



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>Celebrity Non-fiction</i> – 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 <i>Fractions, Decimals & Percentages</i> topic before moving on to <i>Length, Area & Volume</i> .
SCIENCE: Students will complete the biology topic from last term focusing on organ systems in the body. They will then complete a chemistry topic looking at the periodic table, and also the reactions of metals.
ART: <i>Architecture</i> – 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 <i>Audience</i> written by Michael Frayn, and study both naturalistic and melodramatic styles of acting, culminating in an end of term melodramatic performance of <i>The Damsel in Distress</i> .
FRENCH: <i>Rediscovering Gothic literature French style</i> – 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: <i>Population and cities</i> – students will learn how and why populations are changing and what is being done to change this.
HISTORY: <i>Why was the Colston statue pulled down?</i> – 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 20 th and 21 st centuries.
MUSIC: <i>Variations</i> – 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: <i>Death – is it an end or a beginning?</i> A discussion of the meaning of life and death (personal, religious, and secular) and the significance of the concept of immortality and the resurrection of Jesus.
PHYSICAL EDUCATION: Students will develop their skills and tactics in Badminton and Rugby. They will also focus on using leadership and teamwork skills. In their fitness unit, students will learn about using body weight exercises to develop muscular endurance and strength, and the benefits of this.
PSHE: <i>Celebrating Difference</i> – 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: <i>Poetry</i> – 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 and making a storage toolbox using a range of materials, 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): **Mrs A Coekin**
 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

CAREERS FAIR

We are hosting a Careers Fair during the school day on Thursday 4th December. A variety of employers and training providers from our local community will set up stalls in the hall. Students will have the opportunity to informally speak to employers about their business and potential job roles, apprenticeships, and pathways into employment and training.

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

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](#).

Opportunity

CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

Use this link to access our [extra-curricular offer](#) for Term 2. To kickstart the creation of a new club, talk to School Council reps or tutors!

SILENT DISCO

Year 8 volunteers are needed to help run the Year 7 Silent Disco on Wednesday 3rd 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 Mr Poolman, or Mr Clarke.

FITZHARRYS COMMUNITY: CHRISTMAS EVENTS

We are looking forward to bringing the wider school community together for our annual [Carol Concert](#) at Trinity Church on Tuesday 9th 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. We are also excited to announce the return of Fitzharrys' **Staff Panto!** It will be held on the evening of Thursday 18th December – further info and ticket details to follow soon.

FSA FUNDRAISER: CHRISTMAS TREES FOR SALE

A reminder that the FSA are now selling premium Nordmann Fir Christmas Trees, and 100% of profits will be donated to the school. Find out how to pre-order yours here: [Christmas Trees for Sale](#). Order deadline: 10th November.

CHILDREN IN NEED – NON-SCHOOL UNIFORM DAY

There will be a non-school uniform day on Friday 14th November in aid of Children in Need. The school council has set the contribution at £1 per student participating, with an option to donate more if you wish. 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.

Integrity

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 email soon. The school will deliver donations to the foodbank before the end of term.

FLU VACCINATIONS

Flu vaccinations are being offered to Year 7–11 students at school on Friday 5th December. An email with full details including a [letter with a link to the online registration form](#) was sent out on Monday 3rd November – please ensure this is completed ASAP if you would like your child to receive this vaccination at school.

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/>

BUS INFORMATION

Thank you to parents and carers who completed our bus survey. This is useful information for the school to know, particularly if the buses are running late. We are also in communication with Thames Travel/The Oxford Bus Company following parental feedback about lateness or buses not arriving. One of our parents has also kindly sent in walking routes to Fitzharrys from the various bus stops for the 35 bus; view these here: [Bus-35-Maps-to-Fitz.pdf](#)

THE WELLBEING HUB

The Wellbeing Hub is available to all pupils, parents/carers and staff with the aim of spreading knowledge and confidence of how to support wellbeing in adolescence. There is guidance and support on a wide range of topics, from managing relationships, exam stress, anxiety, equalities and a lot more. For parents there are specific blogs which discuss tips of how to support your children through these years. There are also several short courses designed for both pupils and adults. Pupils have access through <http://club.teentips.co.uk> and if you do not yet have access as a parent please sign up here:

<https://club.teentips.co.uk/register/parents/?ca=b0b22db7c0c44f6ebbe4c320c6fb6ec5>

OPPORTUNITIES DONATIONS

It is our intention that all students in Years 7, 8, and 9 attend two core trips each year, with more details on our website:

[Opportunity: Super & Extra-Curricular – Fitzharrys School.](#)

We work hard to keep costs down for trips and events, and remind you to please contact us and let the school office know if a cost proves a barrier for your child attending a trip or event.

If you would like to make a voluntary contribution to support another child to attend a trip, we would be enormously grateful. You may do so by bank transfer to the following account, quoting the name of the trip as the reference, or citing "general trip fund":

- Fitzharrys School
- Sort Code: 306753
- Account Number: 30069160

Absence

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

Key Dates

Monday 10th November

Friday 14th November

Wednesday 3rd December, 7–9pm

Thursday 4th December

Tuesday 9th December, 7pm start

Friday 5th December

Thursday 18th December

Friday 19th December

Monday 22nd December – Friday 2nd January

Monday 5th January

Tuesday 6th January

FSA Fundraiser: **Christmas Tree Sale** – pre-order deadline

Children in Need – Non-School Uniform Day

Y7 Silent Disco (Y8 helpers attending)

All Years – Careers Fair

Carol Concert – Trinity Church

Y7–11 Flu Vaccinations (see **letter**)

Fitzharrys' Staff Panto

End of Term 2 (school closes at 1.10pm)

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

INSET Day (school closed to students)

Start of Term 3 (Week B)