



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:

Creative Writing, Lord of the Flies, and Romeo and Juliet

Students will conclude their study of *Lord of the Flies* with some creative writing work inspired by Golding's style. They will then study Shakespeare's play *Romeo and Juliet*.

MATHS:

Individual class focus for this term:

Miss Morgan & Mrs Price's class: Congruence & Similarity, Sequences & Graphs

Mr Poolman's & Mrs Twyford's classes: Angles & Algebra

Mr Smytheman's class: Sequences & Graphs, Congruency & Similarity, Probability

Mr Whitley's class: Pythagoras & Trigonometry, Angles

SEPARATE SCIENCES:

In **Biology**, students will study photosynthesis, the importance of this reaction, and the uses of glucose. As part of this they will complete a key required practical. They will then consider both aerobic and anaerobic respiration and its effects on the body.

In **Chemistry**, students will study energy changes in chemical reactions and calculate the energy released or taken in during exothermic and endothermic reactions. They will also study electrolysis and how substance can be extracted and complete equations and calculations to describe this process.

In **Physics**, students will be studying atomic structure and look at the properties, uses and dangers associated with nuclear radiation. They will also look at the nuclear reactions of fission and fusion.

COMBINED SCIENCE:

In Combined Science, students will study **Biology** topics on photosynthesis, the uses of glucose and the respiration reactions. They will look at a **Physics** topic studying atomic structure and look at the properties, uses and dangers associated with nuclear radiation.

CORE PE:

Students will be working in competitive and semi competitive situations. Some students use the time to develop their confidence in their GCSE PE practical areas and others participate in a more recreational but purposeful way. Our 'healthy active lifestyles' motto remains at the core of everything we do.

PSHE:

We will explore our *Dreams & Goals*, focusing on the balance between physical and emotional needs for success. This sequence will explore relationships, health goals, work/life balance, and the importance of community in achieving these aspirations. Emphasis is placed on resilience, mental health and nurturing important relationships.

News

School Website: [Home page](#)
Facebook: [@fitzharrysschool](#)
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 pages](#)
School Website [Exams Office page](#)
School Website [Revision page](#)
Revision Resources [Padlet](#)
Post-16 Choices [Padlet](#)

Aspiration

WORK EXPERIENCE

The deadline for all year 10 students to confirm their placement for work experience is Friday 31st January 2025. In order to develop independence and professional skills, students have the responsibility of contacting employers and confirming their placement for the week beginning Monday 7th July 2025. We now have accounts with Unifrog, an admin system that organises risk assessments and employer forms. We will be in touch with more details about this soon. In the meantime, if you have any questions about work experience, please email Mrs Higgins or Mr O'Neill.

NEXT STEPS

It is useful for Year 10 students to start thinking about their next steps, so that their studies have a focus and trajectory. To help students formulate ideas, attending open events at local colleges can be a great starting point.

The following websites are a good starting point for information about courses and upcoming open events:

- **JMF6 Abingdon** – Fitzharrys & John Mason schools' combined sixth form: **JMF6 (jmf6abingdon.co.uk)**
- **Abingdon & Witney College: Events – Abingdon & Witney College (abingdon-witney.ac.uk)**
- **City of Oxford College: Events – City of Oxford College (activatelearning.ac.uk)**

MARCH MOCK EXAMS

Year 10 will have their first full set of mock exams in March at the end of term 4. Students will be informed in class about how to prepare for these and will spend some time in lessons preparing. Details of how to support students' revision can be found on the school website here: <https://www.fitzharrys.oxon.sch.uk/students/revision/>

We will be updating the specific guidance for the March mock exams in January. This will be sent to you directly.

It is essential that students are fully equipped for these exams, ensuring they have pens, pencils, an eraser, ruler calculator, compass, and protractor. Compasses and protractors can be hired for student services for 50p each if needed. Students will not be able to borrow equipment from school during the mock exams. If there are any issues with organising this equipment, please contact your child's tutor who will be able to provide support.

100 BOOKS – READING CHALLENGE

Students are being encouraged to engage with our **100 Books to Read Whilst You're at Fitzharrys** booklet. Each time a student has read ten books from our list, they will be entered into a prize draw to win book vouchers from local bookstore, Mostly Books. Reading Award badges will be given out when students reach the milestones of 25 books, 50 books and 75 books. Any student who reads all 100 books before leaving Fitzharrys will receive a Platinum Award.

