



## The Crypt School Newsletter Term 3 2016

Dear Parents,

As I write this newsletter, over seventy Crypt students will be looking forward to departing for our annual ski trip – this time to Nassfeld in Austria. The School travelled to Nassfeld four years ago and I'm sure the current cohort of skiers will enjoy the resort just as much as the previous group did. Indeed, in terms of extra-curricular activities, trips and visits there has been much going on. Our Year 9 rugby team performed tremendously well to reach the semi-finals of the County Cup by beating Sir Thomas Rich's and, if they do win their semi-final, they will play at Kingsholm in the finals - very best of luck to them. The School Senior Basketball team made a good start to their season under the direction of Mr Woolf, narrowly losing to a strong Pate's side. English Literature A Level students have been out of school to watch various plays they are studying, our Philosophy and Ethics students attended a conference at Cheltenham Ladies' College and our musicians continue to perform in a variety of school and local concerts. Over half term, a small group of students will be going to France and in the summer a larger group will be departing for their rugby tour to South Africa. My thanks to all my colleagues on the staff who give up their time to organise and lead such like activities, which the students derive so much benefit from.

Of course, the academic life of the School continues to be our main focus. The examination groups all now have revision and support timetables in place and I do urge students in Years 11-13 (and in Year 9) to attend these sessions, which will help support their learning right up until the examinations in May. Recent internal exams show that the vast majority of students in those year groups are making good progress, but also show that, for some, there is still much to do if they are going to secure their target grades. Over the Easter holiday, the School will be running revision sessions for Years 11 and 12 and I do urge all students to attend.

Parents will be delighted to hear, that the latest DfE Schools' Performance Tables place The Crypt School 5<sup>th</sup> out of 55 in a measure against schools with a similar intake nationally. This is a wonderful achievement and a testament to the hard work of both students and staff.

I am delighted to announce that the School has just signed a three year partnership with local engineering firm Renishaw. The aim of this partnership is to help encourage and support students both at Crypt and in the local area to consider an engineering or related career in the future. Renishaw are very keen to educate young people about the nature of modern engineering and the possible career options available to them in this area of employment. They are keen on recruiting well qualified sixth form leavers for their apprenticeship programmes, and in particular for their software engineering apprenticeship. Renishaw has already provided funding for Raspberry Pi mini computers which will be used to teach software at The Crypt. They also recruit graduates and are located in a wonderful facility near Wotton-under-Edge, just off the M5 motorway. Leading this work at school, will be Mr Kevin Downes and Mr Nigel Ledoux.



At the end of last term, we advertised the opportunity for one of our Year 13 students to undertake a one year apprenticeship. The apprentice will be based within the School's PE department and they will be coached and mentored by Ed Archer and his Elite Academy team. This programme represents a fantastic opportunity to gain real experience of an educational setting and a sports-related environment. The programme will help the apprentice develop the knowledge, skills and personal qualities needed to launch a successful career in the fitness/leisure industry and in world of education and working with young people. I am delighted that George Price in Year 13 has been accepted onto the programme.

## Staff changes

As you may know, Mr Kevin Downes has retired as Head of Physics, although he will remain working in school on our engineering support programme, in partnership with Renishaw. Kevin has been a fantastic ambassador for the teaching of Physics and the development of engineering at the School. I am delighted to announce that Mrs Sarah John has been appointed as our new Head of Physics. Sarah is currently Head of Physics at RGS Worcester and a graduate of Bath University. Sarah will take up her new post in September.

Mr Kieron Davies has decided to leave teaching at the end of this academic year to return to industry. Kieron has been at the forefront of changes to the teaching of Computing at the School, which has seen a move away from ICT teaching to the introduction of coding and computer science. My sincere thanks to Kieron for all that he has contributed to the School and my very best wishes for his future. Mr James Rice has been appointed as our new Head of Computing, and he will take up his post in September. James currently teaches at Balcarrus School and is a graduate of the University of Wales.

Following Mr Hamilton's decision to step down as Head of PE, I am delighted to announce that Mr Ashley Bawden will become our new Director of PE and Sport. Ashley will take up this post after half term, but will continue to lead Year 11 through to their examinations in May.

I am very sorry to announce that Mrs Rebecca Palmer will not be returning to the school following the birth of her second child. We wish her and her family all the very best for the future.

