

THE SAINT



Weekly newsletter of ST BIRINUS SCHOOL

T: (01235) 814444 E: st-birinus@st-birinus.oxon.sch.uk
www.st-birinus-school.org.uk

23 Nov 2018

This week started with our annual Leadership Day – an opportunity to celebrate those who have inspired us and for students to embrace opportunities to take responsibility within the school. There was a lot going on and it demonstrated how our students grab hold of opportunities and run with them – they certainly did on the day.

As part of Leadership Day we were delighted to welcome Dr Kevin Stenson, CEO of the Smallpeice Trust, **as our guest speaker for Year 7. Kevin's talk was excellent and pitched** perfectly for our aspiring Year 7 students. He talked about resilience and determination, the importance of education and that your educational inspiration can come at any time. He also talked about the desire to achieve, to be determined to make a mark. I particularly enjoyed his example of George Lazenby, a second-hand car salesman from Australia, who was so determined to play the role of James Bond in a film that his dream became a reality. The message was that if you work hard and are determined then you can achieve your goals and this certainly resonated with Year 7.

As part of Leadership Week we have been discussing the theme of **"Modern Masculinity"** and men who have inspired us. On Monday – **International Men's Day** – we asked boys to come to the Hall at lunchtime and collate a list of inspirational men. For many boys it was **(quite understandably) "my dad"** but included figures as diverse as **Stephen Hawking and Walt Disney, Jonny Wilkinson and Joe Root, Stan Lee and Isambard Kingdom Brunel, Mahatma Ghandi and Martin Luther King.** Sport or the arts, science or civil rights – these seem like pretty good role models to me.

Many boys did mention teachers at St Birinus who have inspired them. One person who has inspired generations of St Birinus boys is Mr Phil Karlsson, former teacher and forever Weightlifting Coach. The standards he has inspired our students to achieve are almost legendary and I am delighted to report that this continues. Last weekend Corey Swaine in Year 11 and Elliot Tappin in Year 10 both broke the British records for their body weight group – truly amazing achievements of which we are enormously proud.

I cannot think of a better male role model at St Birinus than Mr Karlsson – understated and calm at all times but inspiring excellence in a sport which requires strength and demands dedication and determination.

John Marston, Headteacher

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

Monday 3 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

Term 6 Commences

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

Term 6 Ends at 12.30pm

DIARY: 26 Nov - 30 Nov 2018 **WEEK B** 3 - 7 Dec 2018 **WEEK A**

MON 26		MON 3	
TUE 27		TUE 4	
WED 28	Year 13 PCE 4.30—7.30pm	WED 5	Awards Evening, 7—8.30pm
THU 29		THU 6	Varsity Rugby Match trip
FRI 30		FRI 7	

SBS fundraising for Children in Need

I was approached by Mrs Ward, our PD Lead, asking if we would like to get involved with raising funds for Children in Need this year. I was delighted!

A few of my fellow students and I decided that we would run the ever-popular cake sale at break on Friday 16th November and as we had so many cakes we re-opened the stall at lunchtime to raise even more money. We were overwhelmed with the response we received from staff, students and parents who generously donated all kinds of cakes for us to sell - they were hugely appreciated! We also had a non-uniform day, with the theme of spots!

Both events raised lots of money for this worthwhile cause. During the day, I went around school with our Children in Need banner to take photos of staff in their spots! There are photos on our Twitter feed so please do take a look.

A big thank you to everyone who supported Children in Need this year, you have all made a difference!



