

# The Crypt School

## Newsletter

April 2009

Dear Parents,

This is a very important time for students in Years 11, 12 and 13 preparing for public examinations. Revision should already have started and some revision classes are being held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April (details have been sent home to parents), SAMs ELearning is also available to students to support them in their revision work. I hope you will encourage your sons and daughters to focus on this necessary task.

The second Kirkland Rowell report records very pleasing progress, particularly in the overall parental rating. See attached report. I am most grateful to all students and parents who completed the questionnaires.

Resignations and Appointments : Adam Sullivan has secured a promotion to be Head of Department at St Joseph's in Salisbury. Andrew Birkett, currently teaching in Devon has been employed from September. Eleanor Miles has been promoted to lead the introduction and subsequent management of the AQA Baccalaureate course in the VI form.

Food Room Funding : We have secured £300,000 funding for a food technology room from the DCSF in order to meet the new requirement to teach cookery at KS3. The room must be built by September 2011, but I hope we will be able to persuade the LA to build at The Crypt in the next year.

Friends of Grammar Schools : I attended a meeting of the new Grammar Schools Heads Association in London last month. We spent the evening in the Palace of Westminster, meeting MPs. Baroness Thatcher attended the meeting, and I was fortunate to spend five minutes in discussion with her. Baroness Thatcher was particularly interested in the fact that our boys study separate sciences. As a chemist, she has a particular interest in this field.

Science Fair : The science department organised a fantastic science week at the beginning of March, culminating in our science evening. My thanks go to Mrs. Charlotte Sturge and Mr. Kevin Downes for their work in co-ordinating the event, and to all colleagues for their hard work in making it such a success.

Dr Alexander Martynov visited the school and gave a fascinating lecture on the Russian Space Programme, Dr Martynov worked for 25 years with the Soviet and the Russian space programme, as Head of Ballistics. He is therefore a genuine "rocket scientist." Dr Martynov returned for a special lecture on the Friday to students in years 10-13, where he was able to go into greater scientific detail. The lunch bell was received by students with a groan, and Dr Martynov offered to continue. One quarter of the upper school remained during the lunch break. Dr Martynov currently works in Foreign Relations and has offered to host a visit for Crypt students to Moscow.

Nearly 200 Primary School children visited the school during the week and listened to Dr. Martynov and watched a fascinating session on the Chemistry of Gases – which included several loud explosions. The children left feeling excited about learning Science. The BBC visited and The Crypt benefitted from 2 minutes of positive images of the school on Points West.

May I wish you all a restful Easter.

J P Standen  
Headmaster

## TERM DATES 2009 - 10

### AUTUMN

#### TERM 1

Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> September	Staff only
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September	Pupil enrolment & Induction –Y7 & 12
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	Whole school term resumes 8.35 am
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> October	Staff Training Day – no school for pupils

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October – Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November Half Term Holiday  
(22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> available for c/w clinics for Y11)

#### TERM 2

Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November	Whole school term resumes 8.35 am
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Term ends 12.30

### SPRING

#### TERM 3

Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> January	Staff Training Day – no school for pupils
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> January	Whole school term resumes 8.35 am

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

#### TERM 4

Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February	Whole school term resumes 8.35 am
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> April	Term ends

### SUMMER

#### TERM 5

Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> April	Whole school term resumes 8.35 am
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	Mayday Bank Holiday

Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May (Bank Holiday) – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> June Half Term

#### TERM 6

Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> June	Whole school term resumes
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> July	Final assembly ; school ends 3.15 pm
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> July	Day in lieu of Founders' Day. Term Ends

### Message from the Bursar's Office

For safety and security reasons, the Bursar's office will no longer accept cash amounts over £100 for trips, etc. For larger amounts, cheques – made payable to The Crypt School – must be used. Please ensure your son / daughter's name and form is on the back of the cheque, together with what the cheque is for.

Thank you.

The Crypt English department working with the BBC, Cheltenham Literature Festival and Radio Gloucestershire on a ground-breaking, creative writing and performance project!

Our application has been accepted to represent the school in this unique project celebrating six decades of the world. Time Will Tell will consist of six stories (one from each school) written by the participating schools which will then be performed in the main auditorium of Cheltenham Town Hall during the Literature Festival.

The event will be launched on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April - pupils in year 7 and 8 are currently writing applications to Miss Miles in order to take part in the Radio launch. The successful applicant will chat to presenter John Rockley live on air (Radio Gloucestershire) about the project, and draw our decade out of a hat. The successful applicant will be chosen and announced by Miss Miles on the last day of this term (3<sup>rd</sup> April).

Once we have our decade, children's author Phillip Ardagh, dramatist Fiona Ross and our relevant "decade detective" will work with pupils to write a dramatised performance set in our chosen decade. The play will then be performed at the Cheltenham Literature Festival (Town Hall) on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October.



Once again we are collecting vouchers from Tesco and Sainbury's – very many thanks for your support.



# Student Achievement & Congratulations

The School's swimming team took part in Secondary School Swimming Gala for the first time – and came 6<sup>th</sup> – Well done to Nathan Peck who gained 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Boys Front Crawl – 25 metres

Our Kick boxing team, Craig McGrigor, Finn O'Loughlin, Jack Edge and Ben Harris, took part in the Urban Clash of the Schools and gained first place – they received individual medals, membership to the kickboxing club for a month and a trophy.

## House Rugby Competition

Year 7 – Whitefield won – Luke Stephens – player of the tournament

## House Football Competition

Year 8 – Brown House won – Joel Osborne – player of the tournament

Year 9 – Henley are top of the league at present – matches still to be played

Year 10 – Whitefield won – Jacob McKenzie player of the tournament

Year 11 – Whitefield won – Jake Bevan-Parsons – player of the tournament

Zac & Sam Miller (Year 9) took part in the Welsh Karate Championship. Their team achieved 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the team competition. Zac came 3<sup>rd</sup> place in individual the U14 age group.

Michael Spencer-Tonks (Year 11) was selected for the England A rugby squad Training in March 2000

Finn O'Loughlin (Year 10)– granted £500 in a countywide sponsorship scheme for his tumbling

Tim Williams (Year 12) is 2 metres off the world youth games qualifying mark in the Hammer, he has until June to achieve it

Tim Dannatt (Year 9) is currently skiing in a select Welsh Dragons Alpine squad in France and skied in Norway with the England squad. He also competed in the British Schools Championships in Milan

Ashe Morgan (Year 10) is off to Poland for the European Youth Archery Championships.