

# THE SAINT



Weekly newsletter of ST BIRINUS SCHOOL

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21 Sept 2018

We have had House assemblies this week and the new House banners have been installed in the Hall. The Houses run deep at St Birinus. When I have been visiting local primary schools over the past fortnight and speaking to prospective parents who attended the school, there is one thing they never forget – Athenian or Corinthian, Spartan or Trojan - it is their House.

We have a great range of activities for House competitions planned for term 1 including a House languages competition for Years 7 and 8, House Cross-Country, a House Kamisado board games competition and House Table Tennis for Year 10. Athenian were victorious overall last year so we shall see what this year brings!

A real highlight of the week was the Year 7 Social Evening. It is always such a great event with parents and students mixing together within the tutor group for the first time with their form tutor and taking part in a series of competitive, fun activities. The evening is not complete without a burger or hot dog and a drink and a huge thank you must go to our brilliant PTA for co-ordinating the BBQ and bar. Almost £750 was raised on the evening and **this will make a significant contribution towards funding the “extras” which have benefitted our students greatly during the last couple of years.**

Finally, if you are on Twitter please do follow our school Twitter account @StBirinus and if you are a Year 7 parent I would really encourage you to follow our special account for Year 7 – Year7@SBS – which is a brilliant daily source of information about all the great things which our fantastic Year 7 students are up to.

John Marston, Headteacher



DIARY: 24 - 28 Sept 2018 **WEEK B** 1 - 5 Oct 2018 **WEEK A**

<b>MON 24</b>		<b>MON 1</b>	
<b>TUE 25</b>		<b>TUE 2</b>	Open Morning 9.15am—10.15am
<b>WED 26</b>	Open Evening 6pm—8pm Schools closes at 12.30pm	<b>WED 3</b>	
<b>THU 27</b>	Geography visit to Swanage & Studland Y11	<b>THU 4</b>	
<b>FRI 28</b>	DofE Day Walk Y9	<b>FRI 5</b>	

# KEY DATES

Wednesday 26 September	Open Evening 6.00pm-8.00pm (school closes at 12.30pm)
Wednesday 3 October	Year 7 Tutor Evening
Thursday 4 October	Year 7 Tutor Evening
Friday 5 October	Inset Day - school closed to students
Wednesday 17 October	<b>Year 11 Parents' Evening</b>
<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	<b>Year 10 Parents' Evening</b>
Wednesday 6 February	<b>Year 8 Parents' Evening</b>
<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	<b>Year 7 Parents' Evening</b>
Wednesday 27 March	<b>Year 9 Parents' Evening</b>
Wednesday 3 April	<b>Year 11 Parents' Evening</b>
<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>

# School Buses

Details of bus services and timetables that are in place are available on the school website, <http://www.st-birinus-school.org.uk/289/transport>

We try to update this information as soon as any changes occur but parents and students are also encouraged to check the Thames Travel and Oxfordshire County Council websites where latest information will always be published

<https://www.thames-travel.co.uk/school-services/>

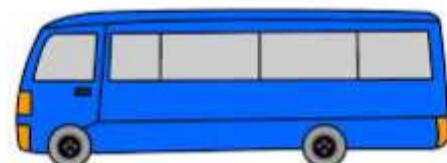
<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/schools/travelling-school/information-existing-users-travel-assistance/school-bus-timetables>

Due to the success of the Ridgeway Education Trust schools, there are increasing **numbers of students travelling in from out of catchment to Didcot Girls' School and St Birinus School**. A number of changes to services, routes and timetables were necessary as a result. We are aware of some difficulties with some of these routes over these first few days of term and have been working hard with the bus companies and OCC as needed to make improvements. We are hopeful that the new arrangements will have started to run more smoothly as operators, parents, staff and students all become more familiar with the new bus services in place and operational changes put in place start to take effect. Thank you for your patience and understanding during this time. We would particularly ask for assistance in the following to aid the smooth running of the services and minimise risk of overcrowding:

BB1A/BB1 routes. There has been significant pressure on space on the BB1A home-ward journey during the first week whilst at the same time there are many empty seats on other BB1 buses. We would ask that only students who wish to get off the bus on the Radley Road (Abingdon), Radley, Kennington and Iffley use the BB1A bus as there are plenty of seats available for everyone else travelling to stops up to Abingdon on the BB1. **Duty staff are now looking to enforce this but parents' support in discussion with their children would be appreciated.**

Bags on seats. There are enough seats for students on the buses available but we do expect them to help others by making sure bags are not positioned on seats or used to **"reserve" seats**. **Finally, we are aware that there has been inconvenience to some families following late issue and incorrect issue of some bus passes.** We will be taking this up with OCC and Thames Travel in order to understand why this has occurred and discuss how this can be avoided in future.

You are reminded that no tickets can be purchased from school. If your child is eligible for free school transport Oxfordshire County Council will liaise with you directly. They should have written to you over the summer holidays. Tickets for the Thames Travel services have to be purchased direct from them. If the school receives any bus passes they are distributed straight away to the students concerned.





