



This Overview newsletter contains the key information you'll need this term.

## Learning

For a full breakdown of curriculum content for all subjects, visit our [Curriculum Maps](#) webpage.

**ENGLISH:** *Speaking and Writing for Change* - Students will read *An Inspector Calls*, as well as a range of non-fiction texts broadly focusing on gender and class from the 1800s to the present day. Students will explore oracy skills and will write and perform a speech on an issue that matters to them.

**MATHS:** In year 9, students begin to create their blue book GCSE revision guide. We study *Number* in term one, including different types of numbers and their uses. We also ensure that number skills are secure as they form the foundation of all future topics. We then move on to rounding and accuracy.

**SCIENCE:** Students will study a biology topic on cell structure and transport in cells involving key required practicals. Students will either study a chemistry topic on atomic structure, ions and separation techniques, or they will complete a physics topic looking at conservation of energy and energy transfers.

**ART:** Using the photography of Tim Flach, students will begin developing work in response to endangered species. They will refine their skills in Colour Pencil by looking at the work of Tim Jeffs before exploring skills in Monoprinting, inspired by the work of Andy Warhol from his *Endangered & Vanishing species* series.

**COMPUTER SCIENCE:** Students will learn about techniques used by cybercriminals to steal data, disrupt systems, and infiltrate networks. They study social engineering and cybercrimes like hacking, DDoS attacks, malware, and methods used to protect the individual and networks against attacks.

**DRAMA:** Students revisit the concepts of Status and Proxemics in our 'Master and Servant' performances, in a scene adapted from Shakespeare's *The Tempest*.

**FRENCH:** *Family and friends* - Who am I and who are my family and friends? Students will revisit the present tense of ER and IR verbs. They will learn the present tense of reflexive verbs and comparatives.

**GEOGRAPHY:** *Geography of Crime* - What are the causes and consequences? Students will look at the social impacts of crime and what impact crime has on them both directly and indirectly in their local area.

**HISTORY:** *Interwar years and Weimar Germany* - This term we will look at how Germany recovered after World War One and will be using the skills of causation and significance.

**MUSIC:** *Film Music* - Pupils will be studying the use of leitmotifs (a short, recurring musical phrase associated with a character, place, or idea) by film composers. They will create a film trailer that builds tension.

**PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS:** *What challenges exist to religion today?* An evaluation of how far the existence of secularism, humanism, atheism, and alternative belief systems pose a problem for mainstream religion.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION:** Students continue to develop their skills in two major Invasion Games: Netball and Rugby.

**PSHE:** *Being Me in My World* - Students will learn about self-identity, relationships, peer influence, risks, and consent. They will develop skills to manage social dynamics, make healthy choices, and access support, fostering positive relationships and behaviours in various social contexts.

**SPANISH:** *SPANISH: What do you do and what did you do in your free time?* Students will revisit the preterite tense and the present tense. They will learn the present continuous.

**TECHNOLOGY:** Students follow a rotational system, all starting at different points. Key topics covered in year 9 are: making an Ugly Toy from recycled fabrics, a unit of Food Tech exploring a café culture, and an electronics project making a music box.

## 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

## 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 9s are encouraged to attend the information meeting.

- **Information meeting:** Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September in MUSIC – 3.15–3.30pm
- **General auditions:** Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September in MUSIC – 3.30–5pm
- **Callback auditions:** Friday 20<sup>th</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup> September at 3.15–4pm in MUSIC.

## FSA QUIZ NIGHT

The [Fitzharrys School Association](#)'s popular [Quiz Night](#) fundraiser is pencilled in for Friday 18<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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.

## SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

Further to our focus on wearing the correct uniform, please note that Year 9 students will have their individual portrait photographs taken at school on **Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> September**, as well as tutor group class photos. Students should be correctly attired, wearing their shirts, ties, and blazers.

## ABINGDON SCHOOL BUS – SUMMARY

This link to an Abingdon School Bus summary may be of interest 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 <sup>th</sup> September, 3.15–3.30pm	Lion King – Information Meeting – Music Department
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 9 Individual Portraits and Tutor Group Photos (School Photographer)
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> September, 3.30–5pm	Lion King – General Auditions – Music Department
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> September, 3.30–5pm	Lion King – Callback Auditions – Music Department
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> October, 1.10pm	School closes early ahead of Open Evening
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> October, 5.30–8pm	Open Evening
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> October	INSET Day – school closed to students
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> October	Open Mornings (tours at 9am and 10am – booking required)
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> October (TBC), doors 7pm	FSA Fundraiser: Quiz Night
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> October	Last day of term for students
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> Oct – Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> Nov	HALF TERM
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> November	Start of Term 2