## Parental views about the School

Can I encourage all parents and carers to visit the website below to complete the Parent View online questionnaire. This questionnaire allows parents and carers to give their views about the School at any time. It is also the main mechanism for parents to give their views about the School to inspectors at the time of a school inspection. The questionnaire can be accessed directly from the Parent View site at <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk> or from the home page of Ofsted website at [www.gov.uk/ofsted](http://www.gov.uk/ofsted).

## Co-education and increasing the School's Planned Admission Number for September 2018

I hope that you all received a letter from the Chair of Governors and myself setting out our plans for the future of the School. Clearly, a move to co-education marks a significant change for the School and we would both welcome any feedback that parents may have on this planned change to the status and size of the School. Our letter sets out the main reasons for this change and formal consultation with all stakeholders will take place after May. I hope that parents and students will have confidence in the School's leadership and recognise that this change is in both the best interests of the School, to secure its future, and in the broader interests of education in both the City and region.



NC Dyer  
Headmaster

**PS – Please may I remind parents that they are not permitted to drive up the school drive to drop their children off. We have witnessed parents driving at nearly 30 mph up and down the drive first thing in the morning. This is extremely dangerous and not permitted.**

## IMPORTANT DATES:

### Year 11 & 12 study leave – Mr Stanlake

All exam groups are working well at present and it is very encouraging to see a large number of students are accessing the support and revision sessions that are available. Please can I encourage you to continue to 'push' these with your son or daughter as attendance at these can help boost attainment.

Occasionally, exam boards push the exams back a week, which has happened this year, thus we need to move the study leave date accordingly. I am therefore writing to inform you that the published dates for study leave for the Y11s and Y12s has now been changed from **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May**. This means the students will receive an extra week's teaching. I can only see this being an advantage to the students because they will have an extra week's contact time for teaching, revision and support sessions.

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February – Half Term

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February – New term starts – Week 2

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> – Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February – Y11 Assessment Week

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February – Y9 Curriculum evening

Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> February – Languages Day – more information below

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March – Y12/Y13 Exam week

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March – Y9 Parents' Evening

Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> March – World Challenge Race Night

Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> March – Spring Concert. Please see Music Report for more information

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March – Sports Relief – non uniform day

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March – End of Term – school will finish at 1.10 p.m.

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> & Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> March – Easter Revision Clinics – Year 11 & 12

## SPORTS REPORT :

### BASKETBALL by Sam Chitty, 2<sup>nd</sup> X Coach

With the County Cup underway, The Crypt School are looking strong with a twenty point lead vs Marling in the first round, finishing 55-35 against the home team. The game was promising with assistant captain Zander Tremaine showing the school what damage he can do from beyond the three point line, and leading the squad with 15 points on the night. The starting five held up strong and allowed members of the bench to flourish at both ends of the court. Younger players started to impact the game with great defence and a devastating block by Charlie Pearce, which is now resulting in more names appearing on the score sheet. Well done to the boys who face Pate's in the next fixture.

## MUSIC REPORT : MR WHITTAKER

Music is buzzing at the Crypt! Alongside very creative, diverse and high quality class lessons with an emphasis on a high level of performance, composition and musical literacy, there are at least 10 musical ensembles rehearsing each week-from classical to jazz, early music to the shows! In addition to Mr Whittaker's rehearsal skills with the choir and orchestra, the other ensembles are expertly coached by our instrumental staff and our own very talented students. There really is something for everyone!

### Events:

On Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> February the Choir had a fabulous workshop with Adrian Partington, Director of Music at Gloucester Cathedral Choir.

It was a huge privilege to have a world class and eminent conductor and choir trainer to work with us. The focus was upon improving our choir skills, singing and preparing pieces to perform in Gloucester Cathedral, when we join the cathedral choir to sing evensong and also sing for our own Crypt School Founders' Day, in June.

Adrian's hugely enthusiastic, positive and skilful approach ensured that the workshop was fun, extremely educationally productive and really beneficial to our flourishing choir, in order to develop our choral skills, confidence and to help prepare to sing in the huge acoustic of the magnificent cathedral.

