



The Crypt School Newsletter Term 4 2016

Dear Parents,

This term has been a busy one for both students and staff: we have had to pack in a full term's worth of work into just under five weeks due to the early arrival of the Easter holiday this year. I am very pleased that all of our examination groups are working well and making good progress towards their summer examinations. They must of course use the Easter break to recharge their depleted batteries, but also must use that time to undertake important revision. Public examinations will begin in May for Year 11 and Year 12, and in June for Year 13. Next term our revision and support sessions for all examination groups will continue and I urge all examination candidates to attend as many of these sessions as they can.

Away from academic work, the School have enjoyed great success in a variety of areas. The F1 in School Team, led by Donny Wong, won their regional heat, winning in four out of the six categories available, and now progress to the national finals in April, to be held at Silverstone grand prix circuit. My congratulations to the whole team and thanks to Mr Downes and Mr Ledoux for their work and support of the team. Our sports teams continue to thrive in a variety of competitions. Most notably perhaps, was the recent success of our Year 9 rugby sevens team at the Roselyn Park tournament, who reached the last eight. Our football teams have also excelled with our Year 9 team currently third placed in the County league. The senior basketball team, coached by Mr Woolf, came third in the country finals – a superb achievement in their first year of competition.

On Sport Relief day, Mr Hart organised his most difficult school challenge to date - a world record bench-pressing marathon. This involved many members of staff and hundreds of students, who each gave up their time to try collectively to set a world record for the most weight bench-pressed over a 24 hour period. More than one million kilograms were pressed over 24 hours and a new world record has been set. Perhaps more importantly, hundreds of pounds was raised for Comic Relief charities and once again the pupils and staff of this school demonstrated just how generous they are and just how committed they are to helping others.

The musical life of the School continues to flourish and I was delighted to be able to attend the wonderful concert held in the school hall last week. Our musicians and singers performed a wide and varied range of pieces, to everyone's delight and proved once again how talented and hardworking they are. My thanks to Mr Whittaker and his team for organising that event.

Other activities this term have included a Year 10 business breakfast, which sees local business people coming into school to talk with Year 10 students about their careers. Through this, Year 10 students gain an insight into future careers and, just as importantly, have a chance to develop their interpersonal and communication skills. Year 9 took part in GCHQ's annual Young Innovators competition, organised by Ms Gardiner. The winning team, Octocard, in Year 9 comprised Nathan Rose-Innes, Daniel Selwood, Oliver Cross, Santino Calderone, Lewis Cole and Kyle Roach-Smith. They will be going to GCHQ in May for the finals.

Our STEM work continues in partnership with local primary schools and companies such as Renishaw and GE Aviation. Earlier this term, the MFL department organised a Foreign Language day, the highlight of which was a lunchtime session where pupils taught other pupils and staff some phrases from their own language. Over twenty different languages were being taught on that day, an indication of the wonderfully diverse range of students we now educate at the School.

Parents and students will want to know when our formal consultation on whether to move to become a fully co-educational school from September 2018 begins. A letter will be sent home to all parents at the start of next term setting out details of the consultation and I do hope that you will all wish to contribute to that debate.

I would like to announce some internal staffing changes :

Mr Ashley Bawden has been appointed as our new Director of Sport and PE. Mr Bawden will continue to oversee Year 11 until they go on study leave in May, and then he will step down from his role as Head of Upper School, but will continue his pastoral work overseeing Year 10.

Ms Holly Okell, has been appointed as our new Head of Upper School. She will oversee Year 11 next year and work with Mr Bawden in the Upper School Office.

I am sure you will all join with me in passing our congratulations and best wishes onto Mr Hamilton who is getting married over the Easter Break.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all parents and students a relaxing and enjoyable Easter break.



NC Dyer
Headmaster



The School Facebook and Twitter Accounts are both up and running and filled with news and notices. Please do log on and have a look. All letters sent home to parents will also be available on the website.

Reminder about the use of mobile phones in school

They can be brought into school, however, they should not be switched on in any lessons (unless for educational purposes as directed by the teacher). Under no circumstances are they to be used to take photos or to film things/events/other pupils etc... They should not be used to make calls on during the school day. Some pupils use their mobiles to play games on at break or lunchtime – this is acceptable.

Any misuse of mobiles – should normally result in an immediate C3 and confiscation of the phone.

