

ST. PIRAN'S
MAIDENHEAD, BERKSHIRE

Headmaster :
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RECOGNISED BY THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
MEMBER OF THE INCORPORATED ASSOCIATION OF PREPARATORY SCHOOLS

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ST. PIRAN

A Cornish legend tells us that some 1,500 years ago a holy man named St. Piran, a disciple of St. Patrick, lived in the South of Ireland. Such was his power that the Irish grew jealous of him, and one day threw him over a cliff into the sea with a millstone round his neck.

The story goes on to relate how he floated safely on his millstone, and eventually landed on the coast of Cornwall at Perranporth. There he built a small church or oratory in the sand, and taught the Cornishmen how to smelt tin, for which he was made the Miners' Patron Saint of Cornwall. It is not certain to what extent Cornwall was Christian at that time; probably partly so. But when St. Augustine landed in Kent in A.D. 597 to convert England, he found Cornwall already a Christian land, and credit for that was due largely to St. Piran.

His church, built in about A.D. 490, is among the oldest Christian churches in England, and indeed in the world. When he died in 520, he is said to have been buried headless under the altar, and his head and other relics put in a box, which pilgrims travelled great distances to see.

In about the ninth century sand started to envelop the church and surrounding countryside, and a new one was built further inland to house the relics. For centuries the fact that there existed a church beneath the sands was known only through hearsay and legend. But concrete evidence finally came in 1797, when a gable was seen appearing above the sand.

A further 38 years elapsed, however, before excavations were started, and then the original church of St. Piran was revealed. Although much has disappeared in the course of time, sufficient remains of this important link with the past to show what has been preserved for us for some 1,500 years.

The School, established over 100 years, stands in 20 acres of ground, and is situated on gravel soil 2 miles from the river and 200 feet up. The classrooms and dormitories face south and west, and obtain the maximum sunshine. **Situatio**

The School is easy of approach by road and rail. It is situated midway between London and Oxford, being approximately 30 miles from each, and is 12 miles from Reading and 8 from Henley. There are frequent trains from Paddington and Reading, and taxis at the station.

The aim of the School is to provide a first-class education for boys of 7 to 14 which will enable them in due course to take their places with credit at their Public Schools, and subsequently to become useful and successful citizens. **Aim**

Boys are encouraged always to do their best, and to develop a proper sense of duty and responsibility. They are taught that if a thing is worth doing at all it is worth doing well, and that nothing is accomplished without personal effort.

There is a flourishing Prefect system, under careful supervision, and a high proportion of boys can expect to benefit from this very valuable training in responsibility and leadership. There are also a number of other positions of trust to which boys can be appointed as they come up the School.

One of the principal aims is to ensure that all boys are happy, as that must surely be the basis of all successful living. To this end a reasonable discipline is maintained, and anything in the nature of bullying is promptly dealt with.

Aim (continued) The Headmaster and his wife live with the boys, have all meals with them, share all aspects of their daily life, and are accessible to them at all times.

Numbers The numbers in the School are about 100, nearly all boarders. A very limited number of day boys are accepted, who lead the same life as the boarders, except that they sleep and have breakfast at home.

Work Boys are prepared for entrance to all the Public Schools, and the curriculum of work is arranged to strike a balance between the classical and the modern side. Full attention is given to all English subjects, and painting, singing and physical training are included. Greek is taught in the top form and to possible scholars. The youngest boys are taken mainly by a qualified mistress.
Science is taught throughout.

Classes are small and ensure individual attention. They are arranged to allow those whose development is likely to be rapid to gain scholarships on the ordinary curriculum and without cramming, and those whose development is average to obtain a good pass in Common Entrance. Staffing and the scheme of work are arranged accordingly.

Staff The full-time Teaching Staff numbers 11, of which a proportion are University Graduates. There are also qualified Visiting Staff for painting, carpentry and swimming. Staff are carefully chosen, not only for academic or athletic qualifications but as much for soundness of character and all-round suitability.

Close attention to the health and cleanliness of the boys is regarded as a matter of the first importance. The Staff includes a qualified Matron and three Assistants. The School Medical Officer attends regularly, and is always available at short notice. Further medical advice is called in whenever necessary, and close liaison with parents maintained. **Health**

The Sick Room faces due south, is light and airy, and adjoins Matron's bedroom. There is an electric bell and reading light to each bed.

Growth and weight are systematically checked.

There are five meals per day : breakfast at 8.0, elevenses, lunch at 1.0, tea at 4.0, and supper (a hot meal) at 6.15. Any boy can have extra milk.

The youngest boys rest on their beds after lunch, and go to bed earlier (7.0).

All boys have to sit quietly after lunch and read for half an hour, outside in fine weather, otherwise indoors.

Vita glass is fitted to all windows in the Sick Room.

