

THE SAINT



Weekly newsletter of ST BIRINUS SCHOOL

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www.st-birinus-school.org.uk

11 Jan 2019



Welcome back to everyone and a Happy New Year to all. I hope that all students and families had a good break and are returning refreshed to the huge potential that a new year brings.

At the start of term we welcome Mr Bhuvu and Mr Ricketts to our Maths Faculty, Mrs Ghafoor to our Art, Design and Technology Team, and Mrs Madge and Mrs Dixon to our Learning Support Team – we are delighted to bring such high-quality people into our school at a time when recruitment is so challenging.

I have been talking this week in assemblies about New Year's resolutions. Some people make them, some people don't and those who do may have broken them already! What I have said to our students is that great resolutions are about wanting to be better, to aspire to something, to have a dream and believe that it can be achieved.

I have told our students that they all have a unique talent for something; they may be able to paint or act, to sing or design; they may be good at a sport or a great public speaker, they may write wonderful stories or be able to fix things; they might be a really caring person who contributes to the lives of others and makes a difference.

Whatever their talent, they should aim to maximise it and be ambitious. They should believe that they can **be exceptional and have a goal for their futures. Even if they don't get there in the end, the journey can take them in different and unexpected directions which can be just as enriching and rewarding.**

The wonderful thing about working with young people is their potential - and a new year is a moment to **celebrate and embrace all that could be achieved. Here's to a great 2019.**

John Marston, Headteacher

KEY DATES

Wednesday 16 January	Year 8 Options Talk
Wednesday 23 January	Year 10 Parents' Evening
Wednesday 6 February	Year 8 Parents' Evening
<i>Friday 15 February</i>	<i>Term 3 Ends</i>
<i>Monday 25 February</i>	<i>Term 4 Commences</i>
Wednesday 27 February	Year 8 Options Evening
Wednesday 13 March	Year 7 Parents' Evening
Wednesday 27 March	Year 9 Parents' Evening
Wednesday 3 April	Year 11 Parents' Evening
<i>Friday 5 April</i>	<i>Term 4 Ends at 12.30pm</i>
Monday 22 April	Bank Holiday
<i>Tuesday 23 April</i>	<i>Term 5 Commences</i>
Monday 6 May	Bank Holiday
<i>Friday 24 May</i>	<i>Term 5 Ends</i>
Monday 3 June	Inset Day - School Closed to Students except for Year 11 GCSE public examinations
<i>Tuesday 4 June</i>	<i>Term 6 Commences</i>
<i>Wednesday 24 July</i>	<i>Term 6 Ends at 12.30pm</i>

DIARY: 14 - 18 Jan 2019 **WEEK A**

21 - 25 Jan 2019 **WEEK B**

MON 14		MON 21	
TUE 15		TUE 22	
WED 16	Year 8 Options Talk	WED 23	Year 10 Parents' Evening
THU 17		THU 24	
FRI 18		FRI 25	Trip to Intel HQ, Swindon

INVITATION TO CAREERS EVENT WITH A STEM FOCUS

WEDNESDAY 30th JANUARY 2019

January 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians

It is my pleasure to invite you to attend our upcoming careers event aiming to promote STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths)-related careers. Whilst the event will have a STEM focus, there will be a number of other businesses represented so there should be something that appeals to all students. At the event we will have over twenty local and national companies offering information, advice and potential future career opportunities, including: BMW, UKAEA, NHS, National Grid, Williams F1, RAF and the European Space Agency.

The event will be hosted at St Birinus School on Wednesday 30th January. Most speakers will be situated in the main hall and the gym and a floor plan will be given out upon arrival. We would like to invite Year **9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 students from both Didcot Girls' School and St Birinus School to attend. Parents are encouraged to attend as well, if possible.** The event will start at 17:30 and end promptly at 20:30.

Parking will be available behind the science block and PE block at St Birinus School on North Drive. Please come to the main reception entrance for a booklet detailing who is at the event with more of an overview about each of the businesses/companies in attendance.

As a school we are very excited to be able to hold this event, as are the representatives from the attending companies/businesses.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Kind regards



Mr Brown – Lead teacher of STEM

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REPLY SLIP TO BE RETURNED TO Student Services by Friday 25 January 2019.
FAO Mr S. Brown.

