



Our Overview newsletters contain the key information you'll need each 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 subject curriculum content, please visit our [Curriculum Maps](#) webpage.

ENGLISH: <i>Non-fiction Reading and Writing</i> – Students will study a range of non-fiction speeches from orators from a range of cultures and contexts. They will produce an analytical reading of a speech and perform a speech they have written themselves.
MATHS: Our first topic in Year 7 is <i>Number Operations</i> . This is the underpinning topic for all other areas of maths, covering the four operations, working with decimals and negatives and BIDMAS. We also explore how to use letters to generalise number and gently introduce algebraic concepts into Mathematics.
SCIENCE: Students will complete an introductory topic to science focusing on key practical enquiry skills. They will move on to a Biology topic on organisms, looking at cell biology and the skeleton.
ART: Students will practice observational drawing, developing skills in tone and texture which will underpin their journey through KS3 and KS4 in Art and Design.
COMPUTER SCIENCE: Students will learn how to use email accounts, as well as online systems: Learning Resources, e-Praise, and One Drive. This term's topic is Online Safety: Cyberbullying, Computer Viruses and Passwords.
DRAMA: Students are introduced to skills such as Mime and Gesture, and work on creating characters for the end of term assessment, entitled: <i>Bar Story</i> .
FRENCH: <i>The Sound of French</i> – Introducing phonics via songs and self-description. Students will study a range of key basic concepts such as phonics, articles, subject pronouns, and key verbs (to be/to have).
GEOGRAPHY: <i>Amazing Abingdon</i> – An opportunity to get to know Abingdon a little better, investigating its physical and human aspects.
HISTORY: <i>Who Should be King in 1066?</i> – Students begin by looking at Anglo-Saxon England and the problems it faced in 1066. We then look at the Norman invasion and the impact this had on England.
MANDARIN: Students will focus on learning how to greet other people and count from 0–10 in Chinese.
MUSIC: <i>Night and Day. The Elements of Music</i> – Pupils will be learning about the key building blocks of what makes music, music! This term, they will be particularly focusing on Dynamics (volume) and Tempo (speed).
PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS: <i>What are key Hindu beliefs?</i> An investigation into key aspects of Hindu belief including gods and goddesses, worship, holy books and texts, holy places, and pilgrimage.
PHYSICAL EDUCATION: Throughout the year students will experience 'taster lessons' on a wide variety of sports and physical activities. They will develop transferable fundamental movements, teamwork skills, and improve their knowledge and experience of cardiovascular fitness.
PSHE: <i>Being Me in My World</i> – 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.
TECHNOLOGY: Students follow a rotational system, all starting at different points. Key topics covered across year 7 are: an animal themed pencil holder, making a drawstring bag, healthy eating, and key knife skills for cooking.

News

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

Key Contacts

Head of Year 7 & Transition: **Mr J Poolman**
Year 7 Student Wellbeing Manager: **Mr T Clarke**
Assistant Head, Personal Development: **Mr J Clelland**

Queries

Any queries, please [contact](#) the school.
Email: office.4127@fitzharrys.school
Phone: **01235 520698**

Aspiration

WELCOME!

Congratulations to all Year 7 students who have had a very successful first few days at Fitzharrys, we are looking forward to the rest of the term and getting to know you over the coming weeks.

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. Year 7 students will be introduced to the awards system later in the term and be issued with an Awards Booklet which they will use 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.

READING ASSESSMENTS

Students will complete a reading assessment within their first term at Fitzharrys School. This is used as a baseline to assess progress and to help teachers plan effectively for individual students' needs. Reading tests will be completed in lesson time and students do not need to prepare/revise for these assessments.

APPROACH TO LEARNING REPORT

Expected during w/c 13th October, reports on how Year 7 students have been getting on in their first term will be sent out to parents. All subjects will provide scores for the student's *Approach to Learning* and *Approach to Homework*. This initial *Approach to Learning* report does not comment on assessment outcomes or include written feedback from teachers, but the following *Impact Progress Checks* (due in term 4) will include these elements. Find out more about reports and target setting at Fitzharrys School on our [Reports](#) 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 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!