BEDROCK BRILLIANCE

An email from Bedrock was received last term to congratulate Fitzharrys School for being in the top ten schools internationally for tier 2 vocabulary learning and engagement. Out of approximately 900 schools, this is an amazing achievement! A huge well done to all students for working hard and completing your Bedrock activities!

HOMEWORK

Homework is an important part of what we do at Fitzharrys School. Research suggests that meaningful homework supports the acceleration of progress in students of secondary school age. We aim, through homework, to promote a culture of scholarship, setting purposeful homework for revision, preparation, and consolidation. Specific homework details can be found on **Epraise**, where you can also see whether your child has completed and handed their work in.

To support students with this important aspect of their scholarship, we offer a wraparound service where students can complete work on school premises:

- Our computer room S1 is open on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning from 8am;
- Our Library is usually open every breaktime and lunchtime;
- We offer **Homework Club** in West Block until 4pm each day;
- Our computer room S1 is also open on a Tuesday until 4pm and a Thursday until 4:30pm.

For more details, please visit our website, where you will find a helpful video, and a full document detailing how much homework, and what kinds of homework, you can expect your child to be receiving: **Homework – Fitzharrys School**.

SUPER CURRICULAR CHALLENGES

Our subject leaders have put together some ideas for extra challenges and enrichment opportunities that students could undertake, to sit alongside their studies this term: see our **Super-Curricular Challenges – Term 3 list**.

Opportunity

NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK

10th – 14th February 2025 is **National Apprenticeship Week** and there will be online events that students and parents can attend. We can also share a **pre-recorded parent information session** with you that has more details about modern day apprenticeships.

CHEMISTRY REVISION

Dr Ouvry is providing a regular space to sit down and study at a Chemistry grade booster every Thursday from 3:15–4:00pm. Students are encouraged to come along for support as they look to prepare for their KS4 exams.

KS4 WELLBEING EVENTS

Fitzharrys School aims to balance students' hard work in their GCSE lessons with providing opportunities where they can prioritise their wellbeing. We had a great turnout of fantastic teams at the Christmas Quiz last term, and it was a really lovely atmosphere. There are two more wellbeing events planned this year, with the next one being a Bingo Night at the end of Term 4! More information will be sent out once details are confirmed.

Integrity

UNIFORM

Please be reminded of our school uniform policy: <https://www.fitzharrys.oxon.sch.uk/school-life/uniform/>
We will be focussing on ensuring all students meet our high expectations. For support with uniform, please contact your child's tutor in the first instance.

WELLBEING

We recommend students regularly visit our **Revision Padlet** which, as well as tips on revision techniques, includes a section on wellbeing, with links to resources for dealing with exam stress and how students can best look after themselves as they prepare for their final examinations. Check in on a regular basis for the latest links and updates.

FSA: JUMBLE SALE & GOFUNDME

The Fitzharrys School Association (FSA) regrets to announce there will be no Giant Jumble Sale fundraiser at the end of January this year due to unforeseen circumstances but is looking forward to being able to run it again in 2026. The FSA would love your support across the year as fundraising efforts continue; a new **GoFundMe** was launched last term to help jumpstart targets for this academic year and has been a huge success – many thanks indeed to all who so kindly donated. Find out more about the work of the FSA here: [FSA webpage](#).

Key Dates

Wednesday 29 th January	Y9-11 Intermediate Maths Challenge
Friday 31 st January	Y10 Deadline for confirming Work Experience Placement
Monday 10 th – Friday 14 th February	National Apprenticeships Week
Monday 10 th February	Y10 Poetry Trip to New Theatre, Oxford
Friday 14 th February	End of term, school closes at 3:15pm
Monday 17 th – Friday 21 st February	HALF TERM
Monday 24 th February	Start of term (Week B)

Absence

To report a student absence, please telephone the dedicated *Student Absence Line* as soon as possible: **(01235) 538243**. Thank you.

Queries

Please **contact** the school with any queries | Email: office.4127@fitzharrys.school | Phone: **01235 520698**