



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: <i>Girl. Boy. Sea.</i> Students will study a modern young adult novel. They will explore its cultural and contextual links, as well as analysing its language, form, and broader structure. They will produce an analysis of a key extract.
MATHS: This term is focused on learning more algebra and starting to see the connections between this topic and the tapestry of mathematics it enables us to access. It is a key topic at this stage so pupils can revisit and extend their knowledge as they work through other topics later in year 7 and into year 8.
SCIENCE: Students will complete a Biology topic looking at reproduction in plants and animals. They will also study a Physics topic on forces and motion.
ART: Students will be producing small ceramic sculptures inspired by our mythical creature theme and the wood carvings of Oaxaca in Mexico. As well as developing their ideas in clay, students will also hone their drawing skills, taking inspiration from myths and monsters found in stories.
COMPUTER SCIENCE: Students will learn about: network protocols and the components that make up a computer network; how messages are sent across the internet; and explore Internet Services and the World Wide Web.
DRAMA: Students will continue their work on <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> , performing a scene between Romeo and Balthazar in Act Three Scene Five of the play.
FRENCH: <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> – Revisiting Shakespeare French-style! Students will study the present tense of regular verbs, negatives, and partitive articles. They will make cross-curricular links with English.
GEOGRAPHY: <i>How do rivers shape our land?</i> Students will study the journey of a river from its upper to its lower course whilst exploring its key landforms, and the opportunities and challenges of settlements near rivers.
HISTORY: Students will look at the causes of the Crusades and how it impacted the Christian and Islamic world.
MANDARIN: Students will consolidate and rehearse characters recognition and pinyin learnt in Terms 1 and 2. They will also learn about family members which leads into description work in the next term.
MUSIC: <i>Folk Music</i> – Pupils will be learning about traditional folk music from the UK.
PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS: <i>What are key Buddhist beliefs?</i> An investigation into key aspects of Buddhist belief including origins of Buddhism, teachings including enlightenment, and the life of a Buddhist.
PHYSICAL EDUCATION: Students will continue to experience 'taster lessons' in a wide variety of sports and physical activities. They will develop transferable fundamental movements, teamwork skills, and improve their knowledge and experience of cardiovascular fitness.
PSHE: We will explore how our choices influence our <i>Dreams and Goals</i> . Through lessons on identifying personal aspirations, developing coping strategies, and understanding the impact of responsible and risky choices, students will learn to navigate challenges and take proactive steps towards achieving their desired future outcomes.
TECHNOLOGY: Students follow a rotational system, all starting at different points. Topics covered across year 7 are: making an animal-themed pencil holder, making a drawstring bag, healthy eating, and key knife skills for cooking.

News

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

Key Contacts

Head of Year 7 & Transition: **Mr J Poolman**
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

ACHIEVEMENT ASSEMBLY

Term 2 ended with an Achievement assembly which celebrated all the fantastic progress made by students since September. Almost 47,000 House points have been awarded to year 7 students already this year! We have given out hundreds of bronze House point awards which is fantastic. Well done to form 7A who had the highest House point total with 8371 points for Terms 1-2. Many year 7s received 3 or more subject award nominations, and over 100 students received recognition for 100% attendance. Students that were absent for only one day due to a medical or other urgent appointment also received a 100% achievement awards. The assembly was an inspiring review of all the hard work and dedication shown by our students. Year 7 have made a flying start at Fitzharrys – congratulations to all!

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.

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;
- 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: [Homework – Fitzharrys School](#).

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](#).

SUPER CURRICULAR CHALLENGES

See our [Super-Curricular Challenges – Term 3 list](#) for optional extra challenges and enrichment opportunities.

Opportunity

THE BIG FITZHARRYS BOOK SWAP

One of our goals at Fitzharrys is to get all 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.

CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

Our **extra-curricular offer** is online and is regularly updated. Why not try a new club or activity this term?

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.

LOG-IN SUPPORT

At Fitzharrys School, 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.

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](#).

Absence

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

Key Dates

Mon 19 th – Wed 21 st January	The Big Fitzharrys Book Swap
Sunday 25 th January, 10am-12pm	FSA Giant Jumble Sale
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)
Tuesday 24 th February	Y7 Chinese New Year cultural experience