My son is planning to attend the Careers Event taking place on Wednesday 30th January 2019:

Name: _____ Tutor Group: _____

He will be accompanied by:

Name: _____



BIG careers '19' event

**Birinus
Information
Gathering**





Year 7 Inter-Form Dodgeball



Fixture List

Date	Game	Result
Thurs 8 th Nov	7JCC v 7HJT	1-2
Thurs 15 th Nov	7JAC v 7WCC	1.5-1.5
Thurs 22 nd Nov	7JCM v 7JCC	0-3
Thurs 29 th Nov	7HJT v 7JAC	1-2
Thurs 6 th Dec	7WCC v 7JCM	1.5-1.5
Thurs 13 th Dec	7JCC v 7JAC	0-3
Christmas Break!		
Thurs 10 th Jan	7HJT v 7WCC	3-0
Thurs 17 th Jan	7JCM v 7HJT	
Thurs 24 th Jan	7JCC v 7WCC	
Thurs 31 st Jan	7JAC v 7JCM	

Standings

Tutor Group	Played	Points
7JAC	3	6.5
7HJT	3	6
7JCC	3	4
7WCC	3	3
7CXT	2	1.5

There is currently one space available to go on the water sports visit to France in July 2019. It is an exciting, fun-fuelled, challenging adventure. The trip is for students in Years 7, 8 and 9.

The visit runs from 6 July – 13 July 2019 to Le Lac, South West of France. The cost is £810, involving activities such as catamaran sailing, canoeing, wind surfing, Pico sailing, stand up paddle boarding and raft building. The programme will also include some mountain biking around the lake and an extensive evening entertainment package. The visit will also involve a day out, which will include exploring Biarritz and an exciting opportunity to experience White Water Rafting. For more details please visit www.evasion64.fr./en.

To express interest please email Mr Allen on jallen@st-birinus.oxon.sch.uk. With only one space available, this will be on a first come first served basis. I would be happy to discuss a bespoke payment plan and any other questions you may have.



Maths Revision Sessions at 3.20pm



Wednesday 16 January	Thursday 17 January	
Statistics GCSE	Target grade 6 – 9	Target grade 4 – 5
M1	M5	M6
Collecting Data	Algebraic Fractions (factorise, simplify, solve)	Revision prep for mocks

Ridgeway Education Trust Recruitment Evening

22 January 2019

Both experienced and trainee teachers are warmly invited to our annual recruitment evening on Tuesday 22 January at 5.30pm. Details of the presentations for the evening are below. All of the speakers will provide a wealth of information for teachers at any stage in their career on the opportunities and experience of working in one of our schools. Transport from Didcot train station is available on request and please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any queries about the event.



St Birinus School

Headteacher: John Marston
Mereland Road,
Didcot, Oxon OX11 8AZ
Tel: 01235 814444
email: stbirinus@st-birinus.oxon.sch.uk

Didcot Girls' School

Headteacher: Tom Goodenough
Manor Crescent,
Didcot, Oxon OX11 7AJ
Tel: 01235 812092
email: head.4139@didcotgirls.oxon.sch.uk



Director of Didcot Sixth Form: Paul Willett
Executive Headteacher: Rachael Warwick

Recruitment Event Ridgeway Education Trust

Teaching, Learning and Leading in high-performing single sex schools
Didcot Girls' School, Sherwood Café
Tuesday 22nd January 2019, 5.30pm – 7pm

Join us for presentations on:

- The culture of aspiration and ambition in single sex schools
- Fast track career progression at Ridgeway Education Trust
- Teaching and learning in outstanding schools
- The best induction, continual professional development and opportunities through our Teaching School Alliance

RSVP to Frances Adley, PA to the Headteacher, on fadley@didcotgirls.oxon.sch.uk



VACANCY - ASSISTANT CATERING MANAGER POST AT ST BIRINUS SCHOOL

We have a vacancy in our catering team at St Birinus School to act as assistant to the newly-appointed Catering Manager. We are looking for someone who is passionate about catering and wants to make a real difference in helping to develop the service in the school for the benefit of our students.

This is a permanent Grade 3 post on 35 hours a week term time plus one week, with pay ranging from £13,548 to £13,752 per annum. Postholders also have access to the local government pension scheme. For the successful candidate there is also the potential for future career development.

