



Learning

For a full breakdown of subject curriculum content, please visit our [Curriculum Maps](#) webpage.

ENGLISH: *Creative Writing* – Students will study the Gothic genre and its conventions, and will plan, compose and edit a piece of descriptive writing that situates itself within that genre.

MATHS: Students explore probability, analysing real world contexts as well as utilising various mathematical tools to explore how the world of chance works.

SCIENCE: Depending on which group they are in, students will complete two of the following topics:

- **Biology:** bioenergetics, investigating the key biological processes of photosynthesis and respiration.
- **Chemistry:** reactions, investigating the reactions of metals and non-metals with acids, with oxygen, and comparing their reactivity. Students will also focus on displacement, combustion, and thermal decomposition reactions, and measure energy changes in reactions.
- **Physics:** waves and wave properties, with a focus on the behaviour of light and sound.

ART: *Candy Skulls* – This term we begin a new project looking at ideas and artwork inspired by the Day of the Dead celebrations. Student will work towards producing their own candy skull inspired artwork, through a series of skills and technique workshops in a range of drawing media.

COMPUTER SCIENCE: Students will use Flowol to model control systems using selection (if/else) and repetition (loops). They work with sensors, timed events, and variables, develop detailed flowcharts, and decompose problems into smaller parts. Real-world examples such as pedestrian crossings are used, and pupils begin debugging systematically while comparing algorithms for clarity and efficiency.

DRAMA: Students continue work on status in this term, with a focus on the use of ranking and hierarchy and how those elements might affect a scene such as *Kicking Out* or *Black Harvest*.

FRENCH: *I Love Food* – Experimenting with food. Students will revisit partitive articles with food, the verb “prendre” in the present tense. They will make cross curricular links with Food Technology as well as Science: healthy eating.

GEOGRAPHY: *The Geography of Conflict* – causes, effects and responses to modern day global conflicts.

HISTORY: Students will gain an understanding of the worldwide fight for female suffrage and have discussions around current equality issues in society.

MUSIC: *Jazz & Blues* – Pupils will study the evolution of the Blues and how it also lead to the development of Jazz.

PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS: *What does freedom and justice mean in religion?* An exploration of the concepts of freedom and justice through religious stories, human rights, protest, and the overall importance of freedom and justice in today’s world.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION: Students will be developing skills and confidence within basketball, netball and gymnastics.

PSHE: *Healthy Me:* Students focus on actions that support physical and emotional wellbeing, understanding the impact of substances, the importance of dental health, and how vaccinations contribute to public health. Strategies for making informed health decisions and responding to peer pressure will also be covered, empowering students to take responsibility for their health and safety.

SPANISH: *Sports* – Understanding verbs of sport in Spanish and creating warm up routines. Students will study the present tense of regular verbs: “jugar” and “hacer”. They will make cross-curricular links with PE.

TECHNOLOGY: Students follow a rotational system, all starting at different points. Key topics in year 8 are: designing and making a storage toolbox using a range of materials, making a cushion cover, and a unit of Food Tech exploring mid-day snacks and light meals.

News

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

Key Contacts

Head of Years 8–9: **Mr J Crowe**
Deputy Head of KS3 (Years 8–9): **Mrs A Coekin**
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 23rd February, year 8 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:

- Reviewing the targets with your child and discussing how and when they will achieve them.
- Placing the report somewhere prominent and regularly checking to see if they have completed their targets.

Thank you for your support.

PARENT TEACHER CONSULTATION EVENING

Our Year 8 Parent Teacher Consultation Evening will be held online on Thursday 19th March, 4:30–7:30pm. Bookings will be made via [Epraise](#) and are expected to open from 6pm on Friday 6th March. Further details will follow. We look forward to communicating with parents about the progress and wellbeing of your children, and to working together to ensure further progress.

SENECA

If you have not already done so, we encourage all parents to sign up to SENECA Learning to support your child's homework and revision; emails have been sent to those not yet signed up.

KS4 students have access to the premium package which includes some extra GCSE revision resources. KS3 students have access to a full suite of revision and homework activities for all subjects. Students in all year groups are regularly recognised for their SENECA Learning use. This [parent guide](#) has details on how to support your child with SENECA.

MATHS CHALLENGE

Selected year 7 and 8 students have been offered the opportunity to take part in some Maths Challenge problem-solving sessions in school this term, run by sixth form students from Radley College. The Junior Maths Challenge is a 60-minute problem-solving challenge aimed to test students' mathematical thinking and will take place in term 5. It is a chance for our year 7 and 8 mathematicians to compete against pupils from across the country, as well as students from international schools.

CAREERS NEWSLETTERS

Our careers newsletters are updated each month with school, local, and national information and opportunities relating to careers. When organisations and training providers send us information about talks, vacancies, and applications, these will be shared via our website. To view, visit: [Careers Newsletters](#).