60 students and some staff enthusiastically participated-from basic exercises to warm up our voices, improve our posture, breathing and vowel placement-alongside technical and artistic detail, blending and singing with confidence, detail and musicality-Adrian covered it all-and the choir responded extremely positively and productively.

We sang through and worked on the Magnificat in B flat by Stanford, Locus Iste by Bruckner and a "Gloria" from the twelfth mass, attributed to Mozart, but actually composed by someone else! Christopher Boodle, our piano and organ teacher accompanied wonderfully and Alex Jones, our singing teacher, himself a cathedral lay clerk, joined the bass section!

Adrian delivers technical points with humour, energy and positivity-the choir warmed to him immediately and worked extremely hard. Their behaviour, discipline and determination was exemplary and they were a credit to the school-Adrian was very complementary about their sound and positive attitude.

At the end of the rehearsal, the choir sang through the three pieces and it was absolutely beautiful!

A big thank you also to the Crypt School Parents Association for supporting the music department and funding the workshop.

### **Spring Concert-Wednesday March 16<sup>th</sup>-7pm-Main Hall**

A date not to be missed. This will be a splendid showcase of music-making and will include recital pieces from our talented A level musicians, plus a diverse range of pieces from our rapidly growing range of ensembles, including the choir and orchestra, chamber choirs, brass and string groups, jazz band and our year 7 low brass beginners! Please book your tickets via the school office now, to avoid disappointment-there will be a charge of £3, in order to raise funds for the music department. It promises to be a spectacular evening-refreshments will be served by the CSPTA. Concert Tour to the Rhine Valley-July 3<sup>rd</sup> 6<sup>th</sup>.

Arrangements are being finalised for our exciting concert tour to the Rhine Valley, which will take place during activities week; July 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>. I'm very pleased to say that we have secured the opportunity to participate in a prestigious service at Cologne Cathedral (the choir will sing three unaccompanied motets), alongside a concert in a beautiful baroque church in the picturesque and historical town of Koblenz-for our chamber choir and orchestra and an open concert in the spa town of Bad Bertrich. There is also an exciting range of cultural excursions planned-further updates, a full itinerary and a parents' meeting will be arranged in due course.

### **Student successes in the wider musical community.**

- David Crowe has just been accepted into the prestigious "Flowers" brass band; one of the top 5 brass bands in the country, as their head of percussion. This is a huge achievement for David.
- Eden Saunders-European Chamber orchestra concert
- Liam Fleet-Liam has been given the opportunity by Gloucestershire Music (GM) to perform with the Gloucestershire Youth Wind Orchestra at Olympia on 26<sup>th</sup> February.

We still have copies of the War Songs Project CD. Copies are available from the school office for £2.50. It was a wonderful opportunity for our students, and we have been fortunate to have copies of the film made of the event. The films are professional filmed, recorded and edited and are a brilliant reflection of the day. Please see below for a write up on the event.

## **HOUSE REPORT BY Miss Barnett, Director of Houses**

We started this term with Moore revelling in their lead in the House competition, especially when they had their non-uniform and dough-nuts as a reward! Henley won our first event of the term, the House Dance off; where over 140 boys danced the Macarena and Cha Cha Slide in perfect synchronisation, but Moore continued to lead. Henley then managed to wrench the lead from Moore after House basketball, and throughout our House dodgeball competitions, they have not relinquished it. Henley now lead at the end of Term 3, but only by 107 points! Brown and Whitefield continue to battle between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> place with only 13 points between them at the moment.

Both houses will have to fight to reach the heights of 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> place, but anything could happen in Term 4! Points will build up from sporting events and events around World Book day next term, as well as points from the science Olympiad and maths Challenges to go into the pot soon!

A big thanks to all who have taken part in House events or supported their House this term. Thanks too to all the staff and students who have organised, run or encouraged people to attend House events!

## **MFL LANGUAGES DAY – Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2016**

Year 8 will have a Russian taster session, we will be having a 'students teach us' session at lunch where they teach us and each other bits of their languages, there is a French theatre company in lunch onwards to put on a play for y7 and possibly some y6.

