



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:

Lord of the Flies, and mock exams revision

Students will learn to respond to questions about the novel without extract, learning to construct an argument, justify their argument with well-selected evidence and explore analytically the themes, character, structure, form and context. They will then revise for mock exams.

MATHS:

Individual class focus for this term:

- **Mrs Morgan & Mrs Price's class:** Measures & Applied Graphs (Miss Morgan), Quadratics (Mrs Price)
- **Mr Smytheman's class:** Quadratic related Algebra Skills, Measures & Applied Graphs
- **Mrs Twyford's class:** Probability Feedback, Congruency & Similarity, Transformations, Data
- **Mr Poolman's class:** Congruency & Similarity, Transformations, Data
- **Mr Whitley's classes:** Congruency & Similarity, Probability, Transformations

SEPARATE SCIENCES:

In **Biology**, students will be looking at hormonal control in the body, focusing on blood glucose concentration, water balance and the menstrual cycle before studying hormones in plants.

In **Chemistry**, students will complete their work on rates of reactions before continuing to study organic chemistry including alkenes and alcohols, followed by studying polymers.

In **Physics**, students will study the topic of forces and motion. Explaining changes in motion by considering the forces acting, and calculating the speed, distance, time, and acceleration of objects. They will also carry out experimental work to investigate this.

COMBINED SCIENCE:

In **Combined Science**, students will look at a **Biology** topic focussing on asexual and sexual reproduction, genes and how they are inherited. They will also look at a **Physics** topic focussing on the different forces that act on objects, determining the size and effect of resultant force on an object, and complete experimental work to investigate forces and their effects.

CORE PE:

Students will develop their health and fitness during their core PE lessons, some in a competitive way and some with a more personal 'active lifestyle' approach. GCSE PE students who will be nearing their final practical option choice will be able to use core PE lessons with a specific outcome in mind. Typical activities popular during the autumn term are Netball, Rugby, Football and Badminton.

PSHE:

Being Me in My World – We will examine how identity is shaped by various factors, including peer pressure and online behaviour. We will learn to maintain positive relationships, understand the consequences of our actions, and seek appropriate help and advice when needed.

Useful Links

School Website:

[Careers](#) | [Revision](#) | [Exams Office](#)

Revision Resources [Padlet](#)

Post-16 Choices [Padlet](#)

Adviza Careers [Website](#)

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**

Queries

Main school office email:

office.4127@fitzharrys.school

Phone: **01235 520698**

Aspiration

POST-16 OPTIONS AND NEXT STEPS

It is important that Year 11 students now begin to develop a good sense of what they want to do this time next year. 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. We encourage students to not get too stressed if they don't yet have a clear idea of what their next steps beyond GCSEs should be; there is still plenty of time to think about it. However, now is the time to start exploring options so, if your child is struggling with this, please contact the KS4 pastoral team who will provide support, which will include a careers appointment with Mrs David, our careers advisor. 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).

NOVEMBER MOCK EXAMS

Year 11 students will undertake mock exams in all subjects in November, beginning in the first week of Term 2 – straight after half term. Students will receive timetables towards the end of Term 1. The mock exams give students an opportunity to show how much they have improved since their Year 10 mock exams, demonstrate the new content and skills they have been learning, and identify areas of focus ahead of the final exams in the summer. Specific preparation/revision guidance will be provided later this term on our [REVISION](#) page on the school website, to support students and parents.

SENECA LEARNING

As part of our support for Year 11, 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.

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](#).

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!

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 pastoral team would like to take this opportunity to welcome you and your child (or children!) back for an exciting final year of GCSE study. There can be lots of pressure this year so we will do everything we can to make your child feel supported. Please do reach out to us if there are any concerns that you need to share.

The KS4 pastoral team are: Mr O'Neill (Head of Year), Dr Ouvry (Deputy Head of Year), Mrs David (student wellbeing manager), and Miss Lammin (student wellbeing manager).

Year 11 can be a challenging year so, to ease the pressure, we make sure that there are plenty of positives to look forward to along the way, including the Winter, Spring and Summer socials, and the leavers assembly and prom at the end of year 11. Further details will follow in due course.

The key to success in year 11 is being **proactive**, and we will encourage your year 11 child to develop this quality by talking directly to their subject teachers, Heads of subject, the exams office or pastoral staff to resolve any matters themselves. Please support us by encouraging your child to be proactive in their approach to their studies. For example, if they seem to 'not know how to revise' for a subject, please direct them to contact their subject teacher for advice. By November, they should be developing regular revision habits and know exactly what is expected of them in each subject. Please let the pastoral team know if they might need extra support with this.

As before, if you need to notify the school of any general matters regarding your child, their Form Tutor is the first point of contact. If you have concerns of a pastoral nature or anything pertaining to their GCSE study, you can also contact the KS4 team directly by using the email address FHS-KS4Team@fitzharrys.school.

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

Wednesday 17th September, 3:30pm-7pm

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

Monday 3rd – Friday 14th November

Thursday 27th November, 5-7pm

Frozen – Information Meeting – Music Department

Abingdon & Witney College Open Day (both sites)

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

Y11 Mock Exams

JMF6 open evening – (Fitzharrys School site).

Absence

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