# Homework

Homework is a very important part of school life at St Birinus. By regularly completing high quality and purposeful homework to a high standard, our students will have a much more successful and enjoyable learning journey.

Research shows us that there is a direct link between students spending time on homework and their achievement in secondary school. Homework promotes responsibility, builds self-motivation and time management skills and encourages and supports effective independent study. Homework empowers students to take control of new learning, consolidates the learning that takes place in lessons, and provides opportunity for students to embed critical knowledge, skills and understanding.

## Show My Homework

All homework is set and explained by subject teachers in lessons and students will record all homework in their planners. Teachers will also record all homework they set on Show My Homework. **You will have received a letter providing you with your family's log in details for Show My Homework this week.** Show My Homework can be accessed via any computer, iPad or Smart Phone. The details on the letter include a student log in and a parent/guardian log in.

Once you have activated your account you are able to set up homework reminders to ensure that no pieces of homework are forgotten about and you can check that your son is completing and submitting all of his homework. You will also be able to access links and resources teachers have uploaded to support high quality completion of homework. Subject teachers will also use Show My Homework to make it clear how each piece of homework will be assessed or used in the next lessons.

All homework will always be recorded by students in their planners in case families are not able to access Show My Homework for any reason.

## Homework Routines

Homework is set once a week in English, Maths, Science and Mandarin and once a fortnight in other subject areas. Teachers plan carefully to set homework at the point in the week or fortnight it is most purposeful to do so and will always ensure adequate time is allowed for homework to be completed.

Students in Years 7 and 8 should spend between 30 – 60 minutes per evening completing homework and students in Years 9, 10 and 11 to spend between 60 – 90 minutes. Students in Sixth Form should spend 5 hours per week per subject completing guided independent study.

Students are expected to take responsibility for organising and prioritising their homework. **Support with organising and completing homework is available from your son's Form Tutor and the Teaching Assistants in Homework Club.**

Julia Hopkins, Assistant Head Teacher

# MFL Department News

We're very excited about our first House competition of the year, open to all boys in Year 7 and 8. To help mark the European Day of Languages, held annually on 26 September, we would like our boys to design a poster to celebrate the different languages, European or non-European, that are spoken in Europe.

## European Day of Languages



## Year 7 and 8 House Poster Competition

**Design a poster to celebrate the different languages that are spoken in Europe.**

**Hand your poster in to your languages teacher.**

**Closing date: Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September**

# ADVANCED SPORTS PROGRAMME

It takes dedication and commitment to be an elite sports performer and each week the Saint will give an insight into one of our students. Morgan Smith is a Year 10 pupil who is on the Advanced Sports Programme. He competes at National Level in the Pentathlon and here he explains his weekly training routine and a recent competition.

I train with City of Oxford Swim Club and compete at Regional level.

A normal week of training consists of:

Monday 05.30 – 07.30 am swim session - focussing on starts, turns and finishes, with skills and drills for all 4 strokes

Tuesday 6 - 8pm swim session - a high intensity quality set, or race practice if we have a competition the next weekend, then land stretching

Wednesday 05.30 – 07.30 am swim session - speciality (best) stroke set

Wednesday 4 -5 pm gym session

Thursday 6.45 – 8 pm athletics endurance training session

Friday 05.30 – 07.30 swim session – a high intensity quality set and TRX work

Friday 4.30 – 7.30pm swim session – a high intensity quality set, a distance/endurance set, and a gym session focussing on strength and conditioning

Sunday 4.30 – 7pm swim session – speed endurance set and land stretching

I spend Monday evening and a couple of hours on Saturday/Sunday making sure homework is up to date.

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I also compete at National level with Pentathlon GB.

During the summer I was preparing to go to Loughborough for the National School Games Finals to compete in the Laser Run with the GB Midland Team.

My training plan changed to prepare for this, and we also had a short break from swimming which coincided with my preparations.

My training consisted of:

Sunday 2 x 1 hour sessions focussing on 400m/sprints run practice and Laser shoot practice

Monday 2 x 1 hour sprints practice and laser shoot practice combined

Monday 1 hour gym session

Tuesday 2 x 1 hour sprints practice and laser shoot practice combined

Tuesday 6-7.30pm swim session - focussing on swim skills for all 4 strokes and strength and conditioning/land work

# ADVANCED SPORTS PROGRAMME

Wednesday 6-7.30am swim session – swim skills and drills, and strength and conditioning/land work

Thursday 10am travel up to meet the coach at Newport Pagnell and on to Loughborough with the team

Thursday 2-hour session of run and laser shoot practice at Loughborough

Friday 1-hour laser shoot and run practice, then competition at 12 noon for 2 hours

Saturday 1-hour laser shoot and run practice, then competition at 10am for 2 hours

Saturday pm travel back home

Sunday 4.45-8 swim session – skills, drills and land s+c work

The National School Games Finals were an amazing experience held in a mini Olympic setting at Loughborough University. There was an athlete village for all 11 sports competing, an opening ceremony, and lectures/information from Olympic athlete mentors.

