



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: *Celebrity Non-fiction* – Students will study a range of non-fiction texts, including those from the nineteenth century, that deal with the topic of celebrity and fandom. Students will compare attitudes, methods, and effects.

MATHS: We will finish our *Fractions, Decimals & Percentages* topic before moving on to *Length, Area & Volume*.

SCIENCE: Students will complete a Biology topic exploring natural selection and inheritance. They will also study a Physics topic looking at the transfer of energy in a system, with a focus on the transfer of heat energy and how this can be reduced.

ART: *Architecture* – Students will continue to explore Architecture in a range of media. They will refine drawing skills, produce ceramic houses, and develop their watercolour painting techniques.

COMPUTER SCIENCE: Students will take part in the national Bebras Competition. Students will learn to design web pages. They will use notepad to write basic HTML and CSS commands. Their end of unit project will be to develop a website consisting of 3-4 pages.

DRAMA: Students look at the play *Audience* written by Michael Frayn, and study both naturalistic and melodramatic styles of acting, culminating in an end of term melodramatic performance of *The Damsel in Distress*.

FRENCH: *Rediscovering Gothic literature French style* – Students will revisit “avoir” and study the perfect tense with “avoir”. They will create Gothic scenes using a variety of adjectives. They will make cross-curricular links with English.

GEOGRAPHY: *Extreme Environments* – students investigate differences in climate zones and biomes across the world, whilst looking at the effects of global warming.

HISTORY: *Why was the Colston statue pulled down?* Students look at slavery and how over time it has led to racism across the world. We finish by looking at how this has had an impact on Britain in the 20th and 21st centuries.

MUSIC: *Variations* – Pupils will be focusing on writing compositions using Western Classical musical notation. They will study a composition approach used by Western Classical composers, especially from the Baroque period.

PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS: *How far does religion support family life?* We assess the extent to which religious teachings support people's circumstances, lifestyles, and choices with a focus on how family life functions today.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION: Students will be exploring more advanced principals in specific Invasion Games: Netball, Football and Rugby. For the final three weeks of term, we will follow a programme designed to develop students' cardiovascular fitness with a progressive training programme, culminating in an inter-house competition.

PSHE: *Celebrating Difference* – Students will delve deep into topics like injustice, bullying, and the beauty of diversity. Through this journey, pupils will be equipped with the knowledge and emotional skills to recognise, challenge, and make a positive impact against prejudice and discrimination.

SPANISH: *Poetry* – Students will study “ser”, “tener”, possessive adjectives, and the vocabulary of family.

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

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 2 list](#).

SEND REVIEW MEETINGS

We will hold SEND Review meetings on Thursday 14th November between 4.30–7.30pm, where parents and carers of Year 8 students with SEND can talk to Mrs Amos, our SENCo, to review their child's profile and learning targets, and discuss their progress. The meetings will be held online via Teams, and bookings will open one week beforehand, via Epraise. Appointments are 10min long and are a great opportunity to catch up and think about next steps.

CAREERS FAIRS

Our Design & Technology department is holding a Careers event on Tuesday 19th November to illustrate advancement in technology and how our local community benefits from technology. Students will be introduced to local technology opportunities in employment and further education.

We are also hosting a Careers Fair during the school day on Thursday 5th December. A variety of employers and training providers from our local community will set up stalls in the hall; organisations already booked to attend include universities, colleges, and the NHS. Students will have the opportunity to informally speak to employers about their business and potential job roles, apprenticeships, and pathways into employment and training.

Opportunity

CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

Our [extra-curricular offer](#) is online and is regularly updated. Why not try a new club or activity this term?

SILENT DISCO

Year 8 volunteers are needed to help run the Year 7 Silent Disco on Wednesday 4th December (7–9pm). Volunteering is an excellent opportunity to develop confidence and advance valuable skills. It can also be used as evidence towards the School Awards' Integrity category. Students can register interest with Miss Emeny, Mrs Sharman, or Mr Clarke.

Integrity

CHILDREN IN NEED – NON-SCHOOL UNIFORM DAY

There will be a non-school uniform day on Friday 15th November in aid of *Children in Need*. The school council has set the contribution at £1 per student participating, and donations will be collected via ParentMail accounts. Students may bring and wear an appropriate alternative PE kit for their PE lesson if they wish to do so. We are grateful for the support of parents and carers in reminding students that jewellery is not permissible for health and safety reasons.

FOODBANK COLLECTION

In the lead up to Christmas, we will once again be collecting items for [Abingdon Foodbank](#) to support their aim to combat poverty and hunger, bringing emergency food and support to local people who are referred to them in crisis. Donations need to be brought to form tutors by the start of December. Further details will be shared in assemblies and via ParentMail soon. The school will deliver donations to the foodbank before the end of term.

FITZHARRYS COMMUNITY: CHRISTMAS EVENTS

We regret to announce there will be no Fitzharrys' Staff Panto this year, but there are already plans afoot for it to return in December 2025. We are looking forward to bringing the wider school community together for our annual [Carol Concert](#) at Trinity Church on Tuesday 10th December, 7pm. This is not a ticketed event; all are welcome to come along to join in the festivities on the night. More details will follow later this term.

FLU VACCINATIONS

Flu vaccinations are being offered to Year 7–11 students at school on Friday 13th December. An email with full details including a [letter with a link to the online registration form](#) was sent out on Wednesday 23rd October – please ensure this is completed ASAP if you would like your child to receive this vaccination at school.

Key Dates

Thursday 14th November, 4.30–7.30pm

Friday 15th November

Tuesday 19th November

Saturday 30th November

Wednesday 4th December (7–9pm)

Thursday 5th December

Tuesday 10th December, 7pm start

Friday 13th December

Friday 20th December

Monday 23rd December – Friday 3rd January

Monday 6th January

Y8 SEND Review parents' meetings

Children in Need – Non-School Uniform Day

Design & Technology Careers Event

Y7–8 Girls' Trip to Wembley: Lionesses v USA (Signed-up students only)

Y7 Silent Disco (with Y8 Volunteers)

All Years – Careers Fair

Carol Concert – Trinity Church

Flu Vaccinations

End of Term 2 (school closes at 1.10pm)

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

Start of Term 3 (Week B)