Sun-bathing lamps are used regularly throughout the two winter terms, unless a parent wishes otherwise.

**Religious
Instruction**

The Sunday Morning and Evening Services are taken by the Headmaster in the School Chapel. Simplicity and unity of worship are the keynotes of the services. A high standard of singing is encouraged and maintained. The Morning Service follows that of the Prayer Book, boys' prayers being substituted for any difficult for children to follow. The First Lessons are read by Prefects. The Evening Service opens with a hymn chosen by the boys themselves. Addresses are given by visiting clergymen. The Chapel Services are much appreciated by parents and friends, who are welcome to attend in the morning if they wish.

Scripture is taught throughout the School.

Clans

For the purpose of games and general organisation the School is divided into four Clans—North, South, East and West. They compete against each other in work, industry, conduct and all sports. This system fosters the team spirit. At the same time there is plenty of opportunity for individual effort and success.

**Games and
Sports**

Rugby Football is played in the Christmas Term, Hockey in the Easter Term and Cricket in the Summer. 1st Team, 2nd and Colts matches are played. There is also a tennis court for senior boys. For many years the School has enjoyed a good games reputation and record. The School is divided into five for games, grouped according to strength and ability. Each game is presided over by one or more Masters.

There are three "Bituturf" practice wickets by En-Tout-Cas, and a large three-roomed pavilion.

**Games &
Sports**
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Athletic Sports are held in the Summer Term.

Swimming is enjoyed in the summer in an indoor bath, and Swimming Sports are held at the end of the Term. There is also a Gala with three other Schools.

There is a resident qualified Music Master to teach the piano and organ as required. There are two Practice Rooms, fitted with soundproof walls. A qualified violin teacher visits to take any boys wishing to learn that instrument. Music is given an important place in the life of the School. Besides practice periods, boys have two lessons each week. Practices are confined entirely to out-of-school hours.

Music

There is a large Library, with about 1,000 books. It has an area of 500 square feet, a cork tile floor and fluorescent lighting. It is light and airy with large window space.

Library

There are 8 classrooms. These vary in size, are well ventilated, and are properly heated during the winter. The school is oil fired. *There is a new Science Building.*

Classro

These are light and airy. All washing is done in the Changing Room, and clothes are stored in special cupboards, and in Matron's Room. In this way ideal hygienic conditions are

Dormit

Dormitories
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attained. All dormitories are centrally heated in the cold weather. There are 16 altogether, varying in size. Each dormitory is presided over by a Prefect or senior boy, and close supervision is maintained. Senior Staff sleep near them on both floors. Suitable and up-to-date fire precautions exist, including iron ladders, smokeproof doors and extinguishers at strategic points throughout the School, and fire drill is practised every term. The County Fire Brigade inspected the School on request in 1959, and various appliances were added.

Changing Room

The entrance to the Changing Room is through a lobby fitted with lockers for football boots and gymnasium shoes, under which is a Drying Room. The Changing Room is fitted with two rows of basins, with hot and cold water, above which each boy has a locker for his washing gear, hair brushes, etc. Across one end stretches a glazed foot bath fed by jets of running water, the temperature of which is controlled by a master tap. Every boy has a pigeon hole for his indoor and outdoor shoes in daily use. These pigeon holes run over hot water pipes, thus ensuring dry foot gear. The Changing Room being next to the Boiler Room, it is invariably warm.

Swimming Bath

The indoor Swimming Bath opens directly off the Changing Room. The Bath is 5 ft. 6 in. at the deep end and 2 ft. 6 in. at the shallow, and has a capacity of 15,000 gallons. It is white tiled, and fitted with springboard and high dive. Instruction is given four days a week throughout the Summer Term. Promising swimmers are taught the crawl and diving. Swimmers and

non-swimmers bathe separately, likewise Seniors and Juniors. All bathing is voluntary, except the instructional periods.

Swimming Bath (contd)

The Gymnasium is a large building having an area of 2,000 sq. ft. It is used mainly for physical training in wintry and inclement weather, and as a covered play room when outside activities are impracticable. One half is equipped with three full-size table-tennis tables, and there is a wall-type heater.

Gymnasium

The Chapel was rebuilt and refurnished in 1927, and is one of which any school could be justly proud. Nearly all the furniture and fittings have been given to the School by parents, masters, boys, Old Boys and others connected with its life. All the woodwork, including pews, pulpits, reading desk, altar rails and panelling is in natural oak. The altar and hangings are in blue and gold. Reredos hangings in blue repeat the main blues of the window, and the 1914-1918 War Memorial Panels, five on each side of the chancel, are in the same scheme of colour. The sides of the Chapel are panelled in oak, and spaces are provided for the names of all Old Boys.

