



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: Students will study the novel *Strange Meeting*, exploring themes, characters, context, language, structure, and form. They will produce an essay about a theme or character. Students will also revise for, and sit, an end of year exam, for which they will learn to revise.

MATHS: This term we will be moving on to Algebra – the language of mathematics. Learning to speak, write and read as a mathematician enables students to generalise and solve complex problems.

SCIENCE: All students will continue the topic of energy, looking at the different methods of generating the electricity that we need, and the advantages and disadvantages associated with each method. Students will also either cover a Chemistry topic on atomic structure, ions, and separation techniques, or they will look at a Biology topic on cell structure, and the transport and exchange of substances.

ART: *Endangered Species* - students will be introduced to the work of Tim Jeffs, focussing on his observational drawings using pencil and colour pencil. Students then explore monoprinting by looking at the *Endangered Species* work of Andy Warhol.

COMPUTER SCIENCE: Students will take part in the national Bebras Competition. Students begin basic programming in Python, creating a simple chatbot which will respond to user input. Students will also write simple codes using sequence, selection, and iteration programming constructs.

DRAMA: Students continue work on characters and scenes from *The Tempest*, with a focus on comic techniques and further refinement of physical theatre skills. They will also learn and practice an Elizabethan dance called *The Pilgrim and Saints Dance* as part of our final performance of the play.

FRENCH: *My personality and family* – Students will study adjectives and comparative adjectives.

GEOGRAPHY: *Sustaining Ecosystems* – An investigation into the characteristics of ecosystems, and the relationship between them and humans.

HISTORY: *Did the Treaty of Versailles make WW2 inevitable?* – Post World War I, students look at causation and impact, analysing the situation in Europe and the events that led to World War II.

MUSIC: *Rock n' Roll* – Students will study how Rock n' Roll evolved from the Blues (which they studied in Year 8). They will be studying how it differs, and how it leads to contemporary commercial Popular Music.

PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS: *Are science and religion compatible?* We assess how religious beliefs, including revelations and miracles, compare with scientific theories about space, creation and design, the beginning of life and causation.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION: Students continue to develop skills in Invasion Games: Netball, Football and Rugby, before moving on to cardiovascular fitness with a progressive training programme, ending in an inter-house competition.

PSHE: *Celebrating Difference* – Students address key questions around diversity, discrimination, and bullying. Learners will explore the importance of positive language, the effects of bullying, and how to challenge and protect themselves against prejudice and discrimination.

SPANISH: *Free time* – Students will revise the preterite tense.

TECHNOLOGY: Students follow a rotational system, all starting at different points. Key topics: 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
 Phone: **01235 520698**

Aspiration

KEY STAGE 4 OPTIONS

In term 3, Year 9 students undergo the process of choosing their KS4 Options subjects. Students will participate in a range of helpful activities across the course of one week, including subject taster lessons, advice from older students, and careers events to help them make informed choices. There is a dedicated [KS4 Options](#) webpage on our website; please note this has not yet been updated for this year, but it will give parents and students an initial idea of what the process entails. Full details on subject content for KS4 can be found on our [Curriculum Maps](#) webpage.

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 28th November between 4.30–7.30pm, where parents and carers of Year 9 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?

DUKE OF EDINBURGH – BRONZE AWARD

The **Duke of Edinburgh (DofE)** is a scheme endeavours to empower young people; to support them as they learn new skills, overcome obstacles, and build confidence and resilience. Through an assembly, Year 9 students will be introduced to the DofE Bronze Award programme, which starts properly after Christmas. Letters home will follow.

Integrity

YEAR 9 SEXUAL HEALTH CAROUSEL

Year 9 students will have a Sexual Health wider-learning day at school later this term led by the School Nurse. The date and details are to be confirmed; a communication home will follow nearer the time.

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

Friday 15 th November	<i>Children in Need</i> – Non-School Uniform Day
Tuesday 19 th November	Design & Technology Careers Event
Thursday 28 th November, 4.30–7.30pm	Y9 SEND Review parents' meetings
Thursday 5 th December	All Years – Careers Fair
Tuesday 10 th December, 7pm start	Carol Concert – Trinity Church
Friday 13 th December	Flu Vaccinations
Friday 20 th December	End of Term 2 (school closes at 1.10pm)
Monday 23 rd December – Friday 3 rd January	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY
Monday 6 th January	Start of Term 3 (Week B)