



Our Overview newsletters contain the key information you'll need each term.

## Learning

For a full breakdown of curriculum content for all subjects, visit our [Curriculum Maps](#) webpage.

### ENGLISH:

#### GCSE Poetry

Students study the remainder of the poems in the GCSE collection which they began in Year 9. Students will practise giving attention to analysis of language, structure and form, and contextual factors. Students will learn to construct comparative analytical paragraphs to GCSE standard, and will learn how to approach unseen poems.

### MATHS:

Individual class focus for this term:

- **Miss Morgan & Mrs Price's class:** Pythagoras & Trigonometry (Mrs Price), Quadratic algebra skills (Miss Morgan).
- **Mr Poolman's class and Mrs Twyford's class:** Percentages with and without calculators.
- **Mr Smytheman's class:** Pythagoras & Trigonometry, cementing knowledge from earlier topics on algebra to master skills related to double brackets.
- **Mr Whitley's class:** Percentages and recapping Year 9 skills.

### TRIPLE SCIENCE:

In **Biology**, students will study both non-communicable and communicable disease before learning how the body defends itself against pathogens.

In **Chemistry**, students will study reactivity, displacement, and the production of salts in reactions. They will also study neutralisation, acids, and alkalis.

In **Physics**, students study electrical circuits. They will look at the behaviour of series and parallel circuits, calculate and measure voltages, current and resistance in various circuits, and complete required practicals to investigate resistance.

### COMBINED SCIENCE:

In **Combined Science**, students will study a **Biology** topic on communicable and non-communicable disease before focusing on how the body defends against disease. They also study a **Physics** topic looking at electrical circuits. They will look at the behaviour of series and parallel circuits, calculating and measuring voltages, current and resistance in various circuits, and completed required practicals to investigate resistance.

### CORE PE:

Students will have a wide range of opportunities to continue their learning in PE across term 1. Some students will thrive in a competitive environment and others prefer a more recreational approach where personal fitness and health comes above team games. Students who are taking GCSE PE can use this time to develop their performances for formal assessment in Year 11. Typically, these activities will include Rugby, Football, Netball and Badminton.

### PSHE:

*Being Me In My World:* Students will learn about personal freedom, online and offline safety, managing grief and loss, and the impact of social media. These lessons will help them understand their world, make informed decisions, and seek help when needed.

## News

School Website: [Home page](#)  
Facebook: [@fitzharryschool](#)  
Instagram: [fitzharrys](#)  
X: [@fitzharrys](#)

## Key Contacts

Head of Key Stage 4: **Mr M O'Neill**  
Deputy Head of Key Stage 4: **Dr S Ouvry**  
KS4 Student Wellbeing Managers:  
**Miss R David & Miss L Higgins**  
Assistant Head, Personal Development: **Mr J Clelland**

## Useful Links

School Website: [Careers](#) | [Exams Office](#)  
Revision Resources [Padlet](#)  
Post-16 Choices [Padlet](#)  
Adviza Careers [Portal](#)

# Aspiration

## WELCOME TO KS4 – GUIDANCE

Towards the end of September, parents and carers of Year 10 students will receive an interactive letter with details on what to expect this year, and how best to support your children.

This will include:

- Key events in Year 10
- Messages from Mr O'Neill – Head of Key Stage 4
- How to support your child with English, Maths and Science
- How to support your child's independent study

## GCSE ASSESSMENT WEEKS

At the end of this term (w/c 14<sup>th</sup> & w/c 21<sup>st</sup> October), Year 10 students will have their first GCSE assessed task in each of their subjects. These assessments will be based on the GCSE content that they have covered so far and will give an initial sense of how they are progressing with their KS4 studies. Teachers will guide any necessary revision through homework tasks. Please do encourage your child to be proactive in checking with their teacher if they are unsure about any aspect of their assessment.

## SENECA LEARNING

As part of our support for Year 10, we invest in SENeca Premium for Key Stage 4. SENeca is an online learning platform that has high quality courses for all subjects at Key Stage 3, GCSE and A Level. GCSE students have access to extra resources and functions on this platform to support effective revision across all subjects. More information can be found in this letter: [Seneca Premium – letter to parents](#).