Chapel

The 1939-1945 War Commemoration takes the form of individual plaques, blue and gold, on an oak panel. There is a two-manual organ by Walker, electrically blown.

All the Societies are run by members of the Staff in out-of-school hours. They organise the work and advise the boys where necessary. Several of the following Societies are run each term. Many boys belong to more than one, and they form an integral and important part of the life of the School.

Societies

Societies
(continued)

(a) The Drawing and Painting Society is conducted by a visiting teacher. Free-hand drawing and sketching are studied, and each boy is initially encouraged to choose the subjects that he prefers. Compulsory for the Junior School in class time, it is voluntary out-of-school thereafter. About a third of the School regularly join the voluntary classes, and some boys reach quite a high standard. Prizes are regularly won in Art Competitions.

(b) The Choral Society gives a Concert, including Carol Singing, at the end of every other Christmas Term.

(c) The Dramatic Society puts on a Play in the Christmas Term, alternately with the Concert.

(d) The Rifle Club has the use of a fully-equipped indoor 25-yard Range, heated in winter, and having electrically-lighted targets. There are four of the latest type B.S.A. aperture-sighted match rifles, fitted with slings. The first team shoots in matches and competitions every term, and has enjoyed an excellent record for many years.

(e) The Bellingring Society provides three teams to ring before and after Chapel Services and at the Concert. They have the use of a set of 36 handbells.

(f) Each member of the Gardening Society has a garden allotted to him or shares with a friend, whichever he prefers. Apart from

a good show of flowers, vegetables are in constant production, and are enjoyed by the growers at the evening meal! **Societies**
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(g) *There are Dancing classes for Senior boys both Winter Terms.*

The School possesses its own Bell & Howell 16 mm. Sound Projector, and films, both instructional and otherwise, are shown fortnightly throughout the Winter Terms. There are also lectures. **Films and Lectures**

Carpentry, on a voluntary basis, is open to all boys, who have the use of a large Carpenter's Shop with full equipment, under the instruction of a visiting woodworker. Classes are kept small, and very good work is done. **Carpentry**

Daily and Sunday newspapers and magazines are provided in the five senior classrooms and the Library. **News**

A talk on world affairs is given to the whole School once a fortnight. **Current Affairs**

A full term's notice is required before the removal of a pupil, or the full fees for the following term are chargeable. **Notice of Leaving**

No reduction in fees is normally allowed for absence during the whole or part of a term, through sickness or other cause. Parents are advised to take advantage of the popular School Fees Insurance Scheme, underwritten at Lloyd's, and in operation at this school, which safeguards against loss of that description. An optional extension of this Scheme covers medical and operation expenses both during term and holidays. **Absence**

Fees

The fees for Board and Tuition are £120 a term. This includes laundry, mending, games, swimming instruction, daily use of the swimming bath in summer, regular sunlight treatment, newspapers and magazines, the terminal School Magazine, fortnightly films during the winter and lectures.

The fee for day boys is £55 a term, including meals.

The Medical Officer makes a charge for each boy of 12/6 a term if registered with him under the Health Scheme, or 17/6 if not. This includes regular attendance at the School, any other necessary visits, examinations, reports, etc.

A fixed terminal charge of £1 is made for books and stationery when a boy is junior, and 30/- thereafter.

Extras and disbursements, including the above, need not exceed £3 a term.

Optional extras are :

Extra Tuition	.	.	.	.	£3	3	0	per subject
Piano	.	.	.	.	£3	3	0	
Drawing and Painting	.	.	.	.	£2	2	0	
Carpentry	.	.	.	.	£2	2	0	including materials
Shooting	.	.	.	.	£1	1	0	
Dancing					£1	1	0	

The fees for Board and Tuition are payable in advance, and are due on the first day of each term.

Payment of Fees

A sum of 30/- is normally sufficient to meet the reasonable expenditure of each boy during term.

Pocket Money

This money is lodged with the Headmaster, who acts as School banker. Each boy is issued with a cheque book, and payment for everything bought is made only by cheque. At the end of the term each boy receives the balance of his account in cash before returning home. Thus not only is it possible to control reasonably the boy's expenditure, but the boy himself receives his first lessons in keeping a cheque book.

This is open twice a week, and the amount of tuck is reasonably controlled.

Tuck Shop

Boys are allowed Exeat on any two Sundays in the term, after the first three, from 9.30—6.0, and on Saturdays as follows :

Exeats and Visiting

Christmas Term : November, Fathers' Shooting Match.

Easter Term: March.

Summer Term : June, Sports.

July, Parents' Day and Fathers' Cricket Match.

**Exeats and
Visiting**

(continued)

Although visits may be made at any time in special circumstances, in order to avoid disorganisation of work parents are requested to limit their visits to days on which Saturday home matches are played. These dates are set out in the terminal Fixture Card, and are usually 4-8 in number.