell to Miss Hayley Staple this Friday when she completes her Maternity Cover for Mrs. Glock. We are most grateful to her for her contribution to the school and wish her every success as she joins Cleeve School in Cheltenham. We look forward to welcoming back Mrs. Glock.



J P Standen
Headmaster

BUILDING UPDATE - Mr. Dyer

Phase 1 of the School redevelopment work has now been completed on schedule. This has involved the complete removal of the old drive and staff car park, the construction of a new storage area on the side of the Sports hall and initial work on the changing rooms and Old Gym.

Phase 2 work has now begun. This final phase of construction will see the completion of work to the changing rooms, Old Gym and school drive and other hard surfaced areas of the School, such as the Sixth Form and visitors' car parking area.

Building work is scheduled to be completed by the end of the Easter holidays. When students come back to School in Aril, the school drive and all other hard surfaced areas will have been completed re-laid with new tarmac. The old Gym will house a new fitness suite and drama room. The boys' changing rooms will have been completely refurbished, as will the Sixth Form girls' changing area. We are also delighted that the School's Music rooms will have been completed renovated creating a modern Music department for the school.

Students, staff and parents have coped very well indeed with the inevitable disruption that this work has caused and I offer them my thanks for their cooperation during this period. We can now look forward to making full use of the new and enhanced facilities which the school will shortly have.

**Words & Music Evening – Tuesday, 20th March –
7.30 p.m. in the School Hall.**

These evenings are always really enjoyable. Tickets are free, but we do ask parents to let us know if they are coming to enable us to cater adequately for the evening. If you would like to come please email swales@crypt.gloucs.sch.uk



SCHOOL COUNSELLOR – Mr. Courtenay

As some of you may already know, Crypt employs a fully qualified professional counsellor and although her hours are limited to one day a week she is able to work with and support a number of our pupils. Referrals can be made in one of two ways. If a pupil has a concern or an anxiety they would like to talk through with someone other than a member of staff, they may self-refer. Alternately, the offer to see the Counsellor may come through a tutor or Head of Year. In both these cases appointments are made through Mrs Wales in the School Office.

In most instances it is possible to set up an appointment within a fortnight but when times are busy the wait may be a little longer. Because we offer these sessions with a high degree of confidentiality for the pupils, we would not routinely inform parents about an appointment but rather leave it to the pupil to mention it to their parents when they feel comfortable to do so. In all but the most extreme matters, the Counsellor will keep their discussions with the pupil confidential.

Where a pupil has requested it, parents may occasionally be invited to attend a session as well – but I would stress that this is not the norm and we do not have the resources to offer Counselling as a family therapy. However, Crypt does have some limited access to Family Support Services provided by the Lighthouse Centre at Linden School and should you wish to access these for a particular issue then you are very welcome to discuss this with Mr Courtenay.

WIKIPAGES – Mr. Morgan

As part of the ever increasing range of academic support offered for students at the Crypt School, we have now created web-based learning support pages for each subject. These are called 'Wiki-pages' and can be accessed via the school's website homepage. This learning resource is primarily aimed at years 11-13 at present, but will provide help for younger students in the future.

We have chosen to provide these Wiki-pages so that students and parents can have access at home to a range of useful resources and ideas for improving achievement. On these pages you may find examination technique advice, past examination questions, notices of forthcoming revision classes, key assignment information and reading lists. This is a new facility and over time the amount of material you can access in order to support your child's learning will grow.

To access the different Crypt Wiki-pages, simply follow the link on the school's homepage at www.cryptschool.org or type the following address into your internet browser: <http://crypt-department-help-pages.wikispaces.com/>

We are very excited about this new learning facility and the extra support it will provide for you and your child. We do hope you will find it useful and would also like to hear what you think. Please contact Mr Morgan with any comments or suggestions for improving the Wiki-pages.

NEWS FROM THE PE DEPARTMENT

Sports Results

Rugby & Football : Mr. Bawden

Due to the dark evenings and frost there hasn't been a great deal of fixtures this term. The 1st XI football team have got off to a winning start beating Newent 3-2 and St Peters 5-0. The seniors play Bournside in the County Cup this week and the team are hoping to continue their impressive start.

Other football results the U14 A & B team both had convincing wins against Wycliffe winning 12-0 and 7-0 respectively.

The bulk of the fixtures will be taking place next term with the lighter evenings setting in. The U12 rugby teams have nearly 2 fixtures a week (midweek & Saturday). The district football cup also starts again in the new term for all Year groups apart from Year 7.

Basketball : Mr. Hart

Although this has been a short half term each of our basketball teams had their first competitive games. The seniors performed well against a well organised Sir Thomas Rich's team who eventually got the better of us. A promising start was made by the year 10 team who came from behind to beat Sir Thomas Rich's and the year 9 team had their first ever competitive match to lose again to Sir Thomas Rich's. Next term should see more fixtures with the year 8 team also having a mini tournament.

Senior basketball lost to Sir Thomas Rich's 57 to 40

Year 10 basketball beat Sir Thomas Rich's 24 to 18

Year 9 basketball lost to Sir Thomas Rich's 18 to 8

RFU Grand Draw Raffle Tickets

A reminder to those students who have been issued tickets that they need to be returned ASAP. Please place the money in clearly labelled envelopes marked 'South Africa Rugby Tour' or 'Football Kit' to help the accounts office. Our students benefit from 90% of all funds raised. Please also return any unsold tickets so that we can issue these to other pupils straight after half term. Many Thanks.

The following kit is available from the PE office for Rugby and Football squad players. We have a limited stock available. Please make cheques payable to 'The Crypt School'.

