



NOVEMBER 2011 NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents,

We held our Annual Service of Remembrance on 11th November with Steve Jarvis from the Gloucester Diocese officiating. The service was well attended by Old Cryptians and Mrs. Evans laid on an excellent display on the Crush Hall table remembering those who fought and died in the Second World War. Poetry in a variety of languages written by the students was displayed on screens in the Crush Hall. This is always a very moving event and this year it was filmed by BBC reporter Steve Knibbs, himself an Old Cryptian. His interview with our School Captain, Caitlin Davies, was shown on Points West that lunchtime.

I would extend my congratulations to Mr. Griffiths, who directed a magnificent production of the Wizard of Oz, Mr. Hiscock our Musical Director, and Mrs. Evans for her wonderful costumes and makeup, and the many other members of staff who contributed to and / or performed in the production. Our students were wonderful, there were outstanding performances from Isabelle Webster as Dorothy, Josh Silk as the Wicked Witch of the West, Nick Jones as Tin Man, Tom Berry as the Lion and Sean Beckett as the Scarecrow. The Tuesday matinee performance was well attended by 270 local primary school children. If any parents took photographs of the performance and would be happy to share them with us, please email them to swales@crypt.gloucs.sch.uk.

The School Improvement Partner visited this week to look at our summer results. His conclusion is that the various external measures of school performance show that we are outstanding for a third consecutive year.

We will be conducting our 4th Kirkland Rowell pupil and parent surveys next month. In the last surveys carried out the school scored an excellent overall rating, and since the results have improved since then I am hopeful that the parents will again concur!

You may have heard in the news that general secretaries of public sector unions are currently in discussion with the government regarding changes to pension arrangements. You may also be aware that teaching and support staff unions have voted, or are in the process of voting on discontinuous industrial action and that Wednesday, 30th November is likely to be the day chosen for further action. We will not know the extent of the disruption until the results of voting are known and I will write to you then to give you full details on how the school will be operating on Wednesday, 30th November. In the meantime it may be advisable to make alternative arrangements for the day in the events that the school is unable to remain open.

As you are aware the school has been awarded a grant of nearly £1 million to complete building works in the school. We are extremely fortunate to look forward to a remodeled gymnasium, and resurfaced driveway and new footpath, with additional lighting and CCTV. Naturally this amount of work will involve some disruption, with this in mind, I would like to inform you of work which will be taking place in the next couple of weeks and the effect it will have on students and parents.

The temporary road and car park for staff and visitors is being started next week and will be in use from Monday, 28th November. Sixth Form pupils will be able to continue to park in their existing car park until the end of January. The Main Reception will not be accessible from 28th November and all visitors will be relocated to a new reception area in The John and Joan Cooke Centre. Pupils will no longer be able to use the dining hall door to enter into school, but will have access to the gym entrance and middle stairwell entrance. The breaking up of the existing road will also commence at this time – this will be extremely noisy and we are aware that exams will be taking place around this time. We will do all that we can to minimize disruption. In the case of external exams in January, it may be necessary to move them to an offsite location, notice will be given to parents well in advance. Work is very much dependent on the weather, so as time and works move forward we will keep you updated.

Our new website is now up and running, www.cryptschool.org, please do have a look and let us know what you think – both positive and negative. I am most grateful to Mr. Dyer and Mr. Taylor for all their hard work making the improvements.

Staffing update – we have said farewell Jason Phillips – Business Studies teacher and Eqbal Choksi(IT technician). We thank them for their work during their time with us. We welcome John Heath who is currently teaching Business Studies. We also wish to extend our congratulations to Miss Roden, who became Mrs. Palmer in October half term.

Best wishes



Headmaster

Design Technology welcomes Food Technology

Well done, Crypt, for building the best Food Technology room in the county! We now have lovely state-of-the-art facilities, heat proof work surfaces, Neff and Bosch appliances (thank you for supplying us, Gillmans): a half-million pound project that has now come to fruition in order to harness the potential of our budding *Chefs de Cuisine!*

A warm Crypt welcome also extends to our new food teacher Mrs Chad-Daniels and new food technician Miss Roberts, who will be guiding the current year 7, 8 and 12 pupils through the Licence To Cook programme. Clare Chad-Daniels has 20 years of teaching experience across Gloucestershire and Swindon (Crypt is lucky number 8), and has been employed to cover Ms. Fletcher during her maternity leave. She loves experimenting with food, won a place on the Chefs At Sea GMTV competition last year working with Marco Pierre White and Rosemary Shrager on the P&O cruise ship Ventura, and cannot resist incorporating alcohol in her luxury desserts at home.



Mrs. Clare Chad-Daniels



Miss Natasha Roberts

Miss Roberts has honed her own culinary skills over six years working in two different Gloucestershire primary school kitchens, and is an invaluable addition to the Food department: she has also managed to equip the room in time to start cooking this term - an indebted thanks to her. Importantly, unlike some other schools in the area, Crypt pupils will be expected to cook every week in a 10 week D&T module in order to develop a thorough knowledge and understanding of food and perfect some basic practical culinary skills by the end of Key Stage 3.

