

THE SAINT



Weekly newsletter of ST BIRINUS SCHOOL

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www.st-birinus-school.org.uk

12 Oct 2018

The St Birinus School PTA Annual General Meeting was on Monday evening. It is a universal truth that a great school has a great PTA and that is certainly the case with St Birinus.

The meeting marked a changing of the guard, with Caroline Dendy stepping down as Chair and Marion Beard relinquishing the role of Secretary. I would like to thank Caroline for the energy and drive she has brought to the role which have reinvigorated the PTA; I would also particularly like to thank Marion for her years as Secretary. It was Marion who almost single-handedly kept the committee going when numbers dwindled for a couple of years and the growth in membership over the past year is a tribute to her determination and tenacity.

I am delighted to confirm that Tracy Timms-Wilson is the new Chair of the PTA, Patsy Sutton is the new Secretary and Julie Minell will continue doing excellent work as Treasurer. We have also been so pleased to welcome new members of the committee at each recent meeting.

The PTA has donated over £5,000 to the school over the past year buying items including table tennis tables, dance mirrors, electric pianos, books for the library and robots for technology. We are enormously grateful for these "extras" which, in a time of tight budgets, add real value to our students' experiences of school.

Friday 19th October is one of our traditional end-of-term Non-Uniform Days. For this day we are requesting that students in Years 7 and 8 bring in donations for the PTA stall at the Didcot Street Fair which is in November. These donations should be either chocolate or bottles of soft drink and will be collected on the day. Other year groups will be asked to donate £1 which will go to Cancer Research UK and will be added to the funds raised by Mr Hudson and other friends of the school who ran the Oxford Half-Marathon last weekend.

Finally, please see great display in our Library below – how many of these books has your son read?



John Marston, Headteacher

PARENT CHAMPIONS GROUP

All parents and carers are very welcome to join us at our first Parent Champions Group (PCG) meeting of the year on Tuesday 6th November at 6pm in T11. One of the topics we will be discussing during the meeting will be homework.

Mr Marston, Headteacher

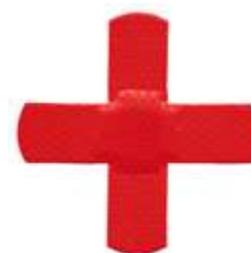
MEDICAL HEALTH CARE PLANS

If your son has a long-term medical need or takes regular medication you should have received a copy of their Individual Health Care plan this week to complete or review.

It is the responsibility of the parent or carer to ensure that the medical information we hold for your son is kept up to date so we can ensure we are supporting their medical needs.

All forms need to be returned to the Inclusion department by Friday 19 October. **If your son's** completed form is not received by then they may risk being removed from the Medical register and their needs no longer met.

If your son has a medical need but you have not received a form or if you have any questions then please contact the Inclusion Department on the main school number, or email inclusion@st-birinus.oxon.sch.uk



DIARY: 15 - 19 Oct 2018 **WEEK A**

29 Oct - 2 Nov 2018 **WEEK B**

MON 15		MON 29	
TUE 16		TUE 30	
WED 17	Year 11 Parents' Evening	WED 31	Extended deadline for School Photos
THU 18	Y11 Careers Morning at Didcot Girls School	THU 1	
FRI 19	Non-school uniform day for Cancer Research	FRI 2	

KEY DATES

Wednesday 17 October	Year 11 Parents' Evening
<i>Friday 19 October</i>	<i>Term 1 Ends</i>
<i>Monday 29 October</i>	<i>Term 2 Commences</i>
Wednesday 21 November	Didcot Sixth Form Open Evening 6.00pm-8.30pm
<i>Thursday 20 December</i>	<i>Term 2 Ends at 12.30pm</i>
Monday 7 January	Inset Day - school closed to students
<i>Tuesday 8 January</i>	<i>Term 3 Commences</i>
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>
<i>Monday 3 June</i>	<i>Term 6 Commences</i>
Monday 10 June	Inset Day - School Closed to Students except for Year 11 GCSE public examinations
<i>Wednesday 24 July</i>	<i>Term 6 Ends at 12.30pm</i>



Homework: Flipped Learning

Homework is a very important part of school life at St Birinus. Teachers carefully plan homework to ensure our students have a successful and enjoyable educational journey that encompasses out of school learning. A highly effective type of homework is flipped learning.

