



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 subject curriculum content, please visit our [Curriculum Maps](#) webpage.

ENGLISH: *Non-fiction Reading and Writing* - Students will study a range of non-fiction speeches from orators from a range of cultures and contexts. They will produce an analytical reading of a speech and write a speech themselves.

MATHS: Our first topic in Year 7 is *Number Operations*. This is the underpinning topic for all other areas of maths, covering the four operations, working with decimals and negatives and BIDMAS. We also explore how to use letters to generalise number and gently introduce algebraic concepts into mathematics.

SCIENCE: Students will complete an introductory topic to science focusing on key practical enquiry skills. They will move on to a Physics topic focusing on the effect of forces on objects.

ART: Students will practice observational drawing, developing skills in tone and texture which will underpin their journey through KS3 and KS4 in Art and Design.

COMPUTER SCIENCE: Students will learn how to use email accounts, as well as online systems: Learning Resources, e-Praise, and One Drive. This term's topic is Online Safety: Cyberbullying, Computer Viruses and Passwords.

DRAMA: Students are introduced to skills such as Mime and Gesture, and work on creating characters for the end of term assessment, entitled: 'Bar Story'.

FRENCH: The sound of French - Introducing phonics via songs and self-description. Students will study a range of key basic concepts such as phonics, articles, subject pronouns, and key verbs (to be/to have).

GEOGRAPHY: *Amazing Abingdon* - An opportunity to get to know Abingdon a little better, investigating its physical and human aspects.

HISTORY: *Why is History significant?* - Students are introduced to key historical skills such as chronology, and then we look at what makes us British, and the impact migration has had on the UK over the last two thousand years.

MANDARIN: Students will focus on learning how to greet other people and Count from 0-10 in Chinese.

MUSIC: *Night and Day: The Elements of Music* - Pupils will be learning about the key building blocks of what makes Music, music. This term, they will be particularly focusing on Dynamics (volume) and Tempo (speed).

PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS: *What are key Hindu beliefs?* An investigation into key aspects of Hindu belief including gods and goddesses, worship, holy books and texts, holy places, and pilgrimage.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION: Students will be developing their skills and exploring the principals of Invasion Games (Netball and Rugby). The focus for all is on high levels of activity and participation as well as establishing consistent routines and encouraging independence.

PSHE: *Being Me in My World:* We will examine how identity is shaped by various factors, including peer pressure and online behaviour. We will learn to maintain positive relationships, understand the consequences of our actions, and seek appropriate help and advice when needed.

TECHNOLOGY: Students follow a rotational system, all starting at different points. Key topics covered across year 7 are: a Christmas cracker project, making a drawstring bag, healthy eating and key knife skills for cooking.

News

School website: [Home page](#)
Facebook: [@fitzharrysschool](#)
Instagram: [fitzharrys](#)
X: [@fitzharrys](#)

Key Contacts

Heads of Year 7 & Transition:
Ms K Emeny & Mrs E Sharman
Year 7 Student Wellbeing Manager: **Mr T Clarke**
Assistant Head, Personal Development: **Mr J Clelland**

Queries

Any queries, please [contact](#) the school.
Email: office.4127@fitzharrys.school
Phone: **01235 520698**

Aspiration

WELCOME!

Congratulations to all Year 7 students who have had a very successful first week at Fitzharrys, we are looking forward to the rest of the term and getting to know you over the coming weeks.

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. Year 7 students will be introduced to the awards system later in the term and be issued with an Awards Booklet which they will use 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.

READING ASSESSMENTS

Students will complete a reading assessment within their first term at Fitzharrys School. This is used as a baseline to assess progress and to help teachers plan effectively for individual students' needs. Reading tests will be completed in lesson time and students do not need to prepare/revise for these assessments.

APPROACH TO LEARNING REPORT

Expected during w/c 14th October, reports on how Year 7 students have been getting on in their first term will be sent out to parents. All subjects will provide scores for the student's *Approach to Learning* and *Approach to Homework*. This initial *Approach to Learning* report does not comment on assessment outcomes or include written feedback from teachers, but the following *Impact Progress Checks* (due in term 4) will include these elements. Find out more about reports and target setting at Fitzharrys School on our [Reports](#) webpage.

Opportunity

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!

THE LION KING – WHOLE SCHOOL MUSICAL – AUDITIONS

Our musical this year will be [The Lion King](#). Interested Year 7s are encouraged to attend the information meeting.

- **Information meeting:** Wednesday 11th September in MUSIC – 3.15–3.30pm
- **General auditions:** Wednesday 18th September in MUSIC – 3.30–5pm
- **Callback auditions:** Friday 20th September in DRAMA – 3.30–5pm
- **Rehearsals** take place on Tuesday lunchtimes (choreography rehearsals), Wednesday after school (music rehearsals), and Friday after school (staging), beginning on Weds 25th September at 3.15–4pm in MUSIC.

FSA QUIZ NIGHT

The [Fitzharrys School Association](#)'s popular [Quiz Night](#) fundraiser is pencilled in for Friday 18th 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.

Integrity

KEY STAFF

We are excited to announce that Miss Emeny and Mrs Sharman are now sharing the role of Head of Year 7 and Transition. The pastoral team is excited to have Mrs Sharman join them, bringing her experience and expertise to help further support students at Fitzharrys.

MEET THE TUTOR EVENING

There will be a *Meet The Tutor Evening* on Thursday 24th October to help establish strong links between school and home. Bookings can be made through Epraise closer to the date; specific details including timings will follow by email.

UNIFORM

It is always a joy welcome Year 7 students to the school, all looking so smart and ready for a successful start to the year. We would like to thank parents and carers for your efforts, and your support in maintaining these standards as the 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.

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

Further to our focus on wearing the correct uniform, please note that Year 7 students will have their individual portrait photographs taken at school on **Wednesday, 18th September**, as well as tutor group class photos. Students should be correctly attired, wearing their shirts, ties, and blazers.

ABINGDON SCHOOL BUS – SUMMARY

This link to an Abingdon School Bus summary may be of interest 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

Wednesday 11 th September, 3.15–3.30pm	Lion King – Information Meeting – Music Department
Wednesday 18 th September	Year 7 Individual Portraits and Tutor Group Photos (School Photographer)
Wednesday 18 th September, 3.30–5pm	Lion King – General Auditions – Music Department
Friday 20 th September, 3.30–5pm	Lion King – Callback Auditions – Music Department
Thursday 10 th October, 1.10pm	School closes early ahead of Open Evening
Thursday 10 th October, 5.30–8pm	Open Evening
Friday 11 th October	INSET Day – school closed to students
Monday 14 th – Friday 18 th October	Year 7 <i>Approach to Learning</i> Reports due out this week
Monday 14 th – Friday 18 th October	Open Mornings (tours at 9am and 10am – booking required)
Friday 18 th October (TBC), doors 7pm	FSA Fundraiser: Quiz Night
Thursday 24 th October, times TBC	Year 7 Parents – Meet the Tutor Evening (Details about Meet the Tutor Evening will be sent out by email soon)
Friday 25 th October	Last day of term for students
Monday 28 th Oct – Friday 1 st Nov	HALF TERM
Monday 4 th November	Start of Term 2