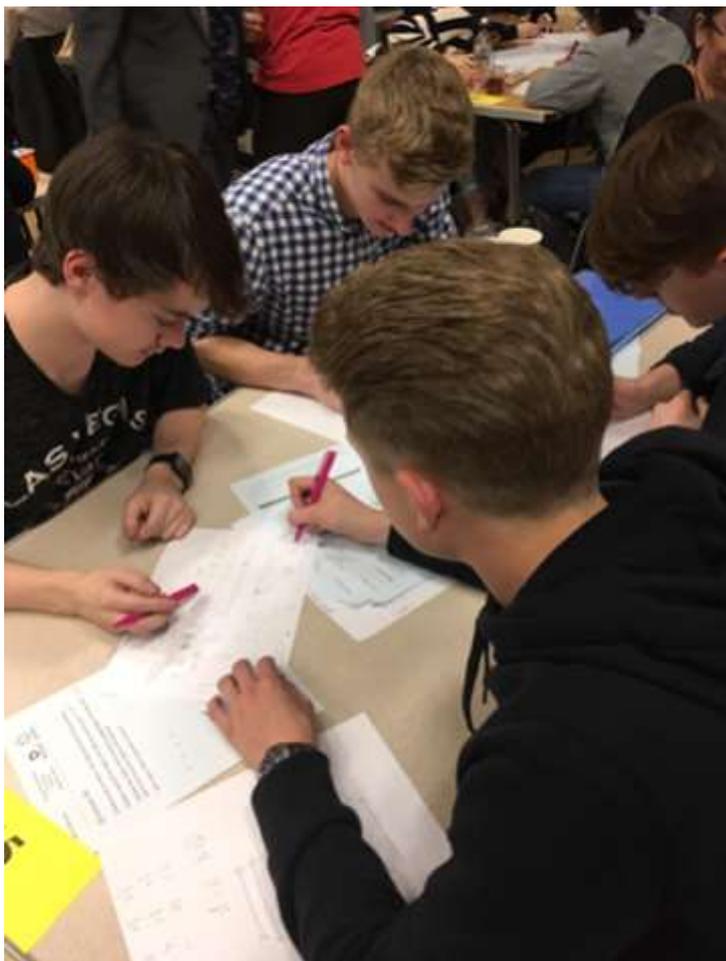
Our fundraising totals...

Staff Duck Race Sweepstake =
£18.00
Cake Sale = £200.00
Non-uniform = £534.87
Total = £752.87

Once again, however you got involved in Children in Need this year, thank you so much!

Callum Crossley
Children in Need,
Student Organiser

Senior Team Maths Challenge Competition



On 14 November, four students travelled to Wheatley Park school in Oxford to compete in the Senior Maths Team Challenge. Torran Dodd and Sam Watson (Year 12), and Jon Brean and Ben Lockett (Year 13) competed for St Birinus against 22 other schools in a series of mathematical challenges.

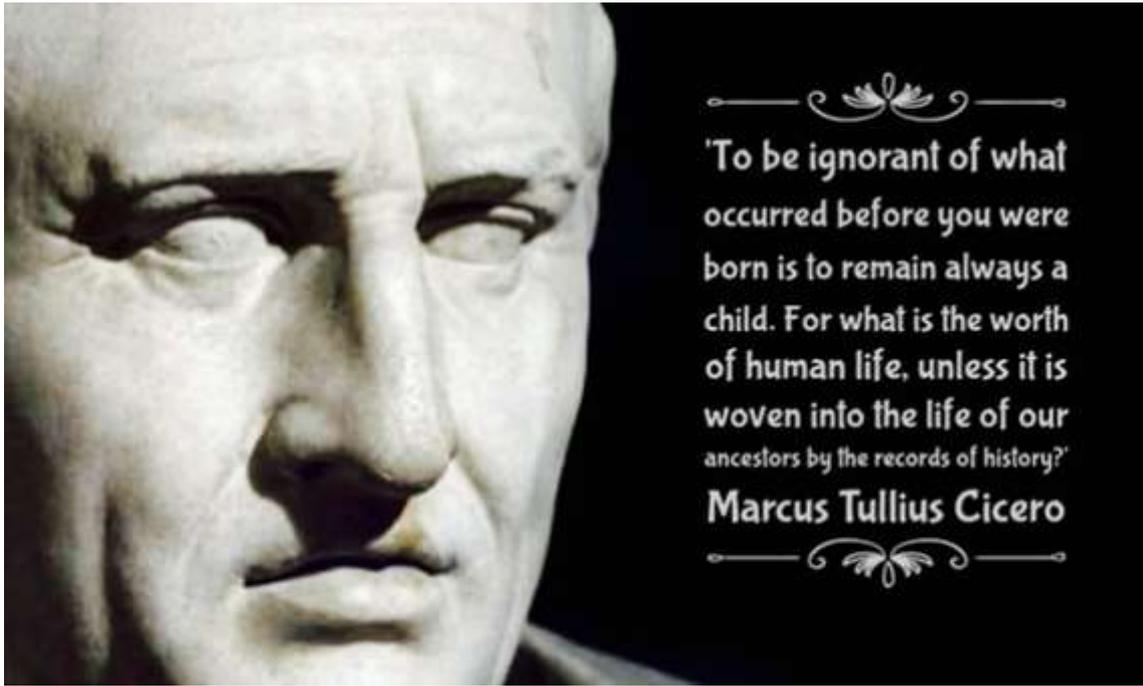
The team had an exceptional start, scoring very highly on the first two rounds. After a (very tense) last round, the boys managed to achieve 10th place, and were the second placed state school overall.