If you are interested in this role please see the staff vacancies page on the school website, where a job profile and application form is available.

<http://www.st-birinus-school.org.uk/331/staff-vacancies>

Applications need to be submitted to Sophy Parkin Haig, the Headteacher's PA
(sparkin-haig@st-birinus.oxon.sch.uk) by the closing date of Monday 21 January 2019.

If you are excited by this opportunity within our catering service we very much look forward to hearing from you.



St Birinus School Admissions Statement 2020-21 Consultation

Consultation period: Tuesday 18 December 2018 to Tuesday 29 January 2019

In accordance with Paragraph 1.42 of the School Admissions code 2014, the governors of St Birinus School wish to consult on our admissions arrangements for 2020-21 and would welcome your feedback on the proposed changes. Please note that the Guidance requires us to consult parents and any interested parties and offer the opportunity to comment on the amendments. Any feedback on the proposed changes should be sent to the Company Secretary, Sophy Parkin-Haig, email: sparkin-haig@st-birinus.oxon.sch.uk by Tuesday 29 January 2019 so that we can determine our arrangements.

The proposed changes for the School Admissions Statement are as follows:

Page 2, Admissions Criteria 3 – change of wording from Ridgeway Education Trust to St Birinus School:

Children of a member of staff who is employed by St Birinus School where the member of staff has been employed by the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made, and/or the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage. The member of staff must have parental responsibility (sole or shared) for the child.

Page 3, Admissions Criteria 6 – clarification of wording:

Those children who do not meet any of the above criteria. If there are more applicants than places in this category priority will be given to those children who live closest to the school by the nearest designated public **route as defined on the Oxfordshire County Council's Directorate for Children, Education & Families' Geographic Information System.**

Throughout the Admissions Statement:

The term 'brother' or 'sister' has been changed to 'sibling'.

Our draft admissions statement for 2020-21 can be found here:

<http://www.st-birinus-school.org.uk/2264/admissions-statement-202021-consultation>

Careers Notices - Get Yourself Ahead!

Years 7-13

Careers Fest – 22nd January 2019 @ MINI Plant Oxford – now booking

Careers Fest 2019 will take place on Tuesday 22nd January 2019 at MINI Plant Oxford, giving students the opportunity to meet a range of employers, further education colleges, universities and training providers. There will be around 50 exhibitors offering information, advice and guidance on future paths and careers from a varied range of sectors.

There will be a twilight session from 4pm - 7pm, which is open to the public so that parents and younger students can attend if they wish. Booking for this is via: <https://careersfest2019twilightbooking.eventbrite.co.uk>

Years 11-13

UK University & Apprenticeship Search fair at Arena MK (Marshall Arena), Friday 8th March. This event is run in affiliation with the University of Buckingham.

This inspirational and informative event showcases a huge array of exhibiting universities and apprenticeship providers. Universities will include Russell Group, red brick, private and modern institutions (including University of **Oxford**). **Apprenticeship exhibitors from many of the UK's top companies will represent sectors such as finance, media and engineering.** The fair will also host local colleges and student related organisations.

Our exciting higher education fair also features a full timetable of vital talks by experts covering topics such as UCAS personal statement, student finance, higher & degree apprenticeships and Oxbridge applications. In addition to this there will be a number of interactive zones showcasing opportunities within STEM, creative and sport. The event is absolutely perfect for students in Years 12 and 11 as well as undecided Year 13s.

Students will also receive a free uni/apprenticeships guide magazine, calendar, pen and lots of other freebies from exhibitors. To reserve places or find out further information please email: pippa@ukuniversitysearch.co.uk or call 0207 609 4254.

Yrs 9 – 13

The British Aviation Experience 2019 is for students interested in exploring a career in aviation.

Please have a look at our 2018 Video and 2019 Brochure: <https://www.brookfieldav.com/british-aviation-experience>

Students attending the programme will experience many aspects of life in the aviation industry, including flying lessons on light aircraft, aerobatic lesson, helicopter lesson, Boeing 747 simulator, and emergency training with British Airways. Students will also learn about the maintenance and engineering side of the industry by visiting maintenance facilities and attending talks with professionals. There will also be visits to airline headquarters and other aviation related activities. The students for age group 14 – 18 will be staying in Uxbridge at Brunel University with our partner Stafford House. All other activities can be found on our brochure.

