

# THE SAINT



Weekly newsletter of ST BIRINUS SCHOOL

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28 Sept 2018

It was Open Evening on Wednesday and it was a great evening. Ukeleles were plucked, remote control model cars were raced, balls were hit and kicked, rooms escaped from, cakes were baked, helmets were worn, microscopes peered through – and some of our Art teachers wore facepaint. The energy and vibrancy of our staff and students was a joy to behold.

**I don't always have the privilege of seeing everything which goes on around the school at Open Evening** as I am based in the Hall but the feedback I have had from prospective parents is so positive about all that we offer as a school. Many people commented on the refurbishment in the school. The art and photographs and plants and sculptures all look wonderful and are a powerful visual representation of all that we are about as a school. This was great to hear as it has taken a lot of planning and organisation to provide this change over the summer – and, by the way, the gym block toilets refurbishment is progressing at pace and should mean the new facilities are ready soon.

However, the two things about the school which visitors most appreciated are our greatest assets – our staff and our students. Our staff are wonderful. They inspire our boys, support and guide them and have high expectations of them in everything they do. And our students never fail to amaze me with their energy, commitment and love for their school.

Our school values are strong, real and tangible – it is the staff who are Inspiring Excellence and the students who display their Care, Courtesy and Commitment. I am very proud to be part of the St Birinus Community with all of them.

John Marston, Headteacher



Dear Parent/Carer,

St Birinus is excited to announce that we, with full support from the staff and Governors, have a Reading Dog, named Ty, stationed in the Library from September 2018. We have undertaken a significant amount of research and are aware of many benefits to having a school dog:

- Helping children build confidence in reading
- A calming effect on students and staff
- Improved behaviour and concentration, reduced stress and improved self esteem
- Encouraging expression and participation
- Fostering a sense of responsibility
- Motivating students to think and to learn
- **Encouraging respect and improving children's social skills**
- Teaching children to nurture and respect life.

Ty is an older dog who is very affectionate, and has been the mascot for a local choir for some years. He is a small dog, and as he is a Bichon Frise cross he does not moult, and his fur makes him less likely to cause allergic reactions. Ty belongs to our Library Manager, Miss Wren, who will have overall responsibility for him. Students will have the opportunity to read aloud to Ty during English Intervention sessions in the Library, under the supervision of Miss Wren.

Students will be introduced to Ty during their Library lessons, and will be given guidance on how to interact with a dog, and any rules that they must follow. We would like to take this opportunity to reiterate that there should be no eating at all in the library, and that food must be packed away in **students' bags. Some human foods, for example, grapes and chocolate, can be highly toxic to dogs**, so it is imperative that there is no chance of Ty eating these.

A full risk assessment of the measures we are taking to maintain a safe and happy learning environment throughout Ty's introduction to the school will be published on our website.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch should you have any queries regarding this.

*Miss Wren, Library Manager*

DIARY: 1 - 5 Oct 2018 <b>WEEK A</b> 8 - 12 Oct 2018 <b>WEEK B</b>			
<b>MON 1</b>		<b>MON 8</b>	
<b>TUE 2</b>		<b>TUE 9</b>	
<b>WED 3</b>	Year 7 Parent/Tutor Settling In Evening	<b>WED 10</b>	Open morning
<b>THU 4</b>	Year 7 Parent/Tutor Settling In Evening	<b>THU 11</b>	
<b>FRI 5</b>	Inset Day - School Closed to Students	<b>FRI 12</b>	Deadline for School Photo Orders Open morning

# KEY DATES

Wednesday 3 October	Year 7 Parent/Tutor Settling In Evening
Thursday 4 October	Year 7 Parent/Tutor Settling In 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>

## Celebrating British Champion Success!

Huge congratulations to Elliot Tappin, Year 10, who became British Champion in the U15, 56kg body weight class at the recent British U23, U20, U17 and U15 Weightlifting Championships in Castleford.

This championship event is the highest level of competition in Britain for lifters aged up to 23 and heralds the next wave of competitive weightlifters bursting onto the national scene.

We are also enormously proud of Corey Swaine, Year 11, who won the U15, 62kg class and Harrison Deeley who was 5th in the U15, 60kg class.

These championships are open to all members of British Weightlifting who have qualified in their respective age group/body weight category and results from this competition can be used to qualify for the 2019 English Weightlifting Championships.



# Year 9 Rugby County Cup First Round

## SBS 30 Gosford Hill 0

Year 9 were drawn against Gosford Hill in the first round of the rugby county cup. Following a number of late withdrawals from both teams the game was played with a reduced number. Despite the missing players, Birinus started the game on the front foot and successfully moved the ball away from the contact zones and into space to make their way up the field. Two early tries for Felix Cotton and Johnson Rabuku who powered over from close range set the tone for the following 16 minutes where Birinus ran in a total of 6 unanswered tries. Matthew Ford x2, Ioan Carter and Dylan Madge were the other scorers. The pick of these was after excellent passing by Matthew Morton and George Rushton found Matthew Ford in a few yards of space and he stepped extravagantly off his left to leave his opponent clutching thin air before sprinting past the covering defenders from the half way line. With the score at 30-0 and still 4 minutes until half time despite Birinus having dropped a player already, the Birinus boys demonstrated the true spirit of rugby by offering to stop the game, mix up the teams and play a shortened training game. This saw an equal number of Birinus and Gosford Hill players on each side to allow a much more even contest for all of the boys involved. It was entirely to the credit of both teams that the new match was a closely fought affair played in excellent spirits and with players from both schools demonstrating some fantastic rugby throughout.