Congratulations to Torran, Sam, Jon and Ben for their outstanding mathematical wizardry! And thank you to Miss Hort for organising the trip.

Mrs Gothard



How to revise for..... **History**



History is critical to understand the world in which we live in and the circumstances which shaped our world. It is therefore a hugely dynamic subject that brings the past to life whether that is through archaeological work, paintings and photographs or more modern media outlets. In all these features, we are assessing the past; the motivations of human beings and the forces upon them which in some cases are beyond their control.

History does therefore require a degree of learning for content and whilst this can be quite challenging it is not simply the relaying of a cluster of dates! This is the stereotype of History which is a misconception. Instead, developing where facts and dates fit within social change or the impact of individuals such as William the Conqueror is critical. Nonetheless, understanding how to revise and prepare yourself for the requirements of the subject is critical and learning these skills from an early age is integral to success.

To be able to maximise the study experience in History you need to develop skills for analysing and evaluating sources. These skills are developed through practice and feed into the use of **artefacts lessons, the: 'Diggin' in the Dirt' homework which will feature in term 2. These skills are critical to later constructing comparative essays and completing assessments for source materials themselves – skills invaluable at Year 11!**

Therefore at Key Stage 3, I would urge the development of students' revision skills as tailored with the History resources but also as invaluable to all subjects. Please take time to read this week's addition of 'The Saint' to explore extensive revision resources to aid learning and build confidence. Remember for History it is not solely remembering an exhaustive list of dates, it is the events and their impact on society and the human experience from the time we are developing an understanding upon.



St Birinus Poppies will Travel

On Friday 9th November I visited the Tower of London with my family to see the new installation *Beyond the Deepening Shadow: The Tower Remembers* where the Moat was filled with thousands of individual flames. It began with a procession led by the Yeoman Warders of the Tower of London. Emerging from the fortress, the Yeoman Warders – themselves all distinguished former servicemen and women – ceremonially lit the first flame.

As you can imagine there was a massive crowd and we were very lucky to get as close as we did. My eldest son Owen, a student at St Birinus, made two poppies and wanted to take them to London. He tied one of the poppies to the railings on the Tower of London.

The second poppy we tried to put at the Cenotaph on Saturday 10th November however a Police officer informed us that it would be a waste of time as it would be removed ready for Remembrance Sunday. So we tied the poppy to the Great Western Railway Remembrance soldier in Paddington Station remembering the 3312 men and women who gave their lives for King, Queen and country.

I placed a poppy on a War Grave with permission of his late family Private 9786 Arthur William EBSWORTH, 3rd Gloucestershire Regiment, born in 1894 in Blewbury to Charles and Mercy. He died 5 November 1919 and is at rest in St Michael's Churchyard, Blewbury.

Hand making the poppies with all the students and staff has been a very rewarding project. I would like to thank all the students who gave their own time at lunch time to make extra poppies and to the staff who gave their own time to support me with this project.

The display of the poppies will be removed Friday 23rd November. The students who purchased a poppy via Parent Pay will need to collect a poppy from me in Technology Department from Monday 26th November.

I am already thinking of how St Birinus can mark Remembrance Day next year. I would welcome any suggestions from you so please email me at: wcawley@st-birinus.oxon.sch.uk. Thank you.