## FITZHARRYS SCHOOL AWARDS

The Fitzharrys School Awards recognise our students' achievements that reflect our core values: Aspiration, Opportunity, Integrity. Every student can work towards achieving Bronze, Silver, and Gold awards by completing a series of activities that support the development of our core values. Students were issued with an Awards Booklet last year when the new system was launched, to record evidence of their progress. At the end of each full term (before the Christmas, Easter, and Summer holidays) we hold Achievement assemblies, where students receive their school awards, alongside recognition for success and progress in their learning and across all areas of school life. For further information, please read our [Fitzharrys School Awards – Parents Guide](#).

## ATTENDANCE GUIDE

Excellent attendance offers the best opportunity to ensure academic success. Please read: [Attendance – A Guide for Parents & Carers](#), which contains useful information to help support your child's good attendance.

## POST-16 OPTIONS AND NEXT STEPS

It is never too early for Year 10 students to begin to develop a good sense of what they want to do beyond Year 11. Children must remain in some form of full-time education until they are 18 years old, but there are multiple pathways, such as A Levels, T Levels, apprenticeships and more.

These upcoming open days would be useful events for students to attend to explore the options on offer:

Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> September, 3.30–7pm	Abingdon and Witney College Open Day (both sites)
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> October, 4.30–7pm	City of Oxford College – Technology Campus Open Event (Blackbird Leys site)
Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> October, 9.30am–12.30pm	City of Oxford College – City Centre Campus Open Event (Oxpens Road site)
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> November, 5–7pm	JMF6 (John Mason and Fitzharrys sixth form) Open Evening (John Mason site)

# Opportunity

## KEY STAGE 4 PASTORAL TEAM

Following the email sent out at the end of Year 9, the Key Stage 4 pastoral team would like to take this opportunity to welcome your Year 10 child to our key stage and wish them all the best for their GCSE studies. The KS4 pastoral team are: Mr O'Neill (Head of Year), Dr Ouvry (Deputy Head of Year), Mrs Higgins (Student Wellbeing Manager), and Miss David (Student Wellbeing Manager). Generally, your child's form tutor is your first point of contact, but please do email or call the pastoral team if you have any concerns. Starting GCSE study can be challenging for all students so do reach out if there is any issue around learning, or anything of a pastoral nature, and we will do everything we can to resolve it.

## CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

Use this link to access our [extra-curricular offer](#) for Term 1. To kickstart the creation of a new club, talk to School Council reps or tutors!

### THE LION KING – WHOLE SCHOOL MUSICAL – AUDITIONS

Our musical this year will be [The Lion King](#). Interested Year 10s are encouraged to attend the information meeting.

- **Information meeting:** Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September in MUSIC – 3.15–3.30pm
- **General auditions:** Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September in MUSIC – 3.30–5pm
- **Callback auditions:** Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September in DRAMA – 3.30–5pm
- **Rehearsals** take place on Tuesday lunchtimes (choreography rehearsals), Wednesday after school (music rehearsals), and Friday after school (staging), beginning on Weds 25<sup>th</sup> September at 3.15–4pm in MUSIC.

### FSA QUIZ NIGHT

The [Fitzharrys School Association](#)'s popular [Quiz Night](#) fundraiser is pencilled in for Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October, 7.30pm–10.30pm. There will be a licensed bar with a variety of tasty bar snacks to provide fuel for the Quiz team fire, and a wooden spoon for the losers! Confirmed details and entry forms will follow by school email soon.

## Integrity

### OPEN EVENING – FITZHARRYS AMBASSADORS

Our annual Open Evening will be held on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October, 5.30–8pm, and we welcome the help of our fantastic students, many of whom are very keen to be Fitzharrys ambassadors, acting as tour guides and department support on the night. Communications will go out to students and parents over the coming weeks as we prepare for this event – thank you all in advance for your support in enacting a successful Open Evening.

