



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: *England Poetry* - Students will study a range of poetry from across the ages, inspired by, and dealing with, the idea of England. Students will learn to compare poetic method and will produce a comparison of two poems.

MATHS: We will be covering a topic on Fractions, Decimals, Percentages and Ratio & Proportion. This is a key topic which connects to many other mathematical topics, including probability – and contains a core set of number skills for numeracy in other subjects.

SCIENCE: Students first study a Biology topic on the Respiratory System and the effect of drugs such as alcohol and smoking on the body. They go on to study a Chemistry topic on atoms, elements, and patterns in the periodic table.

ART: We begin to look at Architecture; taking inspiration from a range of artists including Simon Ling, John Constable, and Beomsik Won. Students will explore drawing techniques in pencil and pen. They will look at their immediate surrounding at school, and make their own source images using collaging to create “monster buildings”.

COMPUTER SCIENCE: Students will develop their knowledge of Online Safety, including issues like online grooming, sexting, selfies, keeping a positive digital footprint, and the impact of screen time on physical and mental health.

DRAMA: Students begin with performances of ‘Charlie and the Chocolate Factory’, before revisiting Physical Theatre (introduced in year 7) to create a slow-motion piece called *The Crash*, using a technique called ‘Thought Tracking’.

FRENCH: *Going back to school - What is school like in France?* What about Harry Potter? Students will revisit key verbs in the present tense. They will describe their day and give opinions about school.

GEOGRAPHY: *Resources* - How well does the Earth sustain us? We will investigate our access to, and use of, the resources we need to live in the 21st Century.

HISTORY: Students look at the history of the British Empire and the impact that has had on the world around us. They will then decide whether they think we should be proud of the British Empire.

MUSIC: *Reggae* - Pupils will learn about the historical context and the key musical elements of Reggae.

PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS: *Does religion cause or reduce inequality?* A discussion of the extent of inequality in our world today, looking at topics including sport, gender, racism, and homelessness, reaching a judgement of how religion impacts this inequality.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION: Students will develop their skills and explore more advanced principals in two specific Invasion Games: Netball and Rugby.

PSHE: *Being Me in My World* - We will learn about the complexities of identities, the influence of family and community, the impact of first impressions, and the diversity of faiths and beliefs. Students will also develop skills to understand and respect others.

SPANISH: *Spanish basics* - Students will study Spanish pronunciation, articles, adjectives, and negative sentences.

TECHNOLOGY: Students follow a rotational system, all starting at different points. Key topics in year 8 are: designing a mechanical toy, making a cushion cover and a unit of Food Tech exploring mid-day snacks and light meals.

News

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

Key Contacts

Head of Years 8-9: **Mr J Crowe**
 Deputy Head of KS3 (Years 8-9): **Mr J Poolman**
 Years 8-9 Student Wellbeing Manager: **Miss P Allen**
 Assistant Head, Personal Development: **Mr J Clelland**

Queries

Any queries, please **contact** the school.
 Email: office.4127@fitzharrys.school
 Phone: **01235 520698**

Aspiration

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

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 8s 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

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.

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

Wednesday 11 th September, 3.15-3.30pm	Lion King – Information Meeting - Music Department
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	Open Mornings (tours at 9am and 10am – booking required)
Friday 18 th October (TBC), doors 7pm	FSA Fundraiser: Quiz Night
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