Footballs

Following another broken window, all hard footballs etc. are now banned from the main playgrounds, and can only be used in the tennis court area. Light footballs are permitted, which can be purchased from reception for £ HOW MUCH??? Basketballs are permitted, if used for basketball

IMPORTANT DATES:

Tuesday 29th & Wednesday 30th March : Revision Clinics for Years 11, 12 & 13

Monday, 11th April : Term 5 begins – Week 1

Friday, 22nd April : Non-uniform Day for World Challenge

Monday 25th – Friday 29th April : Y10 Exam Week

Monday, 2nd May – Bank Holiday Monday

Monday 9th – Friday 13th May – Y11 Revision Week

Friday, 13th May : Study Leave starts for Years 11 & 12

Monday, 16th May : GCSE / A Levels begin

Friday, 27th May : Y13 Study Leave starts.

Friday 27th – Monday 30th May : Y7 Visit to France

Monday, 30th May – Friday, 3rd June : Half Term

It has been a busy couple of terms for the PE department and the many students who have represented the school on the sports field.

Football

All year groups (Year 8 – 11) have all qualified for the district cup semi finals after Easter by finishing within the top 4 teams within the city in their respective competitions. The first XI beat STRS 2-0 in the County Cup to reach the final which will also be played after the Easter holidays. Goals from Dean Payne and Dominic Plant secured the victory but there have been standout performances from Ryan Williams, Chris Hartshorn and Scott Halls all term as the senior side have only lost one game in the 9 that they have played.

Rugby

The Year 7 A & B teams have got their Crypt Rugby off to a great start. Although results have been a little mixed, students have shown great commitment playing every Saturday morning since Christmas and their performance has improved week on week. They will certainly continue to develop and be a strong year group in future years.

Rossllyn Park

The highlight of the term however has to be the Year 9 success both in 7s and the EDF County Cup. After narrowly finishing third in the Solihull 7s competition, 12 Year 9s travelled to Rossllyn Park once again. After missing out on the finals day last year at the National 7s tournament, the boys were hoping to go one better this year. After winning the group with comfortable and impressive wins against Plymouth College, Rugby School, Eltham College and Hurstpierpoint College the boys achieved their goal by going through to the finals day and day two of the tournament.



In the play-off game Lewis Drewett went the length of the field in the last minute to beat Epsom College which took the team into the last 8 and quarter final play-off stage. The play off finals were a huge step up in level and after a long two days the boys came unstuck a little against Warwick and Ivybridge College. The team were able to salvage some points beating St Pauls in the final group game but the losses earlier in the group meant we didn't reach the semi-finals. The team can be very proud of their efforts especially as they have made it to the last 8 in the country and the eventual final was between the 2 teams we had lost to in the group, with Ivybridge being crowned champions after beating Warwick.

EDF Cup

Following the team's success on the 7s circuit, the boys carried this into the cup semi-final against St Peters. As a team the Year 9 A team have played 21 games so far this season only losing one game to Dean Close earlier in the year. Mr Bawden has looked to challenge the team and comprehensive victories over Cheltenham College, Beechen Cliff in Bath and STRS have put them in an excellent position in the cup. After a nervous start, Lewis Drewett sprinted into the corner for the first try of the game against St Peters. James Loader topped off a great all round performance scoring the other 2 tries of the game as the Year 9s made it through to the County Cup final by winning 15-3.

The EDF Cup Final is due to be played at Kingsholm on Wednesday 27th April where the Year 9s will take on Dene Magna in the final. Arrangements are being made for the final as we speak and it is hoped the Year 9s will be well supported at Kingsholm.

MUSIC REPORT:

Our Spring Concert was a showcase of the range of musical talent at the Crypt School, featuring a wide range of diverse groups including some student led ensembles, A level performances and masterful performances from our symphony orchestra and choir. The orchestra opened the concert with Rossini's "Overture to the Barber of Seville", giving a very vibrant and musically detailed performance, which demonstrated excellent intonation and strong sense of rhythm—all the instrumental colours of the orchestra were heard and it was so wonderful to hear younger musicians performing so well alongside our more advanced instrumentalists. It was followed by an outstanding performance of "Rhapsody in Blue" on the clarinet, by Year 12 student Edi May; accompanied masterfully by our piano and organ teacher, Mr Christopher Boodle. Edi's maturity as a player and his technical prowess is dazzling. The first performance by our vibrant and flourishing choir was an arrangement of "Chattanooga choo choo", demonstrating crisp consonants and style—demonstrating that our choir is comfortable in singing music of different styles. What was particularly enjoyable was the blend of the parts and the strong bass resonance. We have been lucky to secure funding for free beginner brass lessons—three boys, Matyas, Noah and Xavier, performed a simple piece on euphonium and trombones; demonstrating enthusiasm and good progress—they will be joining our brass group in September. David Crowe, talented year 13 musician, has prepared the brass band—tonight they demonstrated excellent tuning and skill, as they performed "Viva la vida" by Coldplay. This was followed by another wonderful year 12 solo—Caitlin Farrell, singing "I have dreamed" from "The King and I"; with beautiful tone colour.