We look forward to enhancing the learning experience of our future Jamie Olivers, and to working in partnership with our parents/guardians and other agencies.

Design Technology Department

SICKNESS BUGS

We have quite a few students currently off school with sickness bugs, please could we ask that parents do NOT send their children to school when they have had such a bug for at least 24 hours after their last bout of sickness.

EVENTS:

Open Day Success!

The Sixth Form Open Evening took place on Tuesday 8th November and was a tremendous success! There was a terrific atmosphere around the school and we had extremely positive comments from the prospective students and parents, many of whom were extremely keen to complete our application forms to join Y12 next September.



We had our best turnout ever and more students than before have registered an initial interest in joining Crypt! In fact, students came from 25 different schools to visit us.

Our own students did us proud again by taking really active roles at the event and by being the best possible ambassadors for the sixth form. They make me feel privileged to be their head of year. School Captain Caitlin Davies and Vice Captain Josh Silk did especially well to calmly give their speeches to two very full halls of attentive listeners.

Waxing Lyrical!



Recently members of the sixth form continued their charity fundraising with a waxing event.

Several of the boys volunteered to have parts of their lower legs waxed by the girls, as onlookers donated money to the sixth form charity.

The boys were 'very brave' – as you can see from the pictures!

REPORTS AND NOTICES

Snow closure



If a particularly heavy downfall of snow does occur there may be the necessity to close the school. Should this happen, local radio stations will be notified of the closure.

The closure will also be notified on the school website :

www.cryptschool.org

and Local Authority Website :

<http://www.glosclosedschools.com>

We would be grateful if you would check the above **before** telephoning the school. Should the school close for more than one day work will be put on the school website for students to be working through.



Can we remind both students and parents about the importance of wearing their cycle helmets whilst riding to and from school? The helmet can offer no protection whilst swinging off handlebars!

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS AWARD

We are currently reapplying for this prestigious award which reflects the work done across the whole school. At least seven curriculum areas need to show they are addressing International issues in their teaching and we are confident that we can gain this again. One such additional activity was a Spanish evening in October when the parents of the Y10 Spanish GCSE class were invited to an evening of food, and games with the boys working with their parents to learn some new language.

Other activities will include the whole school "Languages day" on March 1st. Details to follow.

Mrs. R. Bolton



GIFTED AND TALENTED

Next week, as part of the Gifted & Talented programme, students in Year 8 and Year 9 will take part in an enrichment challenge. 'Aspire More Able' are organising the day events with Year 8 students taking part in 'Target Mars' an activity to try and colonise Mars. Year 9 students are going to be involved in 'Dead on Time', an activity in which a crime scene will be set up and students have to try and solve the mystery murder. Each activity is designed to captivate the imagination of our most able students, allowing them to learn and develop new techniques in an inspiring environment.

Mr. A. Bawden

DAILY MAIL SUCCESS

The U15 rugby team are through to play Cheltenham College in the 6th round of the Daily Mail Cup next week. After an excellent season so far the boys put in an outstanding performance to beat Hereford Bluecoat 22-8 in a hostile environment. Stand out performances from Daniel Annfield and Ryan Kline secured the win but collectively every member of the squad contributed to the performance of the season. Cheltenham College pose a completely different type of challenge and let's hope the boys can improve again on their performance against Hereford to progress further in the national competition.

After being knocked out of the U18 Cup competition the 1st XV are now playing in the Daily Mail Vase. The boys had a convincing win against Cotswold School last week, winning 33-7 and now face Bloxham school from Banbury, Oxford in the next round.

Mr. A. Bawden

VACANCY : mid-day supervisor / grounds assistant

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

LIBRARY

We have been extremely fortunate just recently to receive a couple of very kind donations of books. If you might have any books you wish to dispose of – please do think of us!

A useful reading website for those boys looking for something new to read is www.whatshouldireadnext.com. In the search field, type in a book or an author that you liked and recommendations from other members will be listed.



Future Dates :

Tuesday, 22nd November

Y11 Parents' Evening : 5.30 – 7.30 p.m.

Friday, 25th November

Race Night

Tickets available from reception, or further details from Mr. Bawden, abawden@crypt.gloucs.sch.uk



Friday, 2nd December

Christmas Fayre – 6.00 – 8.30 p.m. Lots of fun stalls, Christmas present ideas (many tables from our recent Ladies Night), Festive Food and Music, Santa! Further details from Sue Wales, swales@crypt.gloucs.sch.uk

Thursday, 15th December

Christmas Carol Service at St. Mary de Crypt, 7.00 p.m. – tickets will be available from the Main School office from 1st December

Thursday, 8th December

Y13 Parents' Evening : 5.30 – 7.30 p.m.

Year 11 Trial GCSE Exams begin

Friday, 16th December

End of Term : Final Assembly will finish at 12.30 p.m. Unfortunately buses will not be running at that time. If students wish to remain in school to await the normal buses please let the school know.

Tuesday, 3rd January

School returns – normal time. Week 1

A trip to Taize has been planned next year, for students in Years 10-13. An initial meeting will be held by Ms. Duggan shortly.