What is Flipped Learning?

Flipped learning is a pedagogical approach that inverts the more traditional style of classroom learning. Students are introduced to key content, concepts or ideas before a lesson, rather than during the lesson. Teachers ensure that students are clearly guided through how to engage with the key material and students arrive at the lesson with an already acquired understanding of the subject that will be explored. This already established, foundation knowledge allows teachers to use lesson time to deepen understanding through discussion with peers. It also creates time to extend learning through tasks that require independent application of the knowledge or skills.

Flipped Learning Homework

Flipped learning homework tasks are set in a variety of ways. Students may be asked to watch a video clip or listen to a podcast and make notes on key knowledge points, or learn how to apply a particular skill that will be built on in their next lesson. They could be asked to find out definitions for key terminology that will be critical in understanding the content of their next lesson. Students may be asked to read an article, poem or part of a book and annotate it with answers or ideas ready for an informed and developed discussion and analysis in a future lesson.

The Benefits of Flipped Learning

Flipped learning has many benefits. Students are highly engaged in lessons that they have invested time and thought into preparing for; they arrive excited and ready to share knowledge and ideas. The confidence of students in a flipped learning lesson is much higher, every student is empowered to contribute and the participation in discussions and collaborative learning tasks is excellent.

Flipped learning enables teachers to be responsive in their teaching as the need to deliver new knowledge to the whole class is removed. Teachers can spend more of the lesson offering bespoke support and engaging in different conversations with the students in their classes. Flipped learning homework also creates opportunity for families to be more actively involved with homework. Family members can watch videos, listen to podcasts, read poems, articles or books and discuss what has been learnt or ideas that have arisen.

Julia Hopkins, Assistant Head Teacher

On Friday's INSET day I decided to go back to my old school to see my old teachers and to help with the younger pupils. My primary school is a small village school with about 75 pupils in total. In Year 6 last year there were only 11 of us and I was one of 2 boys, so it was very different coming to St Birinus this September.

I spent the day looking after KS1 and helping with their reading, doing some filing and helping with PE. It was awesome going back and seeing my friends and teachers - I really enjoyed it.

Returning to such a small school was strange now I'm at a large secondary school. Even the chairs and desks seemed tiny!

Although Clifton Hampden Primary School may be small, it is still a brilliant school because everyone is friendly and nice to each other. I might go back there on the next INSET day if they'll have me!

William Edwin Year 7



Would you like to improve different skills en Español?

Señor Riolo is offering Language Surgery Sessions to help GCSE students.

These sessions will take place in Room 9 every Wednesday during Lunch Time.

¡Hasta pronto!

Sporting Success Results 2018/19

Term 1: Week 5 w/b 1/10

Team	Sport	Competition	Opponents	Result
Under 16	Football	County Cup Rd 1	Coopers	W w/o



SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS



The extended deadline for placing your order for school photos for Years 7, 9 and 11 is 31 October 2018. Students should take their order to Student Services.

Any orders received after that date cannot be processed by the school.

Mrs Cawley, Miss Neal and Mrs McConnell will be climbing Ben Nevis on Saturday 13th October, the highest peak in Britain, raising money for Breast Cancer.

It will be a unforgettable and inspiring experience and the money they have raised so far is invaluable to thousands of people living with, through and beyond breast cancer in the UK. In the time it takes to climb Ben Nevis 63 people will be newly diagnosed!



They are excited by the challenge and this photo shows them in their preparation for the trek.

If you would like to support their worthy cause please use the link below. Any donation, large or small, will be gratefully received!

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/teamstbirinus>

DGS and SBS Year 11 Careers Convention

Thursday 18th October 2018

On Thursday 18th October from 9.30am-12.10pm a joint Year 11 Careers Convention for both DGS and SBS pupils and parents will be taking place at DGS in Cockcroft Hall.