The chamber choir, ably coached by Mr Alexander Jones, our singing teacher, performed the madrigal "Fair Phyllis I saw"; again showing tight ensemble singing and clear diction featuring a range of boys from year 7 to the Director of Music! David Crowe then sang "Come away death" from his Year 13 recital, showing how beautiful the countertenor voice can sound—a very challenging piece and setting of Shakespeare from a local composer; Gerald Finzi. Our guitar group, coached by Mr Mark Remes, featured a banjo, mandolin, two guitars and congas, demonstrated that the Crypt School caters for every musician—wonderful playing; year 13 student, Rob Day, then performed the theme from "Schindler's list"—a beautiful violin solo and the first half finished with the percussion group—featuring students from every year group on an arrangement of the "Imperial march" from "Star Wars"—coached by David Crowe.

After a 15 minute interval, the Jazz Band, coached by Edi May, gave a sterling performance of the "St Louis Blues", in which each student was given the opportunity to improvise—a hugely important skill—particularly notable was David Jackson's opening solo! Mr David Snow then conducted them through an electric performance of "El Gato gordo", highlighting the use of Brazilian percussion. A girls quartet then sang "I won't say I'm in love"—featuring star performances from Maddy Hodges, Molly Bretnall, Jess Goode and Hannah Lynch and then Jess Goode gave a sensitive rendition on the piano of an Adagio by Pleyel. Liam Fleet, with news of his merit at Grade 7 bassoon, gave a beautiful performance of "Gabriel's oboe", with beautiful expressive maturity for a year 9 pupil. After which, the choir gave a rousing and spirited performance of Stanford's "Magnificat in B flat", a piece that they had worked on with Cathedral Director of Music, Mr Adrian Partington, in preparation for their evensong in May. Wonderful diction, expression and blend complemented that performance. Olivia Franghiadi, from year 12 then gave a truly outstanding performance of the "Czardas" by Monti on the xylophone, in preparation for her recital. It was spellbinding to hear the incredible contrasts of dynamics and drama in the performance. The concert then finished with a magical performance of the mighty "Danse Macabre" by Saint Saens—a tour de force for any orchestra; they played it with drama, excitement and intensity. A very exciting and fitting end to an incredible showcase of talent.

The Crypt School music department's philosophy is to "make the most of every child's musical talent", this was evident—high standards, inclusion, variety and a common ambition to share in the joy of performance!

MFL Y12 VISIT TO ORLEANS, VERSAILLES & PARIS REPORT : by Jago Hemming, Will Dobson and James King

Over the February half term, we travelled to France with Balcarras School in Cheltenham and stayed for four days in and around the Orléans area of the Loire Valley. During this time, we also visited Versailles and Paris which made the stay well worth our while.

For the first two mornings, we had two hours of speaking practice with native French speakers which not only allowed us to bond with the other students, but also allowed us to improve our confidence and aid fluency in the French language.

The trip included visits to cities none of us had ever been to before and provided us with some cultural knowledge of French life – and some great photos to commemorate our time there - including sights such as La Loire, Le Chateau de Versailles, La Tour Eiffel and many more. We also had the chance to go to the cinema and went bowling.

In general we all agreed that we found this trip beneficial for our confidence in speaking French which was enhanced

because we weren't sat in a traditional classroom setting. We all recommend that the trip runs again in the future.



La visite de Paris fut le temps fort de notre voyage pour moi et nous avons pu prendre des photos de notre voyage! La Tour Eiffel était surtout magnifique par la beauté structurelle et je ne l'avais déjà vu sauf à la télé. Je n'ai pas été déçu!

Aussi, nous avons visité l'Arc de Triomphe qui était formidable! J'étais un peu déçu car nous n'avons pu aller au haut, mais finalement, c'était pas trop mal!

