

THE SAINT



Weekly newsletter of ST BIRINUS SCHOOL

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www.st-birinus-school.org.uk

19 Dec 2018

As we reach the end of an incredibly busy term, it is a moment to pause for breath and for us all to reflect upon what has been achieved since the start of September.

Academically, there will be a great deal to think about – new to the school or new subjects, nearing the exams or completing the homework, each and every student will have learned a huge amount, tried something new and developed a raft of skills which he did not have previously. Sometimes in schools **we can lose sight of this. Learning can be about the legendary “lightbulb” moments when things can suddenly make sense**, but it is more often incremental with learning taking place across a series of tasks or lessons. Although this can be harder to pinpoint, it is just as valuable. In short, students should stop for a moment and think across their subjects about all they have learned since September and be enormously proud of themselves.

We all know that St Birinus students thrive at extra-curricular activities: **the essence of the “life of the school”**. **It could be a concert – and last week’s first joint concert with Didcot Girls’ School was brilliant –** a sports fixture – rugby, football and basketball in particular have been huge successes this term but there are many more – or public speaking; whatever our students have participated in, it develops them as young people and encourages them to thrive. The House system is of course a microcosm of this with its emphasis firstly on participation and then competition, and we celebrated the identity of the **Houses in last week’s House assemblies. For the record, the standings are currently close: Corinthian are in the lead, Trojan and Spartan are not far behind and Athenian need a focused push in the new year!**

It is the “life of the school” which our students will remember forever and they should reflect on the activities they have participated in since the start of the academic year and be equally as proud of them as they are of their learning.

At the end of term we say goodbye to Mr Suter, Mr Moss, Mrs Andrews and Ms Froud. They have all made significant contributions to the school in very different ways and we wish them all well for their futures. I would also like to particularly congratulate our Year 7 students who are very tired but have made a fantastic start to their St Birinus school careers. They, and all our students and staff, can now look forward to a well-deserved break.

I would like to wish all our students and families a very Happy Christmas and look forward to seeing you in 2019.

John Marston, Headteacher

Rockley July 2019 – One space available!

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.

DIARY: 17 - 21 Dec 2018 **WEEK A**

7 - 11 Jan 2019 **WEEK B**

MON 17		MON 7	Inset Day - school closed to students
TUE 18	Christmas Lunch in the Bistro	TUE 8	Term 3 commences
WED 19		WED 9	Years 10/11 trip to see Macbeth
THU 20	Non-uniform, Christmas Jumper Theme £1 donation in aid of Sleigh2Give	THU 10	
FRI 21		FRI 11	

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	

KEY DATES

Thursday 20 December

Monday 7 January

Tuesday 8 January

Wednesday 16 January

Wednesday 23 January

Wednesday 6 February

Friday 15 February

Monday 25 February

Wednesday 27 February

Wednesday 13 March

Wednesday 27 March

Wednesday 3 April

Friday 5 April

Monday 22 April

Tuesday 23 April

Monday 6 May

Friday 24 May

Monday 3 June

Tuesday 4 June

Wednesday 24 July

Term 2 Ends at 12.30pm

Inset Day - school closed to students

Term 3 Commences

Year 8 Options Talk

Year 10 Parents' Evening

Year 8 Parents' Evening

Term 3 Ends

Term 4 Commences

Year 8 Options Evening

Year 7 Parents' Evening

Year 9 Parents' Evening

Year 11 Parents' Evening

Term 4 Ends at 12.30pm

Bank Holiday

Term 5 Commences

Bank Holiday

Term 5 Ends

Inset Day - School Closed to Students except for Year 11 GCSE public examinations

Term 6 Commences

Term 6 Ends at 12.30pm



A huge thank you to everyone who kindly donated to the Play2Give toy appeal and also to the food bank. Your generosity is enormously appreciated.



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>



Congratulations to the two Harry Potter quiz finalists, James Carr and James Ashcroft.

James Carr won the competition and is holding a replica of Newt Scamander's wand, made by Jack Rudman.

A big *thank you* to Jack Rudman for writing the quiz, and to both Jack and Max Beard for running the quiz.

