



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

Learning

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

ENGLISH:

GCSE Poetry

Students study the remainder of the poems in the GCSE collection which they began in year 9. Students will practise giving attention to analysis of language, structure and form, and contextual factors. Students will learn to construct comparative analytical paragraphs to GCSE standard, and will learn how to approach unseen poems.

MATHS:

Individual class focus for this term:

- **Mr Whitley's class, Miss Morgan and Mrs Payne's class, and Mrs Twyford's class:**
Pythagoras & Trigonometry, Quadratic Algebra skills
- **Dr Taylor's class, Mr Smytheman's class and Mr Poolman's class:**
Ratio & Proportion

SEPARATE SCIENCES:

In **Biology**, students will study both non-communicable and communicable disease before learning how the body defends itself against pathogens.

In **Chemistry**, students will study reactivity, displacement, and the production of salts in reactions. They will also study neutralisation, acids, and alkalis.

In **Physics**, students study electrical circuits. They will look at the behaviour of series and parallel circuits, calculate and measure voltages, current and resistance in various circuits, and complete required practicals to investigate resistance.

COMBINED SCIENCE:

In **Combined Science**, students will study a **Biology** topic on communicable and non-communicable disease before focusing on how the body defends against disease. They will also study a **Physics** topic looking at electrical circuits. They will look at the behaviour of series and parallel circuits, calculating and measuring voltages, current and resistance in various circuits, and complete required practicals to investigate resistance.

CORE PE:

Students will have a wide range of opportunities to continue their learning in PE across term 1. Some students will thrive in a competitive environment and others prefer a more recreational approach where personal fitness and health comes above team games. Students who are taking GCSE PE can use this time to develop their performances for formal assessment in Year 11. Typically, these activities will include Rugby, Football, Netball, and Badminton.

PSHE:

Being Me In My World – Students will learn about personal freedom, online and offline safety, managing grief and loss, and the impact of social media. These lessons will help them understand their world, make informed decisions, and seek help when needed.

News

School Website: [Home page](#)
Facebook: [@fitzharrysschool](#)
Instagram: [fitzharrys](#)
X: [@fitzharrys](#)

Key Contacts

Head of Key Stage 4: **Mr M O'Neill**
Deputy Head of Key Stage 4: **Dr S Ouvry**
KS4 Student Wellbeing Managers:
Mrs R David & Miss K Lammin
Assistant Head, Personal Development: **Mr J Clelland**

Useful Links

School Website [Careers pages](#)
School Website [Exams Office page](#)
School Website [Revision page](#)
Revision Resources [Padlet](#)
Post-16 Choices [Padlet](#)

Aspiration

WELCOME TO KS4 – GUIDANCE

The KS4 team would like to warmly welcome you to Key Stage 4. We hope that your year 10 child is settling in well as they begin their GCSE studies.

On Thursday 11th September 2025, there will be a *Welcome to KS4 Evening* in the Main Hall from 5:30–7:00pm. All parents of year 10 students are invited. We will cover:

- Key events in the KS4 school calendar
- How to support your child in our work experience programme
- How to support your child in adapting to GCSE study and independent revision
- How the KS4 team will support your child in their GCSE journey

If you would like to attend, please complete this short online form: <https://forms.office.com/e/S0ax29Xpnw>

GCSE ASSESSMENT WEEKS

At the end of this term (w/c 13th & w/c 20th October), year 10 students will have their first GCSE assessed task in each of their subjects. These assessments will be based on the GCSE content that they have covered so far and will give an initial sense of how they are progressing with their KS4 studies. Teachers will guide any necessary revision through homework tasks. Please do encourage your child to be proactive in checking with their teacher if they are unsure about any aspect of their assessment.

SENECA LEARNING

As part of our support for Year 10, we invest in SENeca Premium for Key Stage 4. SENeca is an online learning platform that has high quality courses for all subjects at Key Stage 3, GCSE, and A Level. GCSE students have access to extra resources and functions on this platform to support effective revision across all subjects. More information can be found in this letter: [Seneca Premium – letter to parents](#).

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 use an Awards Booklet 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.

POST-16 OPTIONS AND NEXT STEPS

It is never too early for Year 10 to begin to develop a good sense of what they want to do beyond year 11. Children must remain in some form of full-time education until they are 18 years old, but there are multiple pathways, such as A Levels, T Levels, apprenticeships and more.

These upcoming open days would be useful events for students to attend to explore the options on offer:

- Wednesday 17th September, 3:30pm–7pm – [Abingdon & Witney College Open Day \(both sites\)](#)
- Saturday 11th October, 9:30am– 12pm – [City of Oxford College Open Event – Blackbird Leys Tech Campus](#)
- Saturday 18th October, 9:30am–12pm – [City of Oxford College Open Event – City Centre Campus](#)
- Thursday 27th November, 5–7pm – JMF6 open evening – (Fitzharrys School site).

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 1](#).

Queries

Please [contact](#) the school with any queries | Email: office.4127@fitzharrys.school | Phone: **01235 520698**

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!

FROZEN – WHOLE SCHOOL MUSICAL – AUDITIONS

Our musical this year will be [Frozen](#)! Interested students are encouraged to attend the information meeting.