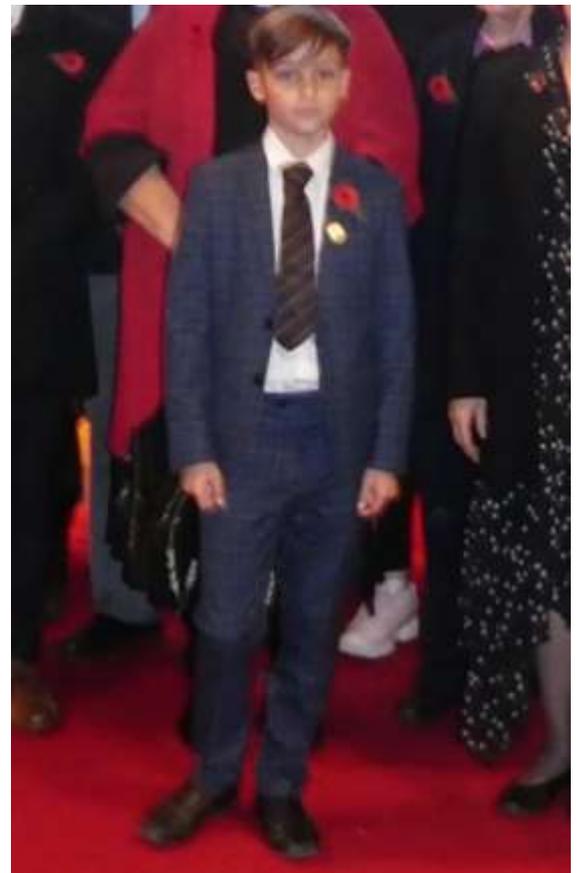
Mrs Cawley

There But Not There

As part on the centenary anniversary, Sutton Courtenay Church held a **special two hour memorial service last Saturday entitled “There but not there”**. During this they read memories and facts about all the Sutton Courtenay men listed on the war memorial. They wanted to involve some children from the local youth group and asked Layland Moreton as they know he has an interest in joining the military and will be starting Air Cadets in September. When asked to be involved, **Layland’s response was “It’s a big honour to be asked - I will do it - it will be good practice for my Duke of Edinburgh volunteering, and it’s important to remember those men.”**

He had to attend a couple of two-hour rehearsals on Saturday afternoons, then a further two hours for the service which was held in our local church - he was the youngest by far! Surrounded by older members of the church, he stood in front of a full congregation and spoke through a microphone about two local men who lost their lives in WW1. Also, along with a group of around 20, he sang three songs unaccompanied that would be reminiscent of the songs sung in the trenches.

Well done, Layland – this is tremendous! We, and your family, are extremely proud of you!





Congratulations to Robbie Gallagher in Year 9. Robbie is part of the Advanced Sports Programme at St Birinus and runs competitively outside of school for White Horse Harriers. He was recently awarded the Fitzwaryn Trophy for his hard work, dedication and achievements throughout the year from his club. Well done, Robbie!

Sporting Success Results 2018/19

Term 2: Week 3 w/b 12/11

Team	Sport	Competition	Opponents	Result
Under 16	Football	OSFA County Cup 2 nd Round	Europa School	W 12 - 0
Under 13	Football	OSFA County Cup 2 nd Round	Matthew Arnold	L 5 - 0
Year 7-11	X - Country	South Oxon Tournament	Various	Year 8/9 1st
Under 15	Rugby	County Cup Q-Final	John Mason	W 56 - 14
Under 14	Basketball	Oxfordshire County League	KA	W 41 - 34
Under 14	Football	National School Cup 3 rd Round	Piggott School	L 1 - 0



ST BIRINUS SCHOOL

ADVANCED SPORTS PROGRAMME

It takes dedication and commitment to be an elite sports performer and each week The Saint gives an insight into the training programme of one of our students. Seb Lawton is a Year 9 pupil who is on the Advanced Sports Programme. He competes at regional and national level in both Athletics and Weightlifting and here he explains how he manages his time with his other activities.

Originally, my main sporting focus was athletics at Abingdon AC and in particular, endurance training including cross country in the winter months and 1500m track in the summer time. I have competed at national competitions and for Oxfordshire. I would train Tuesday and Thursday evenings, Saturday morning with a long run on Sunday.

I also started weightlifting in Year 7 and this has taken priority and isn't always compatible with endurance training. My training last week is explained below:

Monday

Weightlifting after school - max out session.

Tuesday

School cross country at Gillotts school - Year 8/9 team of 4 running 3.2 km each. I then went to rehearsals for Romeo and Juliet at Dorchester Abbey in the evening.

Wednesday

Weightlifting after school - warm up routine run through for competition at the weekend.

LAMDA drama lesson 5-6pm.