'Kukri' Black Base Layer (with 'The Crypt School' screen printed on one arm). £27.50

'Kukri' Maroon and Gold Training top (with the Crypt Badge and Physical Education embroidered on the front). £27.50



March 23rd is sport relief day and The Crypt School is hoping to raise a significant amount of money. The students will have an opportunity to complete a challenge during the day which they will be sponsored for. It is hoped that Thursday 22nd there will be an opportunity for the whole family to take part with a toddle for the very young and a mile in the evening for the parents. There will be lots more information to follow but if you want to start training now is the time.

Year 11



You are in the final strait

Only 10 full weeks of school left!!!

Make sure you are taking advantage of all the help being offered :

- Intervention groups
- Mentoring
- Maximise Day (23rd February) – students will be taught revision skills and techniques by a specialist company
- Revision sessions during lunch and after school (starting 27th Feb)
- Revision Clinics – Monday 2nd and Tuesday 3rd April – compulsory – further details to follow

MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT VISIT by Cameron Fern

On Tuesday, 31st January, 10 pupils including me visited Denmark Road to attend a mathematics-related talk by Simon Singh. Simon is a TV producer, author and journalist who has a PhD in particle Physics from Cambridge University. This was particularly exciting for me having previously read some of his books.



The talk was largely focussed on cryptography including encrypting and decrypting codes. Simon presented a real enigma machine to us – a machine largely used within World War II. He talked about why this machine was so useful due to its high difficulty to decrypt a message if the message was intercepted. This machine had almost 17000 different combinations so no intelligence organisation was able to decipher its letters.

Simon also spoke to us about the 'Bible Code'. This is an idea which some people believe in where words are spelt out on a page in the Bible which have some significance. For example, on one page, the words 'John' 'Kennedy' and 'Assassinated' are all written either vertically, horizontally or diagonally. Some people believe these are secret messages however they are more likely to be just down to coincidence due to the large number of words written.

Overall the talk was very engaging and helpful and I now know a lot more about cryptography than I previously did. I would like to thank the Maths department for allowing us to be part of this experience, and The High School for Girls for inviting us.

Happy New Year From DT: Food!

January has been another busy (but enjoyable) month in the Food Room, and the recent pizza practical lessons have continued to prove popular with our Year 7 and 8 pupils. As well as curriculum use, the Food Room is now hosting cross-curricular sessions with GCSE science groups, and three cohorts of Year 11 Biology pupils have made bread rolls over the last few weeks in applied science “bread masterclass” practical lessons, focusing on the respiration of yeast: great fun! Hopefully more cross-curricular links will develop between Food and other departments as time progresses, in order to utilize this valuable resource and deepen the learning experiences of Crypt pupils.

Guests from other schools and colleges have also visited the Food Room this month, all of whom have complimented Crypt on its lovely, light, bright and stimulating food learning environment. The two hilarious “Chefs On Tour” Gareth and Shaun from GlosColl entertained, educated and inspired a group of Year 8 pupils with their culinary skills and banter on 24th January. Career options were discussed whilst producing a wide range of delectable delights from all over the world, such as a Goan Curry, Chinese and Italian dishes and tasty desserts. Having worked in the new Food Room, they were eager to return in the future, and were also keen to invite other groups from Crypt to witness them in action in the kitchens at GlosColl in the summer.



Mrs Sturge's Y11 GCSE Biology pupils kneading their yeast dough to the “window”



Alex (8PCn) gives the thumbs up approval to “Chefs On Tour” Gareth (left) and Shaun (right)



Pupils sample the delights of Chinese, Mexican, Italian and Goan cuisine produced by the chefs;

As February starts, the Year 12 University Survival course has resumed as another group of students are looking forward to learning to cook for themselves (and no doubt others!) when they leave home for College. Expect the delicate aroma of homemade curries to be wafting down the corridor at Crypt sometime soon!

Clare Chad-Daniels – Food Teacher

FUTURE DATES

Monday, 20th February : INSET Day – teachers only in school – no pupils.

Tuesday, 21st February : New term begins – normal time – **week 2**

Tuesday, 21st February : Y9 Curriculum Evening

Thursday, 23rd February : Year 8 Parents' Evening 5.30 – 7.30 p.m.

Monday, 5th March : Y11 reports issued

Tuesday, 6th March : Y9 Parents' Evening

Tuesday, 13th March : Science Evening – The Space Odyssey, Robotics, Chemistry Show

Tuesday, 20th March : Words & Music Evening. 7.30 p.m.

Friday, 23rd March : Sports Relief – Non uniform day

Monday, 26th March – Y13 reports issued

Tuesday, 27th March – Y12 Parents' Evening

Wednesday, 28th March – Whole School Photography

Thursday, 29th March – Ski trip to Utah departs

Friday, 30th March – term ends

Friday, 30th March : Sportsman's Dinner – please see flyer attached

Monday, 16th April – Term starts – **Week 2**

VACANCY : mid-day supervisor

3.5hr a day, 5 days a week, term time only, £6.38 per hour.

Duties :

- * Lunch time supervision
- * Emptying litter bins
- * Litter picking

Further details from Mrs. Baldwin, Business Manager, hbaldwin@crypt.gloucs.sch.uk

The logo for 'May Fair' features the word 'May' in a multi-colored gradient (purple, pink, red, orange, yellow) and 'Fair' in a multi-colored gradient (green, blue, purple). The letters are bold and have a slight shadow effect.

Saturday, 12th May

11.00 a.m. – 3.00 p.m.

Further details coming soon!