



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:

Romeo and Juliet

Students will study Shakespeare's play *Romeo and Juliet*, examining how Shakespeare uses language, form and structure to create meaning. They will refine the analytical skills required to write an essay based on an unseen extract and be able to contextualise it within the play as a whole, in response to a question about a character or a key theme.

MATHS:

Individual class focus for this term:

- **Mr Whitley's class:** *Sequences and Graphs then Congruence and Similarity*
- **Miss Morgan & Mrs Payne's class, and Mr Poolman's class:** *3D shapes*
- **Mrs Twyford's classes:** *Angles, Algebra & 3D shapes*
- **Dr Taylor and Mr Smytheman's classes:** *Angles, Algebra (double bracket) skills*

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](#)

Key Contacts

Head of Key Stage 4: **Mr M O'Neill**
Deputy Head of Key Stage 4: **Dr S Ouvry**
KS4 Student Wellbeing Managers:
Mrs R David & Miss K Lammin
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

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 learning how to prepare. 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.

WORK EXPERIENCE

The deadline for all year 10 students to confirm their placement for work experience is Saturday 31st January 2026. To develop independence and professional skills, students have the responsibility of contacting employers and confirming their placement for the w/c Monday 6th July 2026. Your year 10 child must use their Unifrog account to log the details of the placement and ensure it can go ahead. The guide that we have shared with students can be seen here: [Y10 WXP Guidance.pdf](#). If you have any questions, please contact Mr O'Neill or Ms David.

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 \(jmf6abingdon.co.uk\)](http://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)

CAREERS NEWSLETTERS

Our careers newsletters are updated each month with school, local, and national information and opportunities relating to careers. When organisations and training providers send us information about talks, vacancies, and applications, these will be shared via our website. To view, visit: [Careers Newsletters](#).

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](#).

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.

Queries

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

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](#).

Opportunity

CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

Use this link to access our [extra-curricular offer](#) for Term 3.

NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK

9th–15th February 2026 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.

THE BIG FITZHARRYS BOOK SWAP

One of our goals at Fitzharrys is to get all of our students reading for pleasure. Reading is known to promote good mental health as well as building vocabulary and enhancing memory (and it has lots of other benefits too!). As part of our commitment to promoting reading for pleasure, we are excited to host our first ever book swap after Christmas break!

Students will be asked to bring in their book(s) Monday 19th–Wednesday 21st January and give them to their form tutor. When a student brings in a book from home to swap, they will be given a token to put towards a book brought in by someone else. Your student can bring in more than one book, and will be given a token for each one they bring (up to five). We will display the books for students to browse during lunch break and they can choose the book(s) they would like to take home.

Please make sure all books your child brings in are:

- Age appropriate (no adult content, but also not too young)
- In good condition (no rips, water damage, drawn or written in, etc)
- Something our students would enjoy (age appropriate graphic novels/comics are fine too!)

This activity is optional, but we hope you will encourage your child to take part. Thank you for your support.

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.

SEXUAL HEALTH DAY

On 15th January, year 10 students will have a day of Wider Learning Time focusing on sexual health, with workshops from the School Health Nurse team, The Abingdon Bridge, and the Police.

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: GIANT JUMBLE SALE

Following a leave of absence in 2025, the FSA is excited to announce the return of our very popular Giant Jumble Sale! It will be held in the hall on Sunday 25th January 2026, 10am–12pm. The FSA would appreciate good quality donations in January! (Please note, they are unable to accept any VHS tapes, cassette tapes, electrical items, or unsealed toiletries). Do [get in touch with the FSA](#) if you'd like to volunteer to help at the sale, or during set-up the day before, on Saturday 24th January. Find out more about the work of the FSA here: [FSA website](#).

LOG-IN SUPPORT

We use Educational Technology (EdTech) to support learning, independent work, homework, and revision. Research suggests that EdTech, particularly that which offers opportunities for self-quizzing, self-marking retrieval practice, increases retention of key ideas and knowledge (EEF, 2021). Our priorities for homework are laid out [on our website](#), where you will also find details of what types of homework to expect from each subject, and how frequently.

Students are taught to use each EdTech platform before being set independent work. However, we recognise that for parents and carers, there are many new processes, systems, and logins with which to become familiar: we hope you will find this [EdTech Parent Guide](#) helpful.

Please note, **Educake** have created a bespoke help page for parents and students at Fitzharrys, here: <https://www.educake.co.uk/parents-carers-at-fitzharrys-school-1923/>

Absence

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

Key Dates

Tuesday 13 th January	Y10 <i>It All Adds Up</i> maths event, Oxford University
Thursday 15 th January	Y10 Sexual Health Carousel – Wider Learning Day
Mon 19 th – Wed 21 st January	The Big Fitzharrys Book Swap
Sunday 25 th January, 10am–12pm	FSA Giant Jumble Sale
Saturday 31 st January	Y10 Deadline for confirming Work Experience Placement
Monday 9 th – Friday 15 th February	Y10 & Y11: National Apprenticeships Week
Tuesday 10 th February, 1–3pm	Y9–10 Abingdon YA book awards at Radley College (participating students only)
Friday 13 th February	End of term, school closes at 3.15pm
Monday 16 th – Friday 20 th February	HALF TERM
Monday 21 st February	Start of term (Week B)