

24th May 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week staff have been writing postcards home to students to congratulate them on various achievements across term 5. Alongside house points and our reward system, this is another way for us to celebrate the progress and successes of the brilliant young people who attend Fitzharrys School. As ever, there is lots to celebrate, and I am proud to share with you some of the events that have occurred during term 5.

Aspiration

Whilst year 11 and year 13 students have been preparing for, and sitting, their public examinations, it has been great to see a calm, measured and focussed approach. Year 12 Geographers began their NEA (non-examined assessment) by collecting data on 4-day Fieldtrip to South Wales. Our Mathematicians have been busy competing in a range of competitions; year 9s in a competition at Headington School, Key Stage 3 students in the Junior Maths Challenge, and year 12 students winning the local heat of the international Naboj challenge which has held at Abingdon School. Our STEM focus continued with year 8 students taking part in the OX14 LP ChallengED event, and STEM trips to both RAF Brize Norton and Williams F1 headquarters.

Opportunity

JMF6 students in year 12 took part in a work experience week, including a construction day, while our budding engineers and racing enthusiasts in the Greenpower F24 team raced at Goodwood. On the sporting front year 9 footballers were victorious against local schools, and a group of students attended the Women's FA Cup final at Wembley Stadium. Year 9 students visited the Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum, Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award students continued their preparations for their upcoming expedition, and a group of students took part in the Carnegie book quiz with students from other local schools.

Integrity

At the start of the term year 10 students took part in a reward trip to Xscape in Milton Keynes. Through term 5 year 7 students have taken part in the Resilience Rucksacks project with Reading University [Online Flipbook \(heyzone.com\)](https://www.heyzone.com) building strategies to manage their mental health with expert support and guidance. A group of year 7 students also supported current year 6 students, taking on the role of Buddies at our Transition Evenings. Year 9 students engaged superbly with a production of 'Chelsea's Story' this week. Whilst a small group of students have continued to visit Leafield care home to support residents there. I was privileged to watch a group of students from year 8 and year 9 present their research on reducing Fitzharrys carbon footprint to local business leaders.

I know this does not cover all of the activities that students take part in, but it does give us the chance to recognise those who took part and thank the staff who have organised these events.

Parent Survey

At the end of last term, we asked for your views through our annual parent survey. Thank you to everyone who took part. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, particularly around pastoral support, the atmosphere in school, the quality of teaching and the range of opportunities on offer. The survey also gave us some areas to consider going forward; these included reporting, toilet cleanliness, and the communication around the changes to the reward system. As ever, we will consider the feedback carefully, and update you on developments in these areas, and others, in due course.

Our reward system is an important method for how we recognise success and progress at Fitzharrys School. To help you understand the changes to our system, and to help you and your child engage with the rewards process, we have produced a guide which can be found at the following link [SCHOOL-AWARDS-Parents-Guide 2024.pdf \(fitzharrys.oxon.sch.uk\)](#)

Safe behaviours

As active members of the OX14 Learning Partnership Fitzharrys School continues to access and facilitate events and opportunities for school communities across Abingdon. Many of our students benefit from these, from Oxbridge club to the InspirED and ChallengED events. Next term there is an online event hosted by St Helen & St Katharine for parents. Professor Pete Etchells will talk about 'The Real Science of Screen Time', delving into age recommendations and good habits for mobile phone use. This is open to all parents: please register [via this link](#).

A reminder that parents and carers coming onto the school site must go to reception first to be signed in and met by the member of staff they are meeting. Please can I also remind you about communication with staff when on site, over the phone, or by email. Integrity is a key value for Fitzharrys School, which we do our best to model with all stakeholders. The Abingdon Learning Trust code of conduct for parents, carers, visitors, and contractors outlines our key principles and approach: [Trust-Code-of-Conduct-for-parents-carers-visitors-and-contractors-v.1-2021-07.pdf \(abingdonlearningtrust.org\)](#)

Next term

Term 6 is always a busy one, with sports day, transition events, Fitzactive, Stars, Year 11 leavers events, and a range of other opportunities alongside the learning in lessons. We will be in touch during the first week back with our curriculum newsletters to give you the specific details and dates for your child. I hope you have a restful half term break and look forward to seeing your child back in school on Monday 3rd June.

Yours sincerely,



Will Speke
Headteacher