### Squad

Felix Cotton (capt), Jake Giles, Isaac Hall, Johnson Rabuku, Oliver Cadman, Callum Henderson, George Rushton, Matthew Morton, Ioan Carter, Matthew Ford, Dylan Madge

*Mr A Heley*



# SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS



The deadline for placing your order for school photos for Years 7, 9 and 11 is 12 October 2018. Students should take their order to Student Services.

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

## Sporting Success Results 2018/19

Term 1: Week 3 w/b 17/9

Team	Sport	Competition	Opponents	Result
Under 14	Rugby	County Cup 1 <sup>st</sup> Round	Gosford Hill	W 30 - 0
Under 17	Swimming	ESSA National Relay Qualifiers	Various	6 <sup>th</sup> /6 <sup>th</sup>
Under 15	Swimming	ESSA National Relay Qualifiers	Various	3 <sup>rd</sup> /3 <sup>rd</sup>
Under 13	Swimming	ESSA National Relay Qualifiers	Various	4 <sup>th</sup> /2 <sup>nd</sup>

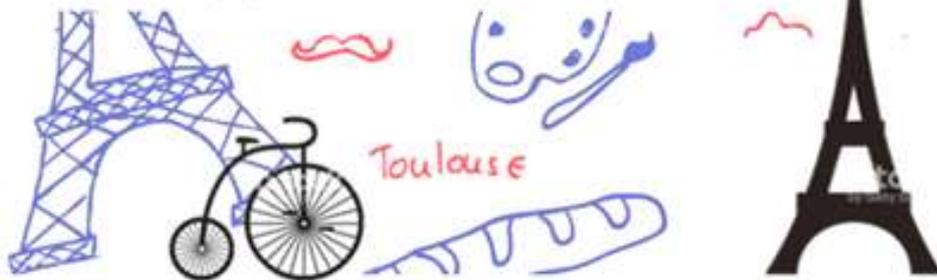




**Would you like to improve your French skills and challenge yourself further?**

*Miss Clavel; a French native speaker; is offering Language Surgery Sessions to help anyone in Year 11.*

*Sessions will take place in Room 9 every Wednesday (Lunch Time)*



## Ski Educational Visit Feasibility Survey

I would like to ascertain what degree of interest there is IF the possibility arose for a ski educational visit to take place in February 2020. I want to reassure you that in completing this survey there is no financial commitment.

However, responses will possibly inform any future developments of such a visit, so please could I ask that you read carefully what a possible ski visit would include, then answer honestly the first question regarding estimated price per student.

Pupil premium students would be eligible for some form of financial support.

Responses to be made by 17:00 Monday 8 October. The questionnaire will be closed after this time.

Please copy and paste the following web link into your browser.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/F5VZYWQ>

*Mr J Allen*

# ST. BIRINUS PTA

## WHO ARE WE?

St. Birinus PTA is a group of parents and teachers that help raise extra funds for the school. Over the last academic year we have purchased many items, including:

Four new table tennis tables for the Sports Department

Dance / Drama mirrors

An electric piano for the Music Department

Robot Wars kits

Books for the English Department

Helped fund Year 11 Yearbooks and Prom



We have meetings several times a year and we typically raise money by running the bar at school events, and by having a stall at the Didcot Street Fair. This year we are selling fundraising calendars, and are trying to provide the opportunity to purchase second hand uniform at school events. We are a small, enthusiastic group who would very much like new members to join us.

## INTERESTED?

Our AGM and next PTA meeting is taking place on **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> October, at 6 pm in Room T11**. We would like to invite you to come along and find out more about who we are and what we do, and hopefully consider joining 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](http://www.utcoxfordshire.org.uk)

### **BCA- Berkshire College of Agriculture**

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2018 10-2pm

Taster days –view dates online

[www.bca.ac.uk](http://www.bca.ac.uk)

### **Henley College**

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2018 6-8.30pm

[www.henleycol.ac.uk](http://www.henleycol.ac.uk)

### **City of Oxford College**

Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2018 4-7pm

[www.cityofoxford.ac.uk](http://www.cityofoxford.ac.uk)



## IRFU Exiles and IQ Rugby Development Days



**IF YOU, OR ONE OF YOUR PARENTS OR GRANDPARENTS WERE BORN IN THE NORTH OR SOUTH OF IRELAND THEN YOU COULD START ON A PATHWAY TO PLAY FOR IRELAND**

### **IRFU Exiles Development Days For Players born in 2003 and 2004**

Monday 22nd October - West Park Leeds RUFC, Leeds, LS16 9JR  
Tuesday 23rd October - Trent College, Nottingham, NG10 4AD  
Wednesday 24th October - Maidenhead RFC, Berkshire, SL6 1BN  
Monday 29th October - Dings Crusaders RFC, Bristol, BS16 1LG

### **IQ Rugby Development Days For Players born in 2002**

Monday 22nd October - The Oratory School, Reading, RG8 0PJ  
Tuesday 23rd October - Trent College, Nottingham, NG10 4AD  
Wednesday 24th October - West Park Leeds RUFC, Leeds, LS16 9JR

**To register your attendance**

Go to  
[bit.do/IQRugbyplayersignup](http://bit.do/IQRugbyplayersignup)

OR



Scan me

Click here to watch a presentation on the IRFU Player Pathway  
[IQRugbyplayerpathway](#)

**Live Your Dream In Green**

