



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:

#### Revising Literature Paper 1

Students will learn to hone their knowledge of both *Romeo and Juliet* and *Jekyll and Hyde*, and to refine their ideas, building on practices and feedback loops.

### MATHS:

The individual class focus for this term is as follows:

- **Mrs Morgan & Mrs Payne's class:** Functions & transformations of graphs, Circle Theorems, Proportion, Surds.
- **Miss Twyford & Mrs Price's class:** Circle theorems, Vectors and Further Trigonometry.
- **Mr Poolman's class:** Transformations, data.
- **Mr Smytheman's & Mr Whitley's classes:** Mock exam development, Maths Memory skills, Scale & Construction.

### SEPARATE SCIENCES:

In **Biology**, students will study variation and evolution. They will look at the theory of evolution and natural selection focusing on the evidence for these theories. They will then consider how the knowledge of inheritance is used in selective breeding and genetic engineering.

In **Chemistry**, students will continue the study of chemical analysis and look at the tests that can be used to identify substances and ions. They go on to look at the Earth's resources, where they study water and water treatment, extracting metals from their ores, and recycling of materials.

In **Physics**, students will continue with the topic of forces, looking at pressure on surfaces, in fluids, and the causes of upthrust. They will then begin a topic on magnetism looking at the fields around permanent magnets and electromagnets. They will carry out experiments to investigate these fields.

### COMBINED SCIENCE:

Students will study a **Biology** topic looking at Ecology and human impacts on biodiversity. They will also complete a **Chemistry** topic focusing on the components of the earth's atmosphere and treating wastewater. In **Physics** they will study a topic on waves looking at wave properties and in particular electromagnetic waves and their many uses.

### CORE PE:

In Core PE lessons, all Key Stage 4 students will have continued opportunities to enjoy competitive or semi-competitive activity. We encourage students to embrace their core PE lessons and participate with good effort and spirit. Students will be able to choose an activity from a range of Core PE activities on offer.

### PSHE:

In PSHE, we will explore 'Healthy Me' by understanding decision-making in sexual relationships including the role of self-worth, consent, contraception, and sexual health. Pupils will learn about hormonal health's influence on life, the importance of respecting different beliefs, and effective strategies for managing pressures in relationships.

## 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 pages](#)  
School Website [Exams Office page](#)  
School Website [Revision page](#)  
Revision Resources [Padlet](#)  
Post-16 Choices [Padlet](#)

# Aspiration

## IMPACT PROGRESS CHECK

Following their mock exams in Term 2, students received an Impact Progress Check. Feedback included specific targets to work on for each subject, set by their teachers. The targets, if completed, will have a positive impact on your child's GCSE performance. We ask for parents' support to ensure that students are working to achieve these targets: please check regularly to see if they have completed them and encourage them to progress.

Impact Progress Checks were sent home digitally, via your **My Child at School** login. If you experience any difficulties accessing this information, please **contact** your child's tutor.

## POST-16 PATHWAYS

Year 11 students can at times feel overwhelmed by pressures of coursework completion and revising for the upcoming final exams. As such, exploring pathways for life after Year 11 and completing applications can feel like an additional burden. The Key Stage 4 pastoral team are here to help and will provide support and guidance.

Every Year 11 student at Fitzharrys School will receive an appointment with an external career advisor who can help provide a realistic picture of the options for next steps. If your child has not yet had their appointment but would like to be prioritised, they should let their form tutor know and we will make the arrangements.

In the meantime, attending open events at local course providers can be very helpful. 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](http://abingdon-witney.ac.uk))**
- **City of Oxford College: Events – City of Oxford College ([activatelearning.ac.uk](http://activatelearning.ac.uk))**

Furthermore, later this term, Year 11 students will have an assembly on apprenticeships, and students who have expressed an interest in applying to an apprenticeship will receive further guidance following the assembly.

## MARCH MOCK EXAMS

Year 11 will take their final mock exams in March at the end of term 4. Students will receive information in class on how to prepare for these. Full revision details can be found on the school website here:

<https://www.fitzharrys.oxon.sch.uk/students/revision/>

Year 11 also have several final coursework deadlines to meet during term 4. Students will have been given information on each subject's specific deadlines. It would be helpful if you can check in regularly with your child to ensure they are prepared and on track to meet these. Thank you for your support in the run up to GCSE exams.

It is essential that students are fully equipped for their exams, ensuring they have pens, pencils, an eraser, ruler calculator, compass, and protractor. Compasses and protractors can be hired from 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.

## 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**.

## 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!

# Opportunity

## NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK

10<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> February 2025 is **National Apprenticeship Week** and there will be online events that students and parents can attend. Year 11 students will receive an assembly introducing apprenticeships on 24<sup>th</sup> January and we can also share a **pre-recorded parent information session** with you that has more details about modern day apprenticeships.

## SCIENCE REVISION SESSIONS

Students can get a head start on preparation for the summer exams by calling into Science to sit down and study at these grade booster revision sessions:

- Mr Easton is providing Physics grade boosters every Tuesday from 3:15–4:00pm, in Science room 3;
- Dr Ouvry is providing Chemistry grade boosters every Thursday from 3:15–4:00pm, in Science room 4.

## ENGLISH REVISION

Students are encouraged to make use Fitzharrys' dedicated English revision website:

<https://sites.google.com/view/fitzharrys-english-revision/home>

It is full of helpful resources and practice questions for students to have a go at. It will be updated regularly so keep it bookmarked!

Ms Taylor will also be providing a regular space to sit down and study at English Revision Club every Wednesday from 3:15–4:15pm, in E2. It is a drop-in club – no need to sign up in advance. There will be a variety of resources for students to make use of independently, or in small study groups with friends, including Literature-themed board games. Ms Taylor will also be on hand throughout to answer any questions, look at any practice essays, and give students some advice on how to revise.

## 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

## 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.

## PASSPORT TO PROM

Year 11 students will now know if they passed Term 2 for their *Passport to Prom*. To pass a term, they must finish with a score of at least 25 prom points, earned through House points. Each sanction received has a negative value which subtracts from the total. We use this system to encourage Year 11 students to make the right choices and make the most of their time left at school. If any student fails to pass three terms, we will put a support plan in place to help keep them on track in these final crucial months. This is a new system introduced this year, with the aim of encouraging positive behaviour in all students and providing more opportunities to be a part of this fantastic event.

## 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.

## 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

Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> January	Y11 Apprenticeship event
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> January	Y9-11 Intermediate Maths Challenge
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February	National Apprenticeships Week
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February	End of term, school closes at 3:15pm
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> February	HALF TERM
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February	Start of term (Week B)
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> – Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> February	Y11 Food Technology mock exam

## 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](mailto:office.4127@fitzharrys.school) | Phone: **01235 520698**