



Our Overview newsletters contain the key information you'll need each term.

## 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 Biology topic on Bioenergetics, looking at respiration and photosynthesis. They will also study a Physics topic on waves and wave properties, investigating light and sound.

**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 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 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:** Students will study how glaciers carve out the landscape. This includes a look back at the Ice Age.

**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:** Students will be developing skills and confidence within basketball, netball, and gymnastics.

**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.

**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](#)

## 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](mailto:office.4127@fitzharrys.school)  
Phone: **01235 520698**

# Aspiration

## 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.

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.

## 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](#).

## 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 3](#).

# Opportunity

## CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

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

## CORE OPPORTUNITY: OXFORD MUSEUMS TRIP

Over the course of term 3, all of year 8 will be given the opportunity to participate in a trip to the Oxford museums, to explore, and complete some Art activities. This is one of our core opportunities and it is our intention that every student attends the trip. Further information will follow. Please don't hesitate to contact us should you have any questions.

## **FIRST AID WORKSHOP**

This term, all pupils in year 8 will receive a one hour First Aid Workshop from the British Red Cross. The workshop is designed to help students learn essential first aid skills, build confidence to assist someone in an emergency using everyday objects, and understand where to find support for their own injury or illness. Pupils will attend the session with their regular class teacher and remain in school throughout.

## **SCHOOL SLEEPOVER**

A Year 8 School Sleepover will be held on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January from 6pm, to 9am on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> January. 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. Look out for a letter with full details that is being sent out soon by school email.

## **THE BIG FITZHARRYS BOOK SWAP**

One of our goals at Fitzharrys is to get all of 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 19<sup>th</sup>–Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

## **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**

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/>

### **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 25<sup>th</sup> 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 24<sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> – Wed 21 <sup>st</sup> January	The Big Fitzharrys Book Swap
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> January, 10am-12pm	FSA Giant Jumble Sale
Fri 23 <sup>rd</sup> – Sat 24 <sup>th</sup> January, 6pm-9am	Y8 School Sleepover
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> January, P3-5	Y8 First Aid Workshop – led by the Red Cross
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> February	Y8 HPV Vaccinations
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> February	End of term, school closes at 3.15pm
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> February	HALF TERM
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> February	Start of term (Week B)