



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

## Learning

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

**ENGLISH:** *Shakespeare* – Students will study *The Merchant of Venice*. They will engage with Shakespeare's language and themes, and will learn about dramatic form, ultimately writing an analytical essay about a key extract.

**MATHS:** *Transformations, Shape and Constructions* (so students will need protractors, rulers and a pair of compasses). This topic is all about how we can accurately draw shapes and what happens when we perform various operations on them. Using Pythagoras and Trigonometry, we start to explore the links between the lengths of sides and angles in a right-angle triangle.

**SCIENCE:** Students will study a Biology topic looking at variation and inheritance. They will explore DNA, natural selection, evolution and extinction. They will also complete a Physics topic on space, looking at the solar system, day and night, seasons and phases of the moon, as well as exploring beyond the solar system to look at our place in the Universe.

**ART:** Students will return to print making and painting this term. They will be introduced to reduction printing techniques to produce multi-layered prints of skulls inspired by the highly decorative candy skulls that have evolved from the Day of the Dead traditions.

**COMPUTER SCIENCE:** Students will use their newly-acquired HTML and CSS web coding skills to create a website on a topic of their own interest, to include planning documents and the final website. Students will move on to learn a new text-based language: Small Basic.

**DRAMA:** Students will use the lyrics from the song *Old Man* by Randy Newman to create a devised duologue between an old man and his adult child, as they try to resolve their difficulties at the end of the old man's life.

**FRENCH:** *Technology – PE – Art* – Appreciating the natural world via Technology lessons content, exploring architecture, and creating PE warm up routines. Students will study modal verbs, superlatives and comparatives and the imperative. They will make cross curricular links with Technology, Art, and PE.

**GEOGRAPHY:** *Disease* – a study into the geography of disease and how the place you live impacts your health.

**HISTORY:** Students will look at the causes of World War I, and at why it is considered a world war.

**MUSIC:** *Music Production* – Pupils will learn about contemporary forms of composition using music technology.

**PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS:** *How far does religion support family life?* We assess the extent to which religious teachings support people's circumstances, lifestyles, and choices with a focus on how family life functions today.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION:** Students will explore and develop their skills in Athletics and Tennis.

**PSHE:** A greater-depth look at *Relationships*, focusing on the importance of self-control, understanding relationships, personal space, and staying safe both in the physical and online worlds. We'll learn to navigate social media, respect personal boundaries, and where to seek help, fostering inclusion and emotional wellbeing.

**SPANISH:** *Cultural trip* – Students will be appreciating Spanish architecture and art and will look at planning a visit to Spain. Students will study "ir" and the near future. They will use comparatives.

**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](mailto:office.4127@fitzharrys.school)  
Phone: **01235 520698**

# Aspiration

## HELP SUPPORT PROGRESS

Support your child's progress by looking back at their last Impact Progress Report and regularly checking it with them to see if they have completed the targets set by subject teachers. Digital copies of the Impact Progress Report can be accessed via your [My Child at School](#) account.

## BEDROCK LEARNING

Congratulations to all students who were recognised for their work on Bedrock in last term's Achievement Assembly. Knowledge of vocabulary can unlock the curriculum for students, boosting their confidence and comprehension when they meet new texts, and increasing the sophistication and precision of their own written expression.

[Bedrock Learning](#) uses artificial intelligence to introduce students to appropriate new vocabulary, reading aloud to students to support them, and using a variety of interactive tasks to help consolidate their understanding. Do ask your child about the words they have been meeting through Bedrock, to help them to bring them into their own active vocabularies.

## 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 5 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?

## MATHS CHALLENGES

Following the Maths Challenge problem-solving sessions run in school last term, selected Year 7 and 8 students will be taking part in the Junior Maths Challenge on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April. This is a 60-minute problem-solving challenge aimed to test students' mathematical thinking, competing against both national and international students, so best of luck to all those involved!

# Integrity

## UNIFORM

Students can choose to wear our optional summer uniform during Terms 5-6; full details on our [Uniform](#) webpage. The summer uniform options include a blue school-logo polo shirt and tailored shorts. If students decide not to wear the summer uniform, they should remain in shirt, tie and blazer. We politely remind students that, as always, they should not wear hooded jumpers to school, and they should continue to wear formal school shoes, not trainers. Many thanks for your continued support with maintaining the high standards we expect at Fitzharrys School.

## COMIC RELIEF: RED NOSE DAY

Thanks to all who donated to our collection, raised through the Non-School Uniform Day. Approximately £880 was raised for Comic Relief.

# Absence

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

### **FSA EASTER HAMPER RAFFLE**

Many thanks to everyone who entered last term's FSA Easter Hamper Raffle. The winners of our two prize hampers were pleased to collect their spoils before the holiday. The FSA is especially grateful to all who collected and/or donated items for the hampers – this helped to keep expenses low and maximise fundraising. Over £760 was raised!

### **OPPORTUNITIES DONATIONS**

It is our intention that all students in years 7, 8, and 9 attend two core trips each year, with more details on our website: <https://www.fitzharrys.oxon.sch.uk/learning/super-and-extra-curricular/>.

We work hard to keep costs down for trips and events, and remind you to please contact us and let the school office know if a cost proves a barrier for your child attending a trip or event.

If you would like to make a voluntary contribution to support another child to attend a trip, we would be enormously grateful. You may do so by bank transfer to the following account, quoting the name of the trip as the reference, or citing "general trip fund":

- Fitzharrys School
- Sort Code: 306753
- Account Number: 30069160

## **Key Dates**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> April                         | Term 5 begins – Week A                                    |
| Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> April, 7:30pm                | FSA Committee Meeting, Fitzharrys' library, all welcome   |
| Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> April                      | Y7-9 Junior Maths Challenge (participating students only) |
| Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> May                            | BANK HOLIDAY (school closed)                              |
| Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May                           | Last day of Term 5 – school closes at 3:15pm              |
| Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> May | HALF TERM   |
| Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June                           | Start of Term 6 (Week A)                                  |