

## The Crypt School

### The School

The Crypt School is an exciting and vibrant environment in which to teach and to learn. The School has a long and distinguished tradition of academic excellence dating back to 1539, when the School was founded at the Church of St. Mary de Crypt in the centre of Gloucester. We moved to our present site in 25 acres of grounds on the Southern Outskirts of the city in the 1940's. There are currently around 1006 pupils on roll with nearly 300 in the Sixth Form.

In September 2018, the School welcomed its first cohort of girls into Year 7, marking a change in the status of the School from an 11-18 selective boys' grammar school with a co-educational sixth form, to a fully co-educational selective school – the only co-educational selective school in Gloucester. This change now offers parents in the city and region greater choice, whilst enabling the boys and girls who will be educated at The Crypt, to benefit from a co-educational setting. Alongside of the change to a fully co-educational school, the School has been approved as a Sponsor School, working to support other schools in the area to improve the quality of the education provided: it is clearly a most exciting time to be joining The Crypt School!

We are proud of our school community, which comprises a talented and hardworking staff team, committed governors, industrious and courteous pupils, supportive parents who contribute much to the School through the Crypt School PTA, and a strong Old Cryptians' Club. The Crypt is a happy and well-disciplined school. Pupils in Years 7 – 11 wear a full school uniform, and the dress code for students in the Sixth Form is smart office wear.

We have the highest expectations for all our pupils in both their academic and co-curricular pursuits. We aim to ensure that every pupil achieves their full potential and leaves school fully prepared for, and confident in facing the challenges of life as well rounded young adults. Most importantly, we want our pupils to feel valued, happy and secure at school. In later life, we hope that they retain fond memories of their school days, and will be able to feel that they were a part of something very special.

The School is forward looking and will continue to embrace new teaching technologies and methodologies to ensure high quality outcomes for our students. CPD is important, and we place a high emphasis on helping staff to develop the skills they need to do their job well and to help prepare them for the challenges of the future. Our culture supports staff in both trying new ideas and then sharing them through our Teaching and Learning Lead Teachers. At the same time, we place a high emphasis upon traditional grammar school values: excellence and the celebration of learning, valued for its own sake; determination in the face of difficulties and the inevitable challenges that life throws our way; leadership opportunities; care and celebrating every individual's worth.

Gloucester is still a small city yet retains four grammar schools. The ability profile of our pupils is therefore from the top 30 percent, which is broad in comparison with some grammar schools nationally, although in the past five years the ability level of our cohort on entry to the School has risen significantly. That trend is likely to be accelerated as we move to a co-educational intake from 2018. The School draws pupils from a wide geographical area, although the majority live in the southern half of the city of Gloucester. It is a source of pride that the great majority of the School's pupils do live in the city of Gloucester, whereas the intake of the other city grammar schools is much more widely spread.

For a medium sized school, the sporting achievements of the pupils have been remarkable. In recent years several pupils have gained representative honours at a national level in a variety of sports.

Gloucestershire is a rugby county and so inevitably rugby is the main winter sport for boys, with football and cross country running. The girls take part in netball and football, with some opting for rugby. Girls' sport is an area that will develop strongly over the next few years. Cricket and athletics are the main summer sports and pupils also enjoy other sporting and recreational activities throughout the year and access to the school gym. In December 2013 Ofsted conducted a one day inspection of our provision for Competitive Sport, which was graded as "Exceptional." The performing arts are very well supported and encouraged as an essential part of school life. Music, both choral and instrumental, is well established at the heart of the school. P.E., Music and Drama are also successful as A level and GCSE options. Each year a major play is staged in the main hall; recent plays have included - Macbeth, 'Oh, What a lovely War', Peter Pan, School of Rock and this year Billy Elliot.

In every sense the School is healthy and is improving. Results in the summers of 2018, 2017 and 2016 were the best in both raw terms in the School's history and value added is significantly positive (our Progress 8 score for 2018 is 0.65). Even more importantly the percentage of students achieving 9-7 grades at GCSE and A\*-B grades at A level has increased significantly in recent years, as have the number of students receiving offers of University places from Oxford, Cambridge and other Russell Group universities. A growing number of leavers also now progress to higher level apprenticeships at companies such as GE Aviation, Deloitte and GCHQ.

The School is full from 11-16, and we created a fifth form of entry in Year 7 in 2016 to cope with growing numbers and VI form numbers have increased annually. At around 1000 students, the School is the fullest it has ever been.

Staff morale is very high and the School invests much time and money into the professional development of all colleagues to ensure continued school improvement. In 2013, we achieved Investors in People Gold award in recognition of that commitment. Over the past few years significant investment in the school site has been made - a £1.4 million VI form Learning Resource Centre was completed in the spring of 2009, adding four new VI form classrooms, an ICT suite and a library for whole school use. A brand new food technology room was completed in 2010 and Food Technology was added to the curriculum in September 2011. We received over £900,000 of funding in 2011/12 which was spent on building a dedicated Drama Studio and Fitness Suite. In the summer of 2015, we opened a new £1.8m Engineering block, which houses the Mathematics and Physics departments and a new Robotics room. In 2017, at a cost of almost £1m, we completely refurbished our sports hall and constructed an adjacent classroom block which houses the Sports Science and Psychology departments. This year we will be spending £850,000 on a new sports pavilion and netball and tennis courts, to provide accommodation and facilities for our new female intake.

We face the future with great confidence. We were inspected by Ofsted in May 2012 which recorded that we are an outstanding school in every category. We were designated as a Teaching School in 2013, a sponsor school in 2018 and both parents and pupils continue to regard us very highly, as recorded in recent Kirkland Rowell and other surveys. In addition to being held in high esteem for our academic results and co-curricular programme, we are regarded as a school with outstanding pastoral care, with a strong commitment to the development of the whole person.

The School's finances are secure and we became an Academy 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011, enabling us to maintain our current staffing levels, and in consequence therefore the excellent curricular and co-curricular opportunities available to students at the school.

The School is far from complacent though and we are always looking at how we can improve upon our current practice.

The Crypt School is a friendly and welcoming place to teach in. We benefit from a supportive culture and a keen and enthusiastic pupil body. All staff contribute to the wider life of the School and we welcome applications from colleagues who want to make a real difference to our school and the lives of the pupils who attend.

Thank you for your interest in the School, and I look forward to meeting you in due course.

NC Dyer  
Headmaster