



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

Briefing on curriculum content, extra-curricular opportunities, current school messages and more, parents and carers can use this outline to support students and help them succeed at school.

## Learning

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

### ENGLISH:

#### Lord of the Flies, and mock exams revision

Students will learn to respond to questions about the novel without extract, learning to construct an argument, justify their argument with well-selected evidence and explore analytically the themes, character, structure, form and context. They will then revise for mock exams.

### MATHS:

Individual class focus for this term:

- **Mrs Morgan & Mrs Payne's class:** Quadratics (Miss Morgan), Data (Mrs Payne)
- **Miss Twyford & Mrs Price's class:**  
Congruence & Similarity, Probability (Mrs Twyford) & Transformations (Mrs Price)
- **Mr Poolman's class:** Sequences and graphs
- **Mr Smytheman's & Mr Whitley's classes:** Congruence & similarity, probability skills

### TRIPLE SCIENCE:

In **Biology**, students will be looking at hormonal control in the body, focusing on blood glucose concentration, water balance and the menstrual cycle before studying hormones in plants.

In **Chemistry**, students will study organic chemistry including alkenes and alcohols followed by studying polymers.

In **Physics**, students will study the topic of forces and motion. Explaining changes in motion by considering the forces acting and calculating the speed, distance, time, and acceleration of objects. They will also carry out experimental work to investigate this.

### COMBINED SCIENCE:

In **Combined Science**, students will look at a **Biology** topic focusing on variation, evolution, and selective breeding. They will also look at a **Physics** topic focusing on the different forces that act on objects, determining the size and effect of resultant force on an object, and complete experimental work to investigate forces and their effects.

### CORE PE:

Students will develop their health and fitness during their core PE lessons, some in a competitive way and some with a more 'personal active lifestyle' approach. GCSE PE students who will be nearing their final practical option choice will be able to use core PE lessons with a specific outcome in mind. Typical activities popular during the autumn term are Netball, Rugby, Football and Badminton.

### PSHE:

*Being Me in My World:* We will learn about the laws and responsibilities that affect us, including relationships, substance use, online activity, and emergency situations. The lessons will prepare us to understand our rights and how to 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 & Mrs 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

## POST-16 OPTIONS AND NEXT STEPS

It is important that Year 11 students now begin to develop a good sense of what they want to do this time next year. 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. We encourage students to not get too stressed if they don't yet have a clear idea of what their next steps beyond GCSEs should be; there is still plenty of time to think about it. However, now is the time to start exploring options so, if your child is struggling with this, please contact the KS4 pastoral team who will provide support, which will include a career appointment with [ADVIZA](#).

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)

## NOVEMBER MOCK EXAMS

Year 11 students will undertake mock exams in all subjects in November, beginning in the first week of Term 2 – straight after half term. Students will receive timetables towards the end of Term 1. The mock exams give students an opportunity to show how much they have improved since their Year 10 mock exams, demonstrate the new content and skills they have been learning, and identify areas of focus ahead of the final exams in the summer.

## SENECA LEARNING

As part of our support for Year 11, 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.

# Opportunity

## KEY STAGE 4 PASTORAL TEAM

The KS4 pastoral team would like to take this opportunity to welcome your child back into the exciting final year of Key Stage 4. 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. Year 11 can be a challenging year so please 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!

## 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.

## OPEN EVENING – FITZHARRYS AMBASSADORS

Our annual Open Evening will be held on Thursday 10th 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.

## PASSPORT TO PROM – 2025

The Year 11 Prom will be held on Friday 4th July 2025 – please save the date! It is always a wonderful event and we would like to see every Year 11 student there. The year group will be consulted on the theme and other ideas to make it a memorable evening for all and there is the opportunity for students to join the Prom Committee to help with fundraising and coordination of the event.

To support high aspirations and the further development of integrity in our students as they approach their exams, we use an 'In It to Win It' points system for students to earn their invitation to the prom. Students earn their *Passport to Prom* by being awarded 25 House points a term, in at least 3 of out of the 5 terms (Year 11 students leave school during term 6). One House point equates to one 'In It to Win' It point. Students are aware that 'In It to Win it' points will be subtracted for each poor behaviour incident or missed homework, so please regularly encourage your child to aspire to earn House points, be proactive in their learning, make the right choices, and fulfil commitments for behaviour and personal study. We want every student to attend Prom and are here to offer support wherever needed. Please contact the Head of Year, Mr O'Neill with any queries: [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

Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 11 Geography – Earth Trust Trips
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> September, 3.30–7pm	Abingdon and Witney College Open Day (both sites)
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> October, 1.10pm	School closes early ahead of Open Evening
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> October, 5.30–8pm	Open Evening
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> October	INSET Day – school closed to students
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> October	Open Mornings (tours at 9am and 10am – booking required)
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> October, 4.30–7pm	City of Oxford College – Technology Campus Open Event (Blackbird Leys site)
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> October (TBC), doors 7pm	FSA Fundraiser: Quiz Night
Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> October, 9.30am–12.30pm	City of Oxford College – City Centre Campus Open Event (Oxpens Road site)
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> October	Last day of term for students
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> Oct – Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> Nov	HALF TERM
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> November	Start of Term 2
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 11 Mock Exams
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> November, 5–7pm	JMF6 Open Evening (John Mason School site)