En plus, Le Louvre ne nous décevait pas! C'était beau et notre seul regret était que nous ne l'avons pas vu la nuit parce que l'éclairage aurait été magnifique!

Le dimanche, nous avons visité aussi le Château de Versailles et il faut dire que l'extérieur était mort! Nous avons bien aimé l'expérience et nous avons apprécié la visite car, pour moi, je n'ai jamais vu quelque chose comme ça!

Écrit par Jago Hemming

ENGLISH VISIT TO DR FAUSTUS : by Sanah El Gadi

I really did not know what to expect. I loved reading and studying the play, but to be an audience member in a production by The Royal Shakespeare Company after hearing the historic tales of audience reaction during the time of publish, I was slightly apprehensive, yet hugely intrigued. I have seen many, many productions, but none quite like this one. After the delightful minibus journey observing Mr Sandell's driving capabilities and having a missing-ticket drama – we arrived in the lovely city of Stratford Upon Avon.

For those who do not know the play by Christopher Marlowe; a scholar called John Faustus decides that his next area of study shall be magic, but magic in the 16th century was thought of as highly anti-religious – even conjuring the devil was illegal, so the initial performances of Faustus were regarded extremely dangerous. Faustus then conjures the devil's servant, Mephistopheles, who convinces Faustus to sign a contract with Lucifer (in his own blood) for twenty-four years of ultimate sovereignty providing that, at the end of this period, Faustus shall be condemned to hell and give his soul to the devil.

All in all, fantastic evening. Thoroughly recommend it (unless you're a strong Catholic in which case you may spontaneously combust) and thank you very muchly to Mr Sandell for organising it.

During the 2015/16 Academic Year, Year 10 and 12 students of German had the opportunity to take part in our German Exchange programme. This programme, run in conjunction with Ribston Hall School, offers students the opportunity to travel to the picturesque German town of Göttingen, a few hours south of Berlin. The town is a beautiful example of a typical German town and its University boasts the greatest number of Nobel Prize winners in history. We visit at the end of November / start of December, so as to experience the real German Christmas spirit in full flow!

While in Göttingen, our year 10 students stay with host families, experiencing the German way of life, visiting our award-winning partner school, the IGS Göttingen, seeing an authentic German market, and visiting a number of interesting and historical towns and cities nearby. In previous years, students have also visited Berlin for a day's shopping, visiting many different war memorials, and seeing the remnants of the Berlin Wall.

Our year 12 students, though they stay with host families and visit the IGS Göttingen, undertake a four day long work experience placement while in Germany, utilising their German Language skills and developing professional relationships both with other year 12 students and their employers.

In the following Spring, the German students return to Gloucester with us and spend time seeing The Crypt School, Gloucester, Cheltenham, Oxford, and many other interesting places!

In the past, trips have included a day trip to London, taking in all the sights and Madame Tussauds, as well as Warwick Castle, where students had the opportunity to see a working trebuchet fire a fireball across the grounds, or to enter the terrifying dungeon, meeting several gruesome characters who have each played their part throughout the history of the castle.

For the year 12 students, the German students will undertake their own work experience while here and so will be at home and out socialising with students at evenings and on weekends, but getting a taste for the English working world on weekdays.

This is a truly unmissable experience and one which is extremely valuable for those students undertaking a GCSE or an AS Level in German.

This year's trip consisted of trips to the town of Kassel, ice skating on Göttingen's outdoor ice rink, visiting the German Market and a planetarium. Once back in England, students took part in bowling at Hollywood Bowl, a trip to Warwick Castle, a visit to Cheltenham and Crickley Hill, and meeting the Mayor and Sheriff of Gloucester.

Here the students are dressed up as Mayor, Sheriff and Mace Bearers



All those students in year 9 or year 11 who are taking German next year should come and speak to Mr. Ferguson to ensure that you don't miss out on a brilliant experience!

"The German Exchange was one of the best school experiences I have had since Year 7. We were able to meet and see new people, and overall just have a really fun time interacting with people who like the same things as you do." – Ryan Langston, Year 10, German Exchange 2014/15.

CAREERS REPORT : by Mrs Reynolds – Head of RE / Citizenship / Careers

A busy two terms with so many careers events going on at Crypt.

Among the highlights have been the Careers Fair held at the end of January. We had over 40 organisations representing a wide array of post 16 and 18 options, including university, F.E. Colleges, apprenticeship providers, NHS, business and finance opportunities and engineering companies. Students from year 7-13 attended the event throughout the day and many of them were able to make final and informed choices based on the information received.