SUPER CURRICULAR CHALLENGES

See our [Super-Curricular Challenges – Term 4 list](#) for optional extra challenges and enrichment opportunities.

Opportunity

CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

Our [extra-curricular offer](#) is online and is regularly updated. Why not try a new club or activity this term?

FROZEN

Our student performers and backstage crew have been working hard on rehearsals for **FROZEN the musical!** Evening performances will take place on Tuesday 24th, Wednesday 25th and Thursday 26th March; doors 6:30pm, with curtain up at 7pm. Tickets cost £6.00 each and are expected to be available via [ParentMail](#) from the evening of Monday 2nd March. Please do bring along loose change to spend at our refreshments stall or pass on to our students with donations buckets – any money donated will go towards the cost of new technical equipment for school shows. Thank you all in advance for your very kind support; we hope you enjoy the show!

Absence

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

CARNEGIES

The **Yoto Carnegies Award** is 'the UK's oldest and most prestigious book award for children's fiction', with the shortlisted novels receiving wide critical acclaim. This term, participating year 7 and 8 students will begin the Carnegies shadowing scheme, where they will read and review the shortlisted books, and attend events such as the welcome tea, quiz, and the forum. This shadowing scheme enables our keen readers to work alongside pupils from several local secondary schools to choose the book they feel most deserves the Yoto Carnegie Medal for Writing.

Integrity

TERM DATES

Please note that our **term dates for 2026 – 2027** are now available on the school website.

COMIC RELIEF: RED NOSE DAY

There will be a non-school uniform day on Friday 20th March in aid of **Comic Relief**. Suggested donation is £1 (with the option to donate more) and will be collected online via **ParentMail** in the usual way in due course. Our Wellbeing Reps are hoping to plan an extra event to support the fundraising, which will be advertised next term.

FSA EASTER HAMPER RAFFLE

The Fitzharrys School Association's Easter-themed, luxury chocolate & sweet hamper competition is on the horizon! Tickets cost £2 each and you can buy as many as you like to increase your chances of winning one of our fabulous (and delicious) prizes! All funds raised will go to the school. To enter the competition, buy tickets via your **ParentMail** account from Monday 2nd March. Deadline for entries will be the end of the day on Monday 23rd March, with the draw taking place on Tuesday 24th March. Winners will be notified the same day.

FSA: GIANT JUMBLE SALE – UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who donated items, volunteered, baked goods for the refreshments stall, or came along to bag a few bargains and support this fundraiser: following a few sales made with the leftover items after the event, the final count reveals the Giant Jumble Sale raised £3184.40! Huge thanks to our wonderfully generous school community for making this such a successful event.

THE WELLBEING HUB

The Wellbeing Hub is available to all pupils, parents/carers and staff with the aim of spreading knowledge and confidence of how to support wellbeing in adolescence. There is guidance and support on a wide range of topics, from managing relationships, exam stress, anxiety, equalities and a lot more. For parents there are specific blogs which discuss tips of how to support your children through these years. There are also several short courses designed for both pupils and adults.

Pupils have access through <http://club.teentips.co.uk> and if you do not yet have access as a parent please sign up here: <https://club.teentips.co.uk/register/parents/?ca=b0b22db7c0c44f6ebbe4c320c6fb6ec5>

Key Dates

Monday 23 rd February	Start of term – Week B
Monday 23 rd February (w/c)	Y8 Impact Progress Checks – reports due
Monday 2 nd March (evening)	Frozen: Tickets go on sale via ParentMail
Friday 6 th March, 6pm	Y8 Parents Evening Bookings open (via Epraise)
Wednesday 11 th – Friday 13 th March	Y8 Humanities trips to the Black Country Museum
Thursday, 12 th March, 1-3pm	Y7 & 8 Carnegie Welcome Tea at Fitzharrys
Monday 16 th March	Y8 – 11 HPV vaccination catchup (some students only)
Thursday 19 th March, 4:30-7:30pm	Y8 Parents Evening (online via Epraise)
Friday 20 th March	Comic Relief: Red Nose Day – Non School Uniform Day
Sunday 22 nd March, 10am-3pm	Frozen: Sunday Technical Rehearsal – whole cast & crew
Monday 23 rd March (school hours)	Frozen: Final Dress Rehearsal – whole cast & crew
Tuesday 24 th March, 2pm	Frozen: Matinee performance for primary school pupils
Tuesday 24 th – Thursday 26 th March, 7pm	Frozen: Evening performances
Friday 27 th March, 1:10pm finish	End of term
Monday 30 th March – Friday 10 th April	EASTER HOLIDAY
Monday 13 th April	Term 5 begins – Week A