Rookie lifeguards in the evening 7 – 8pm which includes 30 mins dry side, practising CPR and 30 mins in the water.

ST BIRINUS SCHOOL

ADVANCED SPORTS PROGRAMME

Thursday

Assisting Coach Karlsson for the Year 7 weightlifters training followed by a practice warmup routine preparing for the weekend competition.

Athletics training if I am not too fatigued.

Friday

Normally a weightlifting session after school but I rested for the upcoming competition.

Scouts 7-9 pm but this week, I had rehearsals for the Christmas production of the Pied Piper at the Cornerstone.

Saturday

Usually weightlifting 10-11am but went to Leamington Spa for the Warwickshire Open weightlifting competition.

Sunday

Rest day or gentle run.



2018 Exam Certificate Collection

Congratulations to all of our Students on their exam results from 2018.

We are offering 3 sessions for those students who took exams in Summer 2018* to collect their certificates in person.

GCSE:

Monday 10th December, between 4pm and 5pm

Wednesday 12th December, between 8am and 10am

Both collection sessions will be in T11 at St Birinus School

A Level:

Tuesday 18th December, between 4pm and 6pm

This collection session will be held in Frideswides Bistro at Didcot Girls' School

Certificates are valuable documents as they are the official records of exam results, and should be looked after very carefully. They are legal documents that may need to be shown to future employers or educational establishments.

If candidates are not available to collect their certificates, they may nominate a trusted person to collect these on their behalf at these sessions. Please download a copy of the Collection of Certificates Permission Form from the school website:

<http://www.st-birinus-school.org.uk/294/exams-office>

The nominated person collecting will need to bring a student signed copy of this form along with ID. Forms can also be emailed to exams@st-birinus.oxon.sch.uk in advance.

In line with Exam Board regulations, St Birinus School is only required to keep certificates for one calendar year, so any uncollected certificates will be destroyed at the end of December 2019. For previous students who have lost or never collected Exam Certificates, they can apply for Certified Statement of Results from each exam board, at a personal cost of approx. £45 per certificate. Details can be found at the following website: <https://www.gov.uk/replacement-exam-certificate>

We will be destroying certificates for exams taken in 2017 or earlier at the end of December 2018.

If students are not able to make these sessions, collection of certificates for both GCSE and A Level students can be arranged via appointment with the Exams Office during school opening hours. Please email exams@st-birinus.oxon.sch.uk

NB: * if your son took exams in Year 10, these Certificates will be held and issued with the rest of their Year 11 certificates in December 2019, they will not be available for collection at this time.

Ms Fitzgerald and Mrs Hughes

It is vital that the school holds correct contact information for every student.

Please check your details are correct on the Data Collection Sheets.

All forms need to be returned to school by Monday 3 December 2018.

Many thanks.

RIDGEWAY EDUCATION TRUST VACANCIES

CATERING MANAGER POST FOR DIDCOT GIRLS' SCHOOL

We are looking to appoint a skilled, enthusiastic and committed Chef to **take the lead in managing the catering service at Didcot Girls' School.** The successful applicant will be innovative and have the drive, energy and vision to ensure that our catering service works to consistently high standards. They will lead a catering team of eight staff and take full responsibility for planning, implementing and developing the catering on offer to ensure it meets the highest standards in terms of quality of food, service and safety. Acting as lead Chef will be a vital part of the role. We expect our Trust to expand and the successful applicant will have the exciting opportunity of helping develop the catering service across other schools in the future.

This is a permanent role with pay up to £28,303 inclusive of a recruitment and retention allowance which will be available for the exceptional candidate.

If you are interested in this role please see the staff vacancies page on **the Didcot Girls' School website.**

<http://www.didcotgirls.oxon.sch.uk/331/staff-vacancies>

Applications need to be submitted to Chris Powell, Director of Finance & Services at cpowell@didcotgirls.oxon.sch.uk by Monday 26th November 2018.

If you are excited by this fantastic opportunity we look forward to hearing from you.