This is an excellent way to help young people to decide whether they would like a career in aviation and provides a wonderful experience for the participants. They will go home having gained valuable experience of many aspects of the industry, flying hours logged and a broader outlook on life.

- **16th July** – 27th July
- **21st July** – 1st August

The price is £3,600 (GBP) plus VAT, which includes accommodation, food, local transport and all activities, excluding flights to London and airport transfers.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this opportunity, please get in touch.

Todd Skaggs, VP-Educational Services. Tel: +44 (0) 1372 747 044

Years 12-13

UK University & Apprenticeship Search Fair, which takes place on Friday 1st March at Arsenal's Emirates Stadium.

Our Spring London event will now showcase even more universities, apprenticeship providers, and colleges within three large exhibition halls. The event also features apprenticeship and university seminars as well as Creative, STEM and sport interactive hubs. This will provide you with a complete range of options for their post-18 education and career choices. Admission is completely free for students and parents.

This exciting and inspirational higher education fair is particularly targeted at Year 12s, who are beginning to make choices about their futures, and any Year 13s who are still considering their options.

This fair will feature:

- An array of exhibiting universities Russell Group, red brick and modern institutions.
- University seminars focussed on UCAS personal statements, Oxbridge applications and student finance. These seminars take place within a spacious theatre-style room.
- **An Apprenticeship Hall that features many of the UK's top apprenticeship providers.**
- Apprenticeship Seminars, including a talk about Higher and Degree Apprenticeships.
- Creative, Sport and STEM hubs with interactive displays from many of the UK's specialist universities and providers within these fields.

As well as this, all students will be provided with a free university and apprenticeship application guide, a wall calendar that includes open days and important HE dates, a pen, and other free promotional student items.

For further information or if you would like to provisionally book a place email pippa@ukuniversitysearch.co.uk or call 0207 609 4254

All Years

Hedges Law Essay Competition - the winners will be awarded an internship with Hedges Law; a fantastic opportunity for any aspiring lawyer.

Question: Sir Philip Green recently said, "Lord Hain's blatant disregard of a judgement made by three senior judges is outrageous", after Lord Hain named him in parliament in connection with allegations of sexual and racial harassment. Should the law on privacy injunctions be respected or reformed?

1. Word limit is 1,500 words.
2. Competition open to pupils up to Year 13
3. Please email your written (word-processed) essay to justine.mccool@hedgeslaw.co.uk by 4pm on Friday 15th February 2019.
4. Essays delivered out of time or over the word limit will not be considered.
5. Please state your full name, school/college and contact details in your cover email.



Didcot TRAIN - inspiring young people

TRAIN, [118 Broadway, Didcot, OX11 8AB](https://www.google.com/maps/place/118+Broadway,+Didcot,+OX11+8AB)

Tel: 01235 519315

www.didcottrain.org.uk

[facebook.com/DidcotTRAIN](https://www.facebook.com/DidcotTRAIN)

TRAIN works *with* and *for* all young people in Didcot, especially those who, for whatever reason, are having a tough time.

Young people can become vulnerable and disadvantaged in a whole range of ways. TRAIN is there to help them to see they do have options.

TRAIN helps the young people in Didcot make informed choices, avoid risky behaviours, find ways out of difficult situations, discover their own voices, and be who they want to be.

What's on at TRAIN

November 2018 to January 2019

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
YOGA 6.30 – 7.30pm For anyone aged 11-18 and those who come to our Girls' and Boys' Groups	GYM & BOXING With Exercise Lounge 4.30 – 5.30pm For anyone aged 11 – 18. Contact us as there aren't many spaces	YOUTH CAFÉ DROP-IN 3.30 – 5.30pm For anyone aged 11 - 18	DETACHED 5.00 – 7.00pm	EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT 3.00 – 4.00pm Contact us for some support with your work for school, college etc. from a member of the TRAIN team
GIRLS' GROUP 7.30-8.45pm For those in Year 6 – Year 8	DETACHED 6.00 – 9.00pm			

For additional information you can message TRAIN on Facebook on 'Justina Train' or 'Holly Train' or email

info@didcottrain.org.uk

TRAIN is an inclusive organisation welcoming young people of any gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, ethnicity or (dis)ability.