



This Overview newsletter contains the key information you'll need this 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 curriculum content for all subjects, visit our [Curriculum Maps](#) webpage.

ENGLISH: Students will study *Macbeth* and the aspects of Tragedy. They will produce an analytical essay exploring theme, character, language, structure, form and context in an extract from the play and the play as a whole.

MATHS: This term we will be continuing with algebra – the language of mathematics. Learning to speak, write and read as a mathematician enables students to generalise and solve complex problems. Solving problems and equations using algebra will follow this.

SCIENCE: Students will study a Chemistry topic focused on the periodic table and the properties of group 1, group 7 and group 0 and a Biology topic looking at the digestive system and enzymes.

ART: *The Power of Art* – students will use their skills to produce artworks which give a voice to endangered animals. Taking inspiration from artists and protesters alike, students will produce outcomes championing chosen animals.

COMPUTER SCIENCE: Students will learn simple Boolean logic and some of its uses in circuits and programming.

DRAMA: Students will prepare and then take part in a final performance of *The Tempest*, adding in both comic scenes and narration linking all the scenes together.

FRENCH: *Healthy living and lifestyle* – What do you eat? What is your lifestyle? What did you do yesterday? Students will revisit the near future and the perfect tense.

GEOGRAPHY: *Environmental Issues* – Students will assess the various issues that exist because of the differing relationships that humans have with their environment.

HISTORY: Year 9 students will investigate the aftermath of WWI upon Germany, how the country and population recover, and ultimately how this leads to the rise of Hitler and the Nazi Party.

MUSIC: *Samba* – Students will be learning how Samba evolved and the cultural impact of Samba music. They will learn a Samba piece and then compose their own.

PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS: *Does religion play a role in medical ethics?* An investigation into the relationship between religion and animal rights, experimentation, zoos, abortion, euthanasia, and genetic engineering.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION: Students will be developing their skills in a competitive way in Badminton, Fitness, and Basketball on a rotational basis.

PSHE: *Dreams & Goals* – We will concentrate on recognising our personal strengths, understanding effective planning techniques, and envisaging our life's aspirations. Emphasis will be on distinguishing between mental health and illness, the influence of media on mental wellbeing, and avenues for mental health support.

SPANISH: *Identity and relationships with others* – What type of person are you? How are your friends? What is the modern family? Students will revisit *ser* and *estar*, adjectives and reflexive verbs.

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
 Phone: **01235 520698**

Aspiration

IMPACT PROGRESS CHECKS

During the week commencing 13th January, 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.

Thank you for your support.

KEY STAGE 4 OPTIONS WEEK

This term, students will need to make their Options choices for GCSEs. This is an exciting time for students, and we want to make sure they are making informed decisions. Instead of an Options Evening, we run a full Options Week (w/c 13th January) in which students will take part in the following events both in and out of lessons:

- A variety of careers activities
- Enterprise challenge
- Talks and support from current Year 10 students
- Post-16 education choices talks
- A taster lesson for all subjects, which will include assessment structure, examples of work, and a taster activity.

PARENT TEACHER CONSULTATION EVENING

Our Year 9 Parent Teacher Consultation Evening will be held at school on Thursday 6th February, 4:30-7:30pm.

Bookings via Epraise are expected to open from 6pm on Thursday 24th January. We look forward to communicating with parents about the progress and wellbeing of your children, and to working together to ensure further progress.

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 30th January 2025.

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.

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

Monday 13 th January, 3:30pm	Y9 Netball: Vale tournament at John Mason School
Monday 13 th – Friday 17 th January	Y9 Options Week
Tuesday 21 st January	Y9 Engineering/Apprenticeship workshop
Friday 24 th January, 6pm	Y9 Parents Evening Bookings open on Epraise
Wednesday 29 th January	Y9-11 Intermediate Maths Challenge
Thursday 6 th February, 4:30–7:30pm	Y9 Parents Evening
Monday 10 th – Friday 14 th February	National Apprenticeships Week
Friday 14 th February	End of term, school closes at 3.15pm
Monday 17 th – Friday 21 st February	HALF TERM
Monday 24 th 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.