Miss Wren, School Librarian

Please visit our website to find out about [PTA events and community news](#).

Sporting Success Results 2018/19

Term 2: Week 7 w/b 10/12

Team	Sport	Competition	Opponents	Result
Year 9	Table Tennis	House Competition	Houses	Athenian
Under 16	Basketball	South Oxon Tournament	Various	1st

Term 2: Week 8 w/b 17/12

Team	Sport	Competition	Opponents	Result
Under 16	Football	County Cup Semi-final	Cherwell	W 2 - 1



Congratulations to the
Year 11 football team who
reached the County Cup final!
Full match report in the
New Year.

Please visit our website to find out about
[PTA events and community news.](#)

School Transport - Changes to the BB1 & BB1A routes and timetable

Please note that Thames Travel are introducing amended routes and timetables for the BB1 and BB1A in Abingdon to commence immediately at the start of next term. These changes have been introduced to provide alternative stops on Hadland Road/Reade Avenue in order to reduce the number of children needing to cross Audlett Drive and improve safety. In addition it is anticipated that the changes will improve the balance of use between the BB1 and BB1A buses. Details of both the revised routes and timetables are included in the Thames Travel leaflet below, which is also available on our [website](#).

route **BB1/BB1A** service changes



From Thursday 3rd January 2019 changes will be made to your **BB1** and **BB1A** services.

BB1A will operate via the existing route to the edge of Abingdon and then via Audlett Drive, Nyatt Road, Hadland Road, Reade Avenue, Audlett Drive, Radley Road, Vineyard and then existing route to Didcot Schools.

BB1 will start at the Swinburne Road stop on Radley Road and operate along the Radley Road to Twelve Acre Drive and then existing route to Didcot Schools.

As a result of these changes passengers that currently catch the **BB1A** bus on Radley Road will need to catch the **BB1** from the opposite side of the road. Passengers that currently catch the **BB1** bus from Audlett Drive are advised to catch the **BB1A** bus from stops on Hadland Road or Reade Avenue.



Please see the revised timetable below:

Iffley • Kennington • Abingdon • Didcot Schools						Didcot Schools • Abingdon • Kennington • Iffley									
Notes	Sch	Sch	Sch	Dup	Sch	F	F	F	Dup	F	MTWTF	MTWTF	MTWTF	MTWTF	Dup
Bus Number	BB1A	BB1	BB1	BB1	BB1	BB1A	BB1	BB1	BB1	BB1	BB1A	BB1	BB1	BB1	BB1
Iffley, Freelands Road	0707					1424	1424				1524	1524			
Rose Hill Parade	0712					1432	1432	1425	1425	1532	1532	1525	1525		
Kennington, Manor Grove	0725					1439	1439	1432	1432	1539	1539	1532	1532		
Radley, Railway Station	0730					1443	1443	1436	1436	1543	1543	1536	1536		
Abingdon, Hadland Road Community Centre	0736					1446	1446	1439	1439	1546	1546	1539	1539		
Abingdon, Swinburne Road	↓	0720				1450	1450	1443	1443	1550	1550	1543	1543		
Abingdon, The Chestnuts	↓	0722				1457	1457	1450	1450	1557	1557	1550	1550		
Peachcroft, Shops	↓	0726				1503	1455	1455	↓	1602	1555	1555			
Abingdon, Peachcroft Roundabout	↓	0732	0732			1506	1458	↓	1605	1558					
Abingdon Town Centre, Stratton Way	0744	0744	0744			1508	1500	↓	1607	1600					
Abingdon, Saxton Road	0750	0750	0750	0750		1512				1621					
Drayton, The Green	0755	0755	0755	0755		1521				1621					
Abingdon, The Chestnuts	0801	0801	0801	0801		1528				1626					
Milton Heights Turn	0804	0804	0804	0804											
Didcot, St Birinus School	0817	0817	0817	0817											
Didcot Girls' School	0822	0822	0822	0822											

Notes:
 Sch: School days only
 Dup: Duplicate bus. Will not operate if demand is anticipated to be low.
 F: Fridays only
 MTWTF: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday only
 SD: School days only. May run up to three hours earlier to meet requirements of Didcot school e.g. early finish at end of term.

