



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:

Individual class focus for this term:

- **Mrs Morgan & Mrs Price's class:** Functions & Transformation of Graphs; Circle Theorems
- **Mr Smytheman's class:** Maths Memory, Graph transformations, Circle Theorems
- **Mrs Twyford's class:** Measures and revision
- **Mr Poolman's class:** Simultaneous equations, Direct and Inverse Proportion
- **Mr Whitley's class:** Graphs, simultaneous equations, maths memory revision

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 Variation and inheritance. They will also complete a **Chemistry** topic focussing on the components of the earth's atmosphere, and treating wastewater. In **Physics** they will study a topic on waves looking at wave properties – particularly 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 these lessons and participate with good effort and spirit.

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.

Useful Links

School Website:

[Careers](#) | [Revision](#) | [Exams Office](#)

Revision Resources [Padlet](#)

Post-16 Choices [Padlet](#)

Adviza Careers [Website](#)

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**

News

School Website: [Home page](#)

Facebook: [@fitzharrysschool](#)

Instagram: [fitzharrys](#)

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.

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.

POST-16 PATHWAYS

Every year 11 student at Fitzharrys School will receive an appointment with Ms David 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)
- **City of Oxford College: Events – City of Oxford College** (activatelearning.ac.uk)

In addition, year 11 students will have an assembly on apprenticeships later this term, and students who have expressed an interest in applying for an apprenticeship will receive further guidance following the assembly.

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.

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

A reminder that our **extra-curricular offer** is online and regularly updated – check the link for the latest updates.

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.

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;
- Mr Duxbury is providing **Biology** grade boosters every Wednesday, from 3:15–4:00pm, in Science room 1;
- 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 of 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!

Mrs Taylor will also be providing a regular space to sit down and study at English Revision Club every Tuesday from 3:15–4:15pm, in E11. 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. Mrs 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.

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.

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. Year 11 students are reminded that, if they begin to feel overwhelmed by pressures of coursework completion or revising for the upcoming final exams, they should let the KS4 pastoral team know. They are always here to help and will provide support and guidance.

PASSPORT TO PROM

A reminder that we have changed the way that Year 11 students earn their Passport to the Prom.

There are now three opportunities for students to earn their prom ticket. The first opportunity was last term when students received their first Progress Reports. Students who received an average 'attitude to learning' score of 2.5 or above will have passed Opportunity 1. We will make sure that all students and their parents know their prom status early in Term 3. If they were not successful the first time around, there are two more opportunities and the next one will be in April after the next set of mock exams.

We have devised this new system to encourage all year 11 students to make positive choices and push themselves to be successful. Full details of the new system can be read here: [Passport to Prom 2026 – Information](#).

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.

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/>

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](#).

Queries

Please [contact](#) the school with any queries

Email: office.4127@fitzharrys.school | Phone: **01235 520698**

Absence

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

Key Dates

Mon 19 th – Wed 21 st January	The Big Fitzharrys Book Swap
Sunday 25 th January, 10am-12pm	FSA Giant Jumble Sale
Wednesday 28 th January	Y9-11 Intermediate Maths Challenge
Monday 9 th – Friday 15 th February	Y10 & Y11: National Apprenticeships Week
Monday 9 th February (W/C)	Y11 GCSE PE Practical Assessments
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)
Monday 21 st February	Y11 GCSE Geography: Westgate Fieldwork trip
Wednesday 25 th – Friday 27 th February	Y11 GCSE Food practical mock exams