



**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:** *Dystopian Fiction* – Students will study a dystopian novel and, along the way, be introduced to the conventions of dystopian fiction. They will produce an analytical essay that connects the language, structure and form of an extract with that of the novel more widely.

**MATHS:** At the start of Term 3, we finish off our *Length, Area & Volume* topic before moving on to *Sequences, Functions & Graphs*. This unit enables pupils to connect the algebraic representations they'll have met in year 7 with graphical representations, as well as exploring conversion graphs and distance–time graphs.

**SCIENCE:** Students undertake a Chemistry topic on metal reactions and energy changes. They will also study a Physics topic on electricity and magnetism.

**ART:** Students will further develop their painting skills, taking inspiration from the work of Stephen Gardner and others. We will focus on using watercolour and biro to create mixed media studies of different buildings. Students will have the opportunity to decorate their clay houses using oxides and glazes.

**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 are studying Michal Frayn's play: *Audience*. Their assessment performance inspired by this script will be rehearsing a melodrama entitled *The Damsel in Distress* where students will devise their own ending.

**FRENCH:** *Animals* – Exploring the world of animals. Students will revisit the use of adjectives. They will study “venir de” in the present, possessive adjectives and reflexive verbs. Students will discover a French fiction character.

**GEOGRAPHY:** *Population and Migration* – Students will explore how the global population has changed over time, and how population is distributed around the world, through exploring patterns of migration and urbanisation.

**HISTORY:** Students will study the Industrial Revolution and the impact it had on both Britain and Oxfordshire, as well as understanding the wider significance of this time period in Britain.

**MUSIC:** *Western African Drumming* – Students will be learning about traditional West African drumming; performing, composing, and how it is learnt by ear.

**PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS:** *Religious rites of passage* – do they matter? An investigation into different religious ceremonies that take place during a person's life, with an evaluation of their importance in today's world.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION:** This term, students will have an opportunity to develop their skills and explore more advanced principals in Invasion and Net Games, with Gymnastics activities also being learned.

**PSHE:** *Dreams & Goals* – We will explore the big question of "Can the choices I make now influence my future?" This will include understanding long-term goals, the role of money in society, online safety, income variations across the world, and the impact of financial decisions on mental health and community dynamics.

**SPANISH:** *Volcanoes and earthquakes* – Understanding authentic texts and videos about volcanoes and earthquakes in Spanish speaking regions. Students will study colours, modal verbs and the use of the infinitive. They will make cross curricular links with Geography.

## 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](mailto: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. Over 24,000 House points have been awarded to Year 8 students already this year, with 39 students achieving their bronze House point award. Well done to form 8T who had the highest House point total with 6283 points Terms 1- 2! Many Year 8s received 3 or more subject award nominations for showing Aspiration, Opportunity and Integrity in their lessons, and 25 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 award. The Achievement assembly was an inspiring review of all the hard work and dedication shown by our students. Congratulations to all!

## IMPACT PROGRESS CHECKS

At the end of this term, Year 8 students will receive impact progress checks. Feedback for each subject includes specific targets set by teachers that, if completed, will have a positive impact on your child's progress.

We would be very grateful to have parents' support in encouraging students to complete these targets by:

1. Reviewing the targets with your child and discussing how and when they will achieve them;
2. Placing the report somewhere prominent and regularly checking to see if they have completed their targets.

We now have a paperless reporting system. The impact progress checks will be accessible via your [My Child at School](#) login. If you experience any difficulties accessing this information, please contact your child's tutor. Thank you for your support.

## 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.

## BEDROCK BRILLIANCE

An email from Bedrock was received last term to congratulate Fitzharrys School for being in the top ten schools internationally for tier 2 vocabulary learning and engagement. Out of approximately 900 schools, this is an amazing achievement! A huge well done to all students for working hard and completing your Bedrock activities!

## 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;
- We 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, where you will find a helpful video, and a full document detailing how much homework, and what kinds of homework, you can expect your child to be receiving: [Homework - Fitzharrys School](#).

## 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 3 list](#).

# Opportunity

## CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

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

## CROSS COUNTRY

All students in Years 7, 8 and 9 took part in cross country in their PE lessons at the end of term 2. The highest finishers will be invited to the County Cross Country Championships at Cokethorpe School on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

## SCHOOL SLEEPOVER

A Year 8 School Sleepover will be held on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January from 6pm, to 9am on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January. Students will be provided with an evening snack and some breakfast in the morning. Planned spaces include a games room, a quiet space, a movie room, and an opportunity to play dodgeball in the Sports Hall. This is always a popular event and something the students will always remember. For some, this might be the first time they have been invited to a sleepover, which is the main reason we aim to run this event each year. **This letter** with full details was sent out by school email on 5<sup>th</sup> January. Please note, this **electronic form** must be filled out in addition to sending payment via **ParentMail** – please ensure both actions are completed to help with administration.

# Integrity

## HPV VACCINATION

The HPV vaccinations are being offered to Year 8 students at school on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February. A letter with links to online registration forms will be sent out by school email – please ensure these are completed before the vaccination day if you would like your child to receive this vaccination at school.

## 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.

## FSA: JUMBLE SALE & GOFUNDME

The Fitzharrys School Association (FSA) regrets to announce there will be no Giant Jumble Sale fundraiser at the end of January this year due to unforeseen circumstances but is looking forward to being able to run it again in 2026. The FSA would love your support across the year as fundraising efforts continue; a new **GoFundMe** was launched last term to help jumpstart targets for this academic year and has been a huge success – many thanks indeed to all who so kindly donated. Find out more about the work of the FSA here: [FSA webpage](#).

## Key Dates

Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> – Sat 18 <sup>th</sup> January, 6pm–9am	Y8 School Sleepover
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> January	Y7 & Y8 Mandarin Celebration Event (Periods 1 / 2)
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> January, 3:30pm	Y8 Netball: Vale tournament at John Mason School
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> February	Y8 HPV Vaccinations
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February	End of term, school closes at 3.15pm
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> February	HALF TERM
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February	Start of term (Week B)

## Absence

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