- **Information meeting:** Friday 12th September in MUSIC – 3:15–3:45pm
- **General auditions:** Tuesday 16th September in MUSIC – 3:15–5pm
- **Callback auditions:** Thursday 18th September in DRAMA – 3:15–4:30pm
- **First read through:** Friday 19th September in the DRAMA – 3:15–4:30pm

Rehearsals take place on Tuesday lunchtimes (choreography rehearsals), Wednesday after school (music rehearsals), and Friday after school (staging).

FSA QUIZ NIGHT

The [Fitzharrys School Association](#)'s popular [Quiz Night](#) fundraiser is pencilled in for Friday 17th 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

KEY STAGE 4 PASTORAL TEAM

The KS4 team would like to take this opportunity to welcome your year 10 child (or children!) to Key Stage 4. The first few weeks of GCSE study can feel like a bit of a culture shock, so we will make sure that students know how to access support if needed.

The Key Stage 4 pastoral team is: Mr O'Neill (Head of Key Stage 4), Dr Ouvry (Deputy Head of Key Stage 4), Mrs David & Miss Lammin (Student Wellbeing Managers). Please do reach out to us and encourage your child to do the same if there are any 'blips' at the start of their GCSE journey. We will encourage them to make the best possible start by ensuring that they are in correct uniform and in lessons on time, as well as support them in developing independent skills for revision and preparing for post-16 education. Our afternoon form tutor programme includes a weekly session of independent revision. Please encourage your child to remember to bring in their revision material every Tuesday.

As before, if you need to contact the school regarding your child, their form tutor is your first point of contact. If you have particular concerns of a pastoral nature or anything pertaining to their GCSE studies, you can also contact the KS4 team directly by using the email address: FHS-KS4Team@fitzharrys.school.

'IN IN TO WIN IT' POINTS SYSTEM & REWARD TRIP

In Term 5, a trip is being planned to reward year 10 students for positive choices and for making a great start in their GCSE studies. We will go to the Eden centre in High Wycombe, where qualifying year 10 students can either go to a private hire cinema, go to the Hollywood Bowl, or go karting TeamSport!

Students will become eligible to attend the trip by succeeding in our 'In It to Win It' points system, which is used to support the further development of their high aspirations and integrity. Students wishing to participate in the reward trip must earn and maintain a positive score of at least 30 'In It to Win It' points every term, in Terms 1–3. One House point equates to one 'In It to Win It' point. However, students are aware that any sanctions issued, such as lunchtime or after-school detentions, will subtract from their total 'In It to Win It' points score. Catch-ups for not completing homework also subtract from the total score. We use this system as an incentive to help all year 10 students make the right choices and focus on achievement in lessons.

Please regularly encourage your child to aspire to earn House points, be proactive in their learning, and fulfil commitments for behaviour and personal study. We will inform parents of any student who is at risk of not attending. If your child becomes concerned that they may not meet the threshold, they can ask their Form Tutor for support in getting back on track. Please contact the KS4 team with any queries at FHS-KS4Team@fitzharrys.school.

Absence

To report a **student absence**, please telephone the dedicated *Student Absence Line* as soon as possible: **(01235) 538243**. Thank you.

OPEN EVENING – FITZHARRYS AMBASSADORS

Our annual Open Evening will be held on Thursday 25th September, 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 the Head of Year with any concerns.

MOBILE PHONES AND SMART WATCHES

A polite reminder for parents and carers that we have a clear mobile phone policy of: 'See it. Hear it. Lose it'. As our policy states, mobile phones must be switched off and in student bags ([Mobile Phone Policy – Fitzharrys School](#)). We are also extending this to smart watches. This reflects the national focus on the impact of smart phones on young people and their education. Our policy allows students to focus on their learning and build positive relationships through interactions with their peers at social time.

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.

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. Please visit our website for information on the school's [Park & Stride scheme](#). We appreciate your cooperation with these requests.

Key Dates

Friday 12th September, 3:15–3:45pm
Tuesday 16 September, 3:15–5:00pm
Wednesday 17th September, 3:30pm–7pm
Thursday 18th September, 3:15–4:30pm
Thursday 25th September, 1:10pm
Thursday 25th September, 5:30–8:00pm
Friday 26th September
Monday 29th Sept – Thursday 2nd Oct
Saturday 11th October, 9:30am–12pm
Friday 17th October, doors 7pm, start 7:30pm
Saturday 18th October, 9:30am–12pm
Friday 24th October
Monday 27th – Friday 31st October
Monday 3rd November
Thursday 27th November, 5–7pm

Frozen – Information Meeting – Music Department
Frozen – General Auditions – Music Department
Abingdon & Witney College Open Day (both sites)
Frozen – Callback Auditions – Drama Studio
School closes early ahead of Open Evening
Open Evening
INSET Day – school closed to students
Open Mornings (tours at 9am and 10am – booking required)
City of Oxford College Open Event – Blackbird Leys Tech Campus
FSA Fundraiser: Quiz Night
City of Oxford College Open Event – City Centre Campus
Last day of term for students
HALF TERM
Start of Term 2
JMF6 open evening – (Fitzharrys School site).