The Navy presentation team came into to talk to an interested group of 20 year 9-13 students about the careers available in the forces, including the marines which quite a few students were thinking about. Later the same day a GE Aviation team of apprentices came in to talk to our sixth form engineering candidates about the application process among other things. This was well received and we are confident that some of students will secure good engineering apprenticeships at GE this year. Renishaw who help sponsor the school's engineering prowess have recently advertised valuable work experience opportunities for our year 10 and 12 to apply to - if you would like further information on this then please contact me at school.

Friday the 11th March saw 16 of our year 11-13 students attending the Grow Gloucester skills event. This was aimed at students who are thinking of non-university routes as post 16 and 18 options.

As ever if you feel you can offer any career expertise to the school then please do not hesitate to contact me as our students really engage with career insight talks and 1&Q sessions with the 'experts' in the field.

HOUSE REPORT : by Miss Barnett

Henley began term 4 as our leaders in the House competition, having wrested it from Moore. The points from the Physics and Biology Olympiad allowed Brown to take 3rd place from Whitefield. But it was the Intermediate Maths Challenge that saw Moore triumph and take pole position from Henley again, all positions remaining the same after the World Book Day Quiz. Year 8 House football then caused an upset, putting Henley back in the lead, and letting Brown overtake Whitefield! Well done 8CBs on your win! Henley now lead by 127 points as we go into the final week of term. There are scant points between each House so keep up the hard work.

The points from Year 10 House football will be added soon, the Year 9 competition is scheduled for the last day of term! The chess competition is in its final stages and the Chemistry Olympiad scores will be finalised in the near future. We're looking forward to charity events, Year 7 rugby and the summer sports starting up to add to the points in term 5. We have our potential new House Captains ready and waiting for the assemblies next term where the voting for who will be a part of next year's team will take place. Good luck everyone!

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!

Miss Barnett, Director of Houses.

Totals so far:

10547	11306	11179	10430
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Three quarters of 10-12 Year-olds have underage social media accounts

Latest report from BBC Newsround reports 3/4 of children aged 10-12 have a social media profile



Put simply 75% of children are breaking legal terms and conditions, a shockingly high number. As we know once the 50% mark is reached it is very difficult for parents not to bow to peer pressure as they do not want their children to miss out or be labelled as “uncool”. The problem is self-perpetuating resulting in such high levels of young children using age inappropriate apps. Why is it that in the online world such terms and conditions are just blithely ignored?

The online and offline world seem to operate with very different sets of instructions. A recent straw poll saw 100% of year 5 and 6 children say they had watched or played a game with a rating of 18. When posed the same question with regards to films only 3 hands went up. Despite all the good work that goes on with organisations such as NSPCC, PEGI, SwGfL to name but a few the message is clearly not getting through to parents or children. How do educational professionals deal with this, as the saying goes “You can take a horse to water but you can’t make it drink”. E-safety seminars within schools are notorious for low attendance, with parents either deliberately or naively turning a blind eye.

In the Ofcom report on Children’s media use parents cited the main reason they did not, for example use safe search, was because they trusted their children. Trust is not enough, children must be protected. There is a difference between “trust” and “protection”. We need to educate parents that even if you “trust” your child you still need to protect them. Children wear cycling helmets – this is not because we don’t “trust” them to fall off their bikes – it is because we want to protect them.

For the first time, children are now spending more time on the Internet than watching TV and are accessing content unsupervised at an increasingly younger age, so rather than turning a blind eye, parents should be actively discussing Internet use with their children. If parents are familiar with the online playground their children are in, they will at least have some notion of the potential risks. And once they do know where their children are hanging out, they then have the opportunity to suggest safer alternatives such as ChatFOSS. After all, we don’t want to prevent young people from learning how to use social media properly as it is integral to modern life. By showing them safer alternatives which teach them the principles without the risks, it’s like teaching them to ride a bike with stabilisers.

Happily, the majority of underage usage of apps such as Instagram, twitter and facebook is entirely innocent, however that does not mean such usage does not bring with it risks. The reported increase in mental health issues that is being attributed to social media seems to have no impact on parental decisions. Can the recent Newsround report stating that 37% of children who use social media underage are friends with someone they have never met encourage parents to be more involved in e-safety? I hope so.