



The Crypt School

Newsletter

June 2009

Welcome to the final newsletter for the 2008-2009 academic year. We wish all of our students currently taking their exams every success, and look forward confidently to the results in the summer holidays. The school is always physically a much quieter place at this time of year, with year 11 and 13 on study leave, and year 12 just returning following their AS modules. Physically quiet perhaps, but it remains a very busy period of time indeed, with teachers in particular making good use of the "gained time" from departed examination classes to make progress with school and departmental developments

It has been my good fortune to report on a huge number of successes since I took up my post as Headmaster in September 2007. These successes are the result of the efforts of the very many highly talented members of staff, both teachers and professional support staff. They include: Ofsted (twice); improved Kirkland Rowell parental survey ratings; achieving High Performing Specialist School status and our second specialism in Languages; developments to the site such as the refurbishment of the school hall; the building of the John and Joan Cooke Centre, which houses our library and which gives our VI form a dedicated teaching and study area; a successful bid for a food technology facility, which will be built in the coming year; and of course the superb individual achievements of our students. The key indicators remain positive: the school has set a budget that will enable us to transform plans into actions; the school is fully staffed for September 2009; the school is highly rated by our Local Authority, with our rating for requiring support being the lowest possible; the school is full in every year group in September 2009, and indeed oversubscribed; the VI form continues to grow in size, which brings more funding enabling major curricular developments; and exam results continue to improve.

I am delighted to inform you of another major achievement in this newsletter. The senior leadership team has worked hard to develop our curricular offer for VI form students, in liaison with students, governors and parents on the CSA.

We will offer the AQA Baccalaureate to students currently in year 12, enabling them to gain credit for producing an extended project which will stand them in good stead in their university applications. Miss Miles is co-ordinating this programme, which is being run in a pilot format this year.

This is good news, but perhaps of even greater significance is the news I received this week. The International Baccalaureate Organisation has approved the first part of our bid to offer the IB qualification in the VI form. This means that we are now a "candidate school" and we are therefore able to advertise the fact that we are looking to introduce the qualification. The IB is a prestigious and internationally recognised qualification that an increasing number of schools offer to students as an alternative to A levels. We will be arranging a parents evening this term for boys currently in years 10 and 9, to explain further the IB qualification. I believe that the Crypt is the only school in Gloucester City currently looking to introduce this qualification. Further work is required; we must now work towards completing our phase B application. I very much hope that we will be able to bring this qualification on line for first teaching in September 2010.

The date of the IB information evening is Thursday, 9th July at 7.00 p.m. I would encourage parents who are interested in IB to look at the website for further details in advance of this information evening: www.ibo.org

We have also spent a good deal of time improving our website, and the revamped site will launch this half term. Once again I would like to thank staff, students, governors and parents for their contribution. There are many reasons for coming along to CSA meetings to help the school. One of the benefits is that I try to sound out new ideas at CSA meetings. Parents who attend the CSA therefore tend to hear things first and have the real opportunity to influence the direction in which the school is travelling.

Whilst the school is fully staffed in September, there are temporary arrangements in place in RE this half term. Miss Shergold left the school at the end of May, and we wish her all the best in her future career. Mrs Roche has been appointed to head up the RE department in addition to her current role as Head of PSHE. Mrs Roche is a qualified RE teacher, and she will be joined in September by Mrs Duggan. Until that time examination classes are being taught by Mr Pemberton and Mrs Roche.

I am most grateful to our outgoing school captain Luke Phillips and the student executive team for all their hard work this school year. They have done an excellent job and have been a fine example to the incoming team. Our new School Captain is Alex Young, who will be ably supported by four Vice Captains : Luke Holbrook, Mark Bates, Ben Summerskill and Lisa White, and our senior prefects : Martin Feighan, Holly Jenkins, Daniel Peres-Poveda, Cameron Ramsey, Sam Spira and Chris Towers.

For the second time Year 10 students have been appointed as prefects to cover for the month whilst Year 11, 12 and 13 students are on study leave to take their examinations. The Year 10 prefect team are Will Apperley, Sean Beckett, Zak Bell, Luke Bryon, Harry Chalklin, Nathaniel Cook, Hasan Fadra, Will Gibson, Mike Griffiths, Sam hart, Callum Holder, Joshua Hutchings, Ed Kingston, Milutin Manojlovic, Zak Nutting, Huzaifa Patel, Matthew Philps, Arjun Prakash, Jake Roberts, Tarnveer Sandhu, Joshua Silk, George Taylor, Michael Taylor, Sam Thomas, Zachary Watson, Jack Woodward, Michael Williams, Lewis Wilkins.