### 'IN IN TO WIN IT' POINTS SYSTEM & REWARD TRIP

In the summer term, a trip is being planned to reward Year 10 students for positive choices and for making a great start to their GCSE studies. Last year's reward trip for Year 10 students was an afternoon at Xscape in Milton Keynes at the trampoline park and bowling centre, following consultation with the Student Council and a vote across the whole year group. The destination of this year's reward trip will also be decided in conjunction with students.

Students will become eligible to attend the trip by succeeding in our 'In It to Win It' points system, which is used to support the further development of their high aspirations and integrity. Students wishing to participate in the reward trip must earn and maintain a positive score of at least 25 'In It to Win It' points every term, in Terms 1–5. One House point equates to one 'In It to Win It' point. However, students are aware that any sanctions issued, such as lunchtime or after-school detentions, will subtract from their total 'In It to Win It' points score. We use this system as an incentive for all Year 10 students to make the right choices and focus on achievement in lessons.

Please regularly encourage your child to aspire to earn House points, be proactive in their learning, and fulfil commitments for behaviour and personal study. We will inform parents of any student who is at risk of not attending. If your child becomes concerned that they may not meet the threshold, they can ask their form tutor for support in getting back on track. Please contact the head of KS4, Mr O'Neill with any queries. Email: [moneill@fitzharrys.school](mailto:moneill@fitzharrys.school)

### UNIFORM

We would like to thank parents and carers for your efforts in ensuring students meet high standards in their uniform and for your continued support to maintain this as the new school year progresses. Students who are unable to wear full uniform for any reason should see their tutor with a note from home. They can then be issued with a uniform pass for that specific day. More information can be found on our [Uniform](#) webpage. Please contact your Tutor or Head of Year with any concerns.

### ABINGDON SCHOOL BUS – SUMMARY

This link to an Abingdon School Bus summary may be of use to families living outside of Abingdon:

<https://www.fitzharrys.oxon.sch.uk/assets/SCHOOL-LIFE/Abingdon-School-Bus-Summary-September-2024.pdf>

## PARKING AROUND FITZHARRYS

We do appreciate that students may need to be dropped off and collected by car if they do not live within walking or cycling distance of the school. Due to the nature of the schools' location and driveway, there is a lot of congestion around this area from 8.00-8.45am and then again from 3.00-3.45pm. The school would like to remind everyone of the need to park respectfully in the residential areas surrounding the school and ask that extra care is taken not block the driveways of our neighbours, who must always have clear access to their properties. We would also politely remind parents and carers that (other than staff and organised transport taxis) no cars should be driving onto the school site during the times outlined above. This reduces congestion on the school drive and allows our students on foot and on cycles to enter and exit the site as safely as possible. We appreciate your cooperation with these requests.

## Key Dates

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September, 3.15-3.30pm

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September, 3.30-5pm

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September, 3.30 -7pm

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September, 3.30-5pm

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October, 1.10pm

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October, 5.30-8pm

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October, 4.30-7pm

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October (TBC), doors 7pm

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October, 9.30am-12.30pm

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> Oct – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> Nov

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November, 5-7pm

Lion King – Information Meeting – Music Department

Year 10 DofE Silver Award Assessed Expedition

– North Oxford to Pangbourne

Lion King – General Auditions – Music Department

Abingdon and Witney College Open Day (both sites)

Lion King – Callback Auditions – Music Department

School closes early ahead of Open Evening

Open Evening

INSET Day – school closed to students

Open Mornings (tours at 9am and 10am – booking required)

City of Oxford College – Technology Campus Open Event

(Blackbird Leys site)

FSA Fundraiser: Quiz Night

City of Oxford College – City Centre Campus Open Event

(Oxpens Road site)

Last day of term for students

HALF TERM

Start of Term 2

JMF6 (John Mason and Fitzharrys sixth form) Open Evening

(John Mason site)

## Queries

Please **contact** the school with any queries | Email: [office.4127@fitzharrys.school](mailto:office.4127@fitzharrys.school) | Phone: **01235 520698**