## **WORLD CHALLENGE REPORT : BY Alex Vrabtchev**

Our World Challenge preparation has been a long and interesting process so far. Definitely one of the highlights of the last year has been the practice expedition to Dartmoor. In order to prepare us for the lifestyle of camping on trek in Peru, we took a weekend in Dartmoor at the World Challenge centre. It was overall a fun and interesting experience; however, the conditions were generally terrible!! For two days it was freezing cold and pouring rain, one of our teammates came back with a face so red I swear it might have been glowing! Despite this, it has definitely prepared us for Peru, and we got the opportunity to meet our team leader, which will hopefully make us a better team.

However, it's not all fun and games. There has been a serious amount of fundraising work that we have been doing both as a team and individually. Mostly we run cake sales, or refreshments at parent's evenings and so forth. It's not a lot, but every little helps. More exciting however, are some of the individual fundraising events that some of our team have done. One of our teammates abseiled down the Clifton gorge in Bristol, and another one of our teammates shaved his head for the trip. We've also got bigger events planned in the future, such as a Race Night and an International Evening.

The World Challenge itself also involves a group project, which is the primary reason why several of our team signed up. Our project for the 2016 trip is renovating a girl's school in Peru to ensure that girls have the same access to education as boys. This hopefully will help us communicate and leave a longstanding memory of us with the school, as well as make memories we will never forget!

## **SPORTS RELIEF – Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> March – Mr Hart**

Our Sport Relief challenge this year is the most ambitious we have ever set. We will be attempting to bench press for 24 hours as a school. This event will start on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March at 3.15 and finish on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March at 3.15.

We will have 3 benches set up with a 10k bar, 20k bar and 50k bar. Our aim will be to keep one of the benches going for 24 hours. The students will be asked to sign up, as part of a team of between 2 to 10, for a 10 min slot in school hours, or an hour slot afterschool. Clearly for this to be successful it will rely on lots of people getting involved. For health and safety reasons students will only be allowed to bench press for a maximum of 30 seconds at a time and Key Stage 3 students (Years 7 – 9) will not be allowed to sign up between 10pm and 7am. A 10 min slot will cost £5 per team and to book in for an hour we are hoping that each individual will be able to raise at least £10 in sponsorship.

We are hoping to raise £3000 and our aim is lift 1 million Kilos in the 24 hours. I have also registered the challenge with Guinness World Records because there is currently no world record for this activity, which I hope is another incentive for students to get involved.

I have already delivered this challenge to all senior and junior students via an assembly. I hope therefore you will join with me to encourage your son or daughter to take part in this challenge and help us make a difference. Any questions, please email me [ahart@crypt.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:ahart@crypt.gloucs.sch.uk)

## OTHER NOTICES

### Do you live in Winchcombe, Greet, Gretton & Alderton?

A couple of mothers whose children attend either The Crypt School or Ribston Hall high school are looking into the possibility of a new bus route through certain villages. The bus route would pick up from the Winchcombe, Greet, Gretton & Alderton area for Crypt/Ribston pupils. Which would avoid the daily run to Cheltenham racecourse and hopefully leave a little later. (Allowing a longer lie-in!).

If anyone is interested, please email Mrs Polly Henrick :- [polly.henrick@btinternet.com](mailto:polly.henrick@btinternet.com)

We have received an email from Councillor Sian Krotiuk, who is **Quedgeley Youth Parish** Mentor, they are looking for new members. If you live in the Quedgeley area and are interested in discussing events and idea for Quedgeley, their next meeting is on 3<sup>rd</sup> March at 6.30 p.m. at Quedgeley Community Centre – or please contact Sian on [sian.krotiuk@gmail.com](mailto:sian.krotiuk@gmail.com)

Request from the Library – do you have any recent young adult fiction books, quality literature, or up-to-date non-fiction you might like to donate to the Library? – please contact Nicola Turner [nturner@crypt.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:nturner@crypt.gloucs.sch.uk)



Cheltenham Pate's Theatre Festival 2016 – Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February –Free parking, workshops and shows, circus skills, puppetry, theatre, voice training, art, all ages welcome, visit [www.ticketsource.co.uk/patesgs](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/patesgs) for more information.

## NEWS FROM AN OLD CRYPTIAN

My name is Stefan Quarry. I attended crypt between 2004-2009. I am NOW a director of Hempen; a newly formed hemp farming cooperative. We grow, process and sell organic hemp products. Please see our website for more information : <https://www.crowdshed.com/projects/hempen>