The following are staff changes for September :

Mr. Nick Dyer : Deputy Head – presently Assistant Head at Bishops Wordsworth School in Swindon – please see an introduction from him below.

Mrs. Karen Roche : Head of RE and Personal Education

Mr. Andrew Birkett : teacher of IT from The Axe Valley Community College

Mr. Jon Barry : teacher of Science

Miss Rhiannon Duggan : teacher of RE from Marling School

Mr. Bernard Eccles : part time teacher of Latin

Mr. Neil McLearnie : part time teacher of Geography -

Mr. Nick Hutchings and Miss Anthea Arend : Cover Supervisors. Mr. Hutchings started on 1st June and has made quite an impact in the short time he has been with us. Miss Arend will be starting on 1st July.

Mr. John Aston : Librarian joined us at the beginning of June and has already made strides in making the new Learning Resource Centre accessible to all students.

Nick Dyer, Deputy Head from
September 2009



I am thrilled to be joining The Crypt School as Deputy Head in September. My interview for the post in February, granted me an opportunity to meet with governors, staff and students. All three groups are clearly committed to the School, to its ethos and to its continuing development. I was most impressed with all those I met and very much look forward to working with everybody connected to the School. With an expanding Sixth Form, complete with a fantastic new building, confirmation of second status and an ambitious plan to move the school forward, it is certainly a very exciting time to be joining The Crypt School.

Interested parties may like to know a little about me. I currently work at a boys' grammar school in Salisbury, where I am Assistant Headteacher, Director of Sixth Form. Previously, I was Head of History and Politics. I was Educated in Bristol and at Nottingham University, where I studied History. I enjoy sports; now mainly from the comfort of my sofa, skiing, reading history and keeping up-to-date with political debates and developments. In the early 1990s, I taught for a brief period in a school in Gloucestershire, and am now very much looking forward to returning to my home county.

In July we will say farewell to a number of colleagues :

Mr. Bill Spear : Deputy Head is retiring after 28 years at The Crypt.

I have been extremely fortunate to have Bill as my deputy in my first two years as Headmaster. His vision and depth of knowledge enabled me to settle into my post with far greater ease than could have been expected. It is immensely reassuring as Headmaster to have a deputy head as competent, experienced and effective as Bill at your side.

To many of our students Bill is simply "Mr Crypt." Bill's style is The Crypt's style. His understanding of individual boys and their needs and his support for them particularly through the more difficult challenges that they face, is reflected in The Crypt's caring and compassionate ethos. Bill, with his values and his Christian faith has built and maintained this ethos.

On behalf of current and Old Cryptians, I thank you for your years of service. We wish Bill, Rebecca, and their family all the best in his retirement.

J. P. Standen

There is a full tribute to Mr. Spear in this year's Cryptian Magazine with pictures!



Mr. Adam Sullivan - teacher of IT. After five years at the Crypt, Adam is seeking pastures new with a move to Wiltshire where he will be Head of Technology at St Joseph's School, Salisbury, a well earned promotion. During his time at the Crypt Adam has developed into a thoughtful and caring individual who has developed a positive teaching style which has helped many students to realize their true potential in ICT. Always prepared to help, even when the coursework is well overdue, Adam has gained the respect of our students who have benefited from his expertise and knowledge.

We are very sorry to see Adam leave but wish him every success in his new role. I am sure that he will soon settle down in Wiltshire and have a positive

affect in his new school.

Mrs. Sarah Rann – admin assistant is leaving to start a course in Accounting. Sarah joined us in September 2009 and has been a wonderful support to Mrs. Evans in the Exams Office and Mr. Brough – Head of Sixth Form. We wish Sarah every success with her studies.

Dates for the remainder of the term :

24 th June – 4 th July	Year 9 visit to Correze
Thursday, 25 th June	Y11 Prom
Friday, 26 th June	Sixth Form Induction Day (for Prospective Sixth Form students)
29 th June – 3 rd July	Activities Week & Y10 Work Experience
Tuesday, 30 th June	Y12 Conference at Park Campus, Cheltenham
Thursday, 2 nd July	Y6 Induction Day
Monday, 6 th July	Y9 Celebration afternoon (letter to follow)
Friday, 10 th July	Y12 Conference at University of Gloucestershire
Monday, 13 th July	Founders' Day (letter enclosed) Y7 Reports sent home
Tuesday, 14 th July	Parents' Evening for students starting in September 2009
Thursday, 16 th July	Term Ends – normal time.

A copy of next year's term dates is also attached.

The Cryptian 2009 will be available to purchase from the School Office from 6th July, 2009 priced £5. Once again it is packed with pictures and write-up of events of the school throughout the last year. There is also a tribute to Mr. Spear with pictures!!!