Please visit our website to find out about [PTA events and community news](#).

Last call for lost property!



Message from Student Services

We have an ever-growing number of items in lost property that we would like to return to rightful owners before the end of term. Any unnamed lost property not collected by the last day of term will be donated to charity.

Please encourage your child to check at Student Services if scarves, boots, PE kits, coats, jumpers, ties, water bottles, lunch boxes etc. have been misplaced during the term.

Thank you!





ST BIRINUS SCHOOL
Mereland Road
Didcot
Oxon OX11 8AZ

Headteacher: Mr J.E. Marston, BA (Hons); MEd

Examination Invigilators (casual claim)

We are looking to recruit new Exam Invigilators to join our existing examinations team. You do not need to have previous experience in this role, however you should enjoy working with young people, have good organisational skills, be reliable, and demonstrate experience of working within a team. We are looking for colleagues who will be available 13th May to 26th June 2019 for the Public Exam series, alongside Internal School Exams that will be running; 4-15 Feb 2019 and 1-12 July 2019. We are also keen to retain you for future exam seasons.

Hours will be worked on a casual basis during exam periods. There is some flexibility in hours for Internal School Exams, however we will ask you for a minimum commitment from you for a number of sessions to be worked in the summer Public Exam season. Sessions during this time will be governed by the number of students and the Public Exam timetable. There will be morning and/or afternoon exams scheduled between 13 May and 26 June, but not every day, so we are ideally looking for a 3 day per week commitment during this period. Specific dates can be discussed during the interview.

After your initial ½ day training, you will also be expected to attend 2-3 shorter training sessions throughout the school year. Whilst all formal training sessions will be paid time, there is also an expectation that you will do some background regulation reading to support this training.

Exam Sessions throughout the year are of varying length depending on GCSE/GCE level and subject, but will usually be within the following core hours: 08:30 -12:30 and 12:30 -16:30.

We are looking for invigilators who will be comfortable working in both our larger exam rooms, and working in a smaller room environment, scribing or reading for students with special educational needs and disabilities.

The work involves a range of duties starting from ensuring exam materials are set up for a session, answering student queries, checking students are seated correctly with no

unauthorised materials, walking around exam rooms during the session, through to collection and processing of final papers – all whilst maintaining formal exam conditions. When comfortable with the role, we may ask you to be more actively involved in exam announcements. Security of exam papers and attention to Exam Regulations are paramount at all times.

The Exams Manager will manage the invigilators' working hours to ensure that there are enough staff for each of the scheduled exams as required by the Joint Council of Qualifications (JCQ).

Key personal attributes that we are looking for are:

- Effective oral communication, numerical and written English skills;
- Punctual and flexible to provide cover;
- Good interpersonal skills with the ability to relate to staff and students;
- Ability to work under pressure and within deadlines;
- Ability to work effectively as part of a team;
- Ability to follow strict rules surrounding exams; (full training will be given)
- Demonstrate common sense and fast thinking where required;
- An understanding of examination processes and SEN would be advantageous.

Rate of Pay: **£10.10 per hour (including holiday pay)**

For further details, please contact Mrs M. Stewart at Reception:

Tel: 01235 514704
Email: vacancy@st-birinus.oxon.sch.uk
Website www.st-birinus-school.org.uk

To apply for the role please complete the SBS Associate Staff application form that can be found at: <http://www.st-birinus-school.org.uk/331/staff-vacancies>

Closing Date for applications is 12 noon on Friday 11th January 2019, with interviews to be held during the following week.

St Birinus School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. The following link will take you to our website - <http://www.st-birinus-school.org.uk/Policies> - please scroll down to read our Safeguarding Policy.

This post involves the type of work with children and young people that requires applicants to undertake a Disclosure and Barring Service check. The possession of a criminal record will not necessarily prevent an applicant from obtaining this post. All cases are considered confidentially and according to the nature of the role and information disclosed. Additional standard pre-employment checks will also be undertaken.

St Birinus School is an equal opportunities employer.

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.