



Fitzharrys School

Sustainability Report, June 2026

With thanks...

We are grateful to a number of partners who have helped us on our sustainability journey, including the OXSSN, OX14 Learning Partnership, Oxfordshire County Council, Active Oxfordshire, Abingdon Carbon Cutters, and Radley College, as well as a wealth of community volunteers.

The School Council Sustainability Committee

- At the heart of all the work we have been doing to increase sustainable practice Fitzharrys has been the sustainability committee.
- In 2026, this increased to 13 members, who have run events, collected data, communicated with key stakeholders including the ALT Trust and Oxfordshire County Council, presented to staff and students, and coordinated initiatives – all of which will be outlined throughout the report.

Energy Efficiency

- In June 2025, the School Council Sustainability Committee presented in staff briefing, and to the whole school in assemblies, including a promotion about the Project Switch-Off initiative.
- All members of the school community are encouraged and empowered to remind one another to turn off unused electrical appliances, equipment, lights, and projectors.
- The Sustainability Reps placed stickers next to switches in classrooms, offices, and communal spaces around the school as reminders.



Green Careers

- For National Careers Week, Year 9 experienced lessons about the future of careers, with sustainability foregrounded as a significant area of growth.
- In May 2026, Year 8 had a Sustainability and STEM careers day, with visits from employers working both in STEM fields and in sustainable practices. They learned about environmental surveying and ecological considerations for project management and construction from teams from both Thames Water, Balfour Beatty, and Hill Group, experienced some hands-on ecological survey work from the Letcombe Brook Project.



Curriculum and Engagement

- The Science team continue to run an extremely successful Eco club, providing students with opportunities to explore sustainable living; the IRIS research project this year has involved ecological study and presentation, offering students the chance to carry out genuine research.
- In Humanities, connections have been made with the Oxfordshire Sustainable Schools Network with a view to the introduction of the new Natural History GCSE.
- Our Oxford University Interns presented research into our climate literacy education, helping us to understand current curricular coverage.



Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

- Sustainability Reps met with the Headteacher and members of the ALT Trust to discuss the canteen and, as a result of this, we have increased the number of meat-free options in the school canteen, and eliminated single use plastic water bottles.
- All students now carry a bottle to school with opportunities to refill.
- Sustainability Reps also used posters to increase visibility of paper recycling in classrooms and offices, and presented the importance of this to students and staff via a whole-staff briefing and assembly.



Political Understanding and Partnership

- Three members of the Fitzharrys and JMF6 community joined the OX14 team sent to OXCOP, where they debated climate solutions in the OCC council chambers, heard from the Oxford University environmental committee, and had the opportunity to ask questions of a leading journalist.

Active Travel

- Much of the sustainability work this year has focused on sustainable and active travel choices.
- Last year, we established the Park and Stride in association with Abingdon Football Club, seeking to reduce traffic directly outside school.
- Sustainability Reps have worked with Oxfordshire County Council to design an Active Travel promotion initiative, which they pitched at the OCC council chambers to win a small grant. Council members were impressed by their creativity and passion, and Active Travel Fortnight in June 2026 has involved:
 - a lunchtime walk promoting the practicality and health and well-being benefits of walking to school;
 - an active travel game based on the percentage of students making active travel choices each day, promoting positive collective travel choices;
 - a narrative game and a set of eco badges to promote individual active travel choices.





Supporting Cycling

- Bikeability Training was delivered to 40 students in Year 7, with a view to ensuring all Year 7 and 8 students receive Bikeability Training Level 3 in September.
- Another visit from Dr Bike allowed students and staff to ensure their bikes are roadworthy and safe, at no cost.
- The disincentive to cycle has been reduced by the new bikeshed roof, installed over the May half term by Oxfordshire County Council to replace the broken and tarnished Perspex.
- We have received a grant from OCC to establish the Fitzharrys Bike Library, and plans are well underway to launch this fully in September. In May, a bike donation drive at Abingdon Fire Station has ensured that we have nearly 30 bikes of excellent quality ready to lend out to our school community.

Rewilding and Habitat

- Thanks to the Abingdon Carbon Cutters, we were able to plant thirty native trees to create a woodland walk behind the all weather pitch. Volunteers from the community spent a Saturday planting, and volunteering for weekend watering to look after them. We have entered this area for a biodiversity monitoring competition.
- The Sustainability Reps also planted two more mature birches outside East Block, with a view to providing more shade to hot classrooms.



Get involved!

You can support the Fitzharrys sustainability work by [volunteering](#) to be part of our horticultural society, or by donating equipment or plants, or by giving financially. Please contact Miss Hartley (chartley@fitzharrys.school) to find out more.