On day 1, I came 4th **in the Under 16's Individual Laser Run, placing me 2nd in the GB Midland U16 team**. There were 24 competitors in each event from teams in GB Midlands, GB South, GB North, Scotland, Ireland, Wales and Singapore. Points from the top 3 competitors from each team counted towards the overall team placing, so GB Midland U16 boys received the team silver medal.

**On day 2, my team mate Becky and I came 3rd overall in the under 16's Mixed Relay Laser Run and received the bronze medal.**





# FOOTBALL

Congratulations to the following boys who have been selected to represent the Vale of White Horse FA for the forthcoming season.

Under 15:

Latham Hawkins

Josh Hedges

Ryan Jones

Freddie Kennedy

Under 14:

Robbie Gallagher

Charlie Herbert

Corey Lane

Zac Winfield

Under 13:

Alfie Rouse

## RIDGEWAY EDUCATION TRUST - VACANCIES

Ridgeway Education Trust is the multi-academy trust (MAT) which currently **oversees the operations of both Didcot Girls' School and St Birinus School as well as** its joint Sixth Form. We have two vacancies that we are now looking to fill in our single trust central finance team.

### Finance Officer (Budgets & Accounting)

This post is for 20 hours a week and will be an important role in supporting our Financial Services Lead on budgeting and accounting work and providing day-to-day support to budget managers across all of our schools. As well as an understanding of accounting, the postholder will be flexible, have great interpersonal skills and will be able to work under pressure. Pay will be within the range £10,121 to £11,099 per annum subject to skills and experience for a 20 hour, term time plus two weeks, contract.

### HR & Payroll Officer

This post is for 15 hours a week and will work alongside a colleague to ensure the Trust continues to deliver an efficient and effective HR and payroll service for our schools. The postholder will be meticulous in their administration and processing, have a strong understanding of the importance of confidentiality and data protection and be flexible enough to support the wider Finance Team when needed. Pay will be within the range £7,400 to £8,115 per annum subject to skills and experience for a 15 hour, term time plus one week, contract.

The successful applicants will **be based in our central team at Didcot Girls' School** but will be expected to be flexible enough to visit and work from St Birinus School, and other schools that join the Trust in the locality, on a regular basis.

For more details on these vacancies, and for application forms, please see our websites

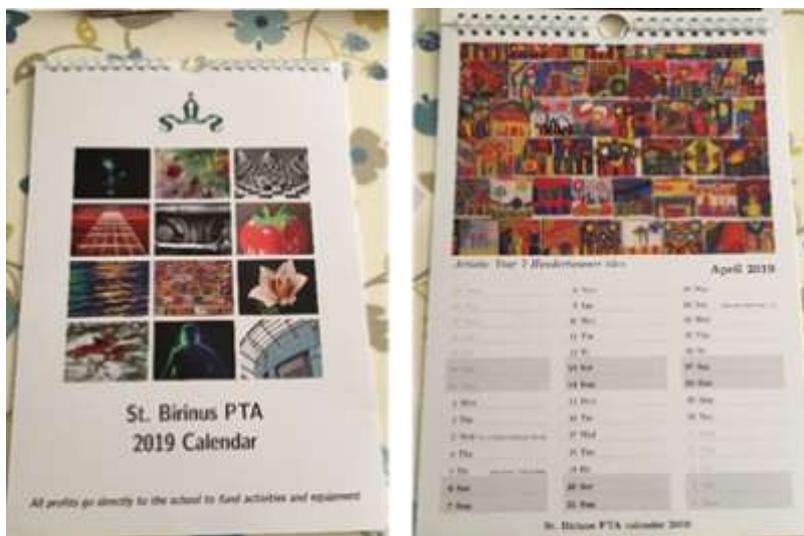
[www.didcotgirls.oxon.sch.uk/80/staff-vacancies](http://www.didcotgirls.oxon.sch.uk/80/staff-vacancies)

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

We welcome applications by the deadline date of Monday 1 October 2018

## SBS PTA Calendars for 2019

The school PTA has launched a new fund-raising initiative this term. We have used Artwork from SBS/Didcot Sixth Form pupils to create a fund-raising calendar for 2019. The calendar has been **customised to include school term dates, INSET days, parents' evenings, exam windows etc.** Important dates for the autumn term are also listed.



Cost: £8 each

It would be fantastic if you could support us in this new venture and buy a calendar. All the profits go towards buying extra equipment for the school. There are several ways to buy:

We will be selling/taking orders for calendars at various school events over the autumn term (parent information evenings, Year 7 social evening, school concert).

Order by contacting us via Twitter, the St Birinus PTA Facebook page, or our e-mail address [SBSPTA@st-birinus.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:SBSPTA@st-birinus.oxon.sch.uk)

Send in the order form attached below to school, together with payment (cash or cheque **made payable to "St Birinus School Association PTA"**).

Thank you in advance for your support.

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### SBS PTA 2019 Calendar Order Form

I would like to order \_\_\_\_ calendars @ £8 each and enclose payment by cash/cheque\* (\*delete as applicable).

Name and Tutor Group of pupil: \_\_\_\_\_

Orders will be sent home via your son.

*(Please return to Student Services)*