READATHON 2025

The whole of year 7 will be involved in a Fitzharrys Readathon this term and will be bringing home a sponsorship card. Pupils can choose whatever they want to read – from comics to classics and audiobooks to blogs – they are not being assessed, it's all about reading for fun! And, they are motivated to read because the money they raise in sponsorship helps to provide a regular supply of brand new books and a resident storyteller to every major children's hospital in the UK.

All you have to do is:

1. Take a look at what they plan to read, or help them complete their list of books to read. Remember they can read whatever they want: books, e-books, poetry, comics – anything goes! Sharing books is fine too (in fact recommended!) as well as listening to audio books.
2. Help your child find sponsors among family and friends. The easiest way to sponsor a child is at <https://readathon.my.salesforce-sites.com/sponsor> (which family and friends can use too) or return the sponsor card with a cheque(s) or cash sent to school.

Please support your child's sponsored read as much as you can. They'll be helping children in hospitals get books, as well as helping themselves, and our school receives free books worth 20% of our grand sponsorship total, so there really is something in it for everyone.

For more information, check out your child's sponsorship card and visit www.readforgood.org.

FROZEN – WHOLE SCHOOL MUSICAL – AUDITIONS

Our musical this year will be **Frozen**! Interested year 7 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 STAFF

Mr Poolman is our new Head of Year 7 and Transition. We are excited that Mr Poolman is taking on this role; he is an excellent Maths teacher, who has the experience of both being a tutor at Fitzharrys and a pastoral leader in his previous role as Deputy Head of Key Stage 3. Mr Poolman met the year group with a first assembly on Wednesday 3rd September, and is looking forward to meeting parents and carers at our Meet the Tutor evening in October.

MEET THE TUTOR EVENING

There will be a *Meet the Tutor Evening* on Thursday 23rd October to help establish strong links between school and home. Bookings can be made through Epraise closer to the date; specific details including timings will follow by email.

UNIFORM

It is always a joy welcome Year 7 students to the school, all looking so smart and ready for a successful start to the year. We would like to thank parents and carers for your efforts, and your support in maintaining these standards as the 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.

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

Please note that Year 7 students will have their individual portrait photographs taken at school on **Wednesday, 10th September**, as well as tutor group class photos. Students should be correctly attired, wearing their shirts, ties, and blazers.

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

Wednesday 10 th September	Y7 Individual Portraits and Tutor Group Photos (School Photographer)
Friday 12 th September, 3:15–3:45pm	<i>Frozen</i> – Information Meeting – Music Department
Tuesday 16 September, 3:15–5:00pm	<i>Frozen</i> – General Auditions – Music Department
Thursday 18 th September, 3:15–4:30pm	<i>Frozen</i> – Callback Auditions – Drama Studio
Thursday 25 th September, 1:10pm	School closes early ahead of Open Evening
Thursday 25 th September, 5:30–8:00pm	Open Evening
Friday 26 th September	INSET Day – school closed to students
Monday 13 th – Friday 17 th October	Year 7 <i>Approach to Learning</i> Reports due out this week
Monday 29 th Sept – Thursday 2 nd Oct	Open Mornings (tours at 9am and 10am – booking required)
Friday 17 th October, doors 7pm, start 7:30pm	FSA Fundraiser: Quiz Night
Thursday 23 rd October, times TBC	Year 7 Parents – Meet the Tutor Evening (Details about Meet the Tutor Evening will be sent out by email soon)
Friday 24 th October	Last day of term for students
Monday 27 th – Friday 31 st October	HALF TERM
Monday 3 rd November	Start of Term 2
Wednesday 1 st – Friday 3 rd October TBC	Y7 Humanities trips to Warwick Castle

Absence

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