This event is open for parents to come to, although we would be grateful for an email to confirm your attendance and to which parts of it. You can do this by emailing Mr George via: sgeorge@didcotgirls.oxon.sch.uk

8.55am-9.20am talks on:

What's right for me, 6th Form, College or an Apprenticeship?
Didcot 6th Form

9.30am - 12.10pm:

Fourteen different 20-minute workshops, most being repeated 6 times throughout the morning in different classrooms. See workshop titles below.

Speaker & Topic
Angela Walker - Careers Clinic: Come and ask questions about Further Education or anything to do with Careers & Guided or Independent use of the best Careers Websites
David Price Careers in STEM
Jenny Gordon Discovering Your True Personality
Karen Tolley Local Government
Tony Meacock Using Leadership in your Career
David Cookson Interview Skills
Kerri-Ann Chisholm Is University right for me?
Evie Bennett College
Trisha Seecharran Apprenticeships
Nick Marsh Running Your Own Business
Abigail Changer Careers in the NHS
Mark Massingham Careers at BMW
Hayley Monks 'Developing your Personal Brand – Making an Impact'
Miss Edwards Teaching

Need help with
homework



**KEEP
CALM**

COME TO

**HOMEWORK
CLUB**

Get your
homework done

Left homework
to the last
minute

Just need to
print something

Monday – Thursday

Lunchtimes

Room 18



The Pearson Teaching Awards
Celebrating transformational teaching



Friday 5 October was World Teachers Day and to celebrate we would like to encourage you and your son to nominate a teacher or teacher assistant at St Birinus School who has had a real influence on your son. Please use this link for your nominations:

<https://www.teachingawards.com/thank-a-teacher/>

It will take five minutes and, I promise, you will make someone's day!

Many thanks, in anticipation

Rachael Warwick
Executive Headteacher



an opportunity to talk with students and teachers

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**Didcot Sixth Form
OPEN EVENING**

Wednesday 21st November

6pm - 8.30pm

St Birinus School, Mereland Road

Didcot OX11 8AZ

Join Us!

Open Events in October 2018

Please check dates online before you go

May need to Register online

UTC Oxfordshire, Didcot

Saturday 6th October 2018, 10am-12pm

Tuesday 9th October 2018, 3.30-4.30pm

Thursday 18th October 2018, 10-11.30am

www.utcoxfordshire.org.uk

BCA- Berkshire College of Agriculture

Saturday 6th October 2018 10-2pm

Taster days –view dates online

www.bca.ac.uk

Henley College

Tuesday 16th October 2018 6-8.30pm

www.henleycol.ac.uk

City of Oxford College

Wednesday 31st October 2018 4-7pm

www.cityofoxford.ac.uk

Abingdon Operatic Society's

TOP HAT

Music & Lyrics by Irving Berlin
Based on RKO's Motion Picture
Book by Matthew White
& Howard Jacques

Tue 23 - Sat 27
October 2018
7:30pm

Special matinee performance
Sat 27 October at 2:30pm

Amey Theatre, Abingdon
School, OX14 1DE

Book online now at
www.abingdonoperatic.co.uk

Enquiries:
tickets@abingdonoperatic.co.uk

Book tickets by phone:

0333 666 3366

Purchase balcony seats at
Newbury Building Society
in Abingdon

*An amateur production by arrangement
with R&H Theatricals Europe*



Didcot U12, U13, U14 and U15 rugby teams are looking for new players.

Are you in years 7, 8, 9 or 10?

Want to give rugby a try?

Then come and join our club!



Training at Boundary Park, Sundays 10am



Email: join@didcotruffc.com

Facebook: Didcot Minis and Junior rugby



Calling all Year 7 and 8 Footballers



Respect

Didcot Town Youth Under 12's and 13's (Years 7 & 8) are looking for new players to join their established teams. Training is Wednesday (U13) and Thursday (U12) and matches are played on Sunday mornings at Edmunds Park.

For more information on trying out for the teams, contact:

Under 13's (Year 8) Dan Reeves danny_reeves2003@yahoo.co.uk

Under 12's (Year 7) Mike Yardley mike@rec-solutions.net