Open Events in November 2018

Please check dates online before you go

You may need to register online

Henley College

Tuesday 27th November 2018 6:00-8:30pm

Abingdon and Witney College

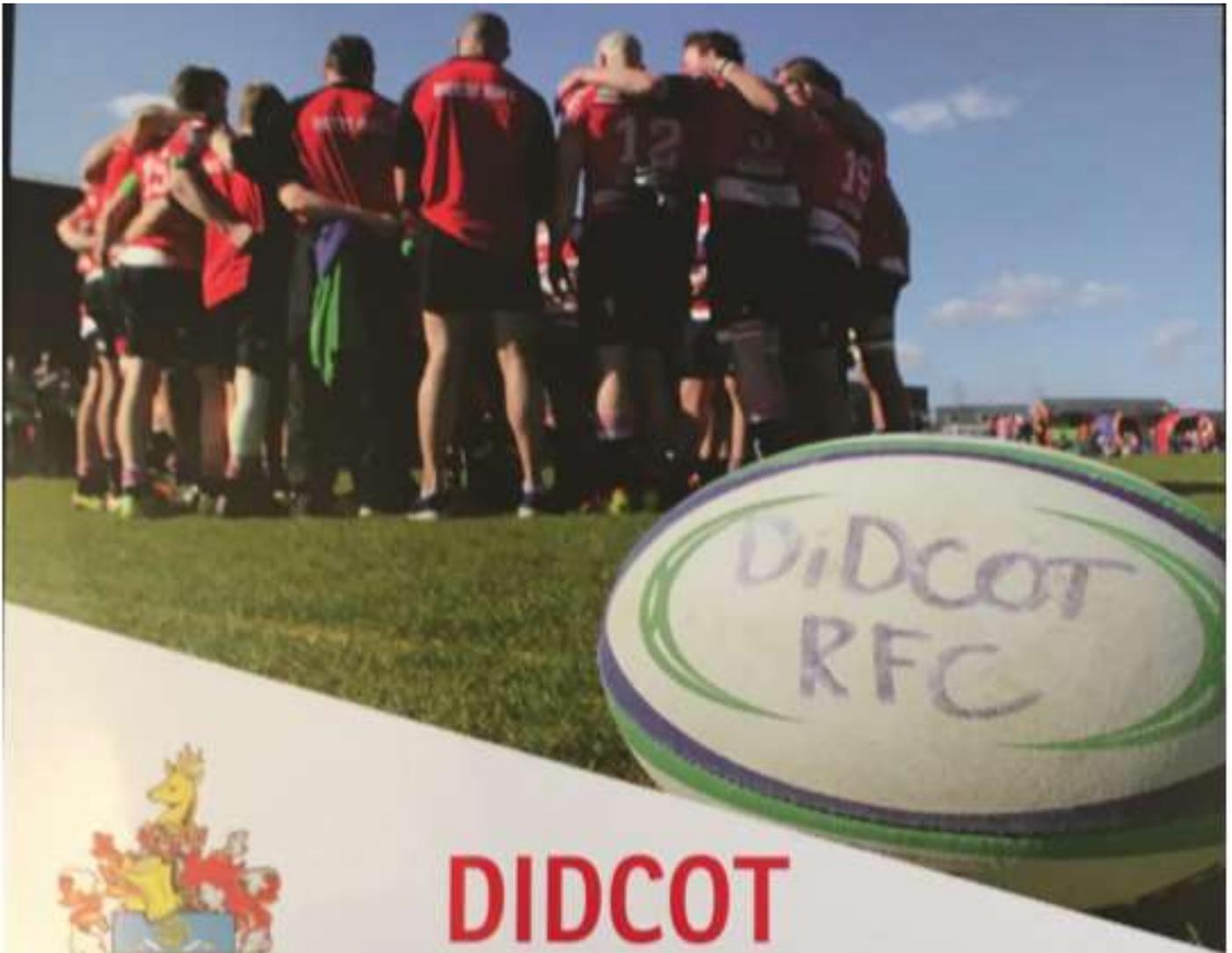
Common Leys Farm Campus – Saturday 24th November 10-4pm

BCA - Berkshire College of Agriculture

Saturday 24th November 2018 10:00-2:00pm

UTC Oxfordshire, Didcot

Wednesday 28th November 2018 5.30-7.30pm



DIDCOT RUGBY

We are recruiting new players!

All ages & all levels of experience.

Adult's & children's rugby; contact & non-contact versions.

Fully floodlit pitch, new clubhouse & changing rooms!

RFU level 3 & 2 coaches



WWW.DIDCOTRUF.COM

JOIN@DIDCOTRUF.COM

07554 631994