



### Learning

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

**ENGLISH:** *Speaking and Writing for Change* – Students will read *An Inspector Calls*, as well as a range of non-fiction texts broadly focusing on gender and class from the 1800s to the present day. Students will write an analysis of an extract from *An Inspector Calls*, as well as an analysis of a speech inspiring change.

**MATHS:** In year 9, students begin to create their blue book GCSE revision guide. We study 'Number' in term one, including different types of numbers and their uses. We also ensure that number skills are secure as they form the foundation of all future topics. We then move on to Rounding and Accuracy.

**SCIENCE:** Students will study a Biology topic on cell structure and transport in cells, involving key required practicals. Students will also either study a Chemistry topic on atomic structure, ions, and separation techniques, or they will complete a Physics topic looking at conservation of energy and energy transfers.

**ART:** This year, students will complete a range of shorter projects on the overarching theme of Nature. They will use a range of media, building on existing skills and knowledge; developing ideas and outcomes underpinned by Artist references and analysis. Skills covered will include drawing, painting, printmaking, ceramics and mixed media. The order in which projects are completed will vary from class to class.

**COMPUTER SCIENCE:** Students will learn about techniques used by cybercriminals to steal data, disrupt systems, and infiltrate networks. They study social engineering and cybercrimes like hacking, DDoS attacks, malware, and methods used to protect the individual and networks against attacks.

**DRAMA:** Students revisit the concepts of Status and Proxemics in our 'Master and Servant' performances, in a scene adapted from Shakespeare's *The Tempest*.

**FRENCH:** *Myself* – Students will revise to be / to have / the present tense and how to use adjectives.

**GEOGRAPHY:** *Tectonic Plates* – Students will learn about how the Earth moves, how disasters occur, and how mountains are formed.

**HISTORY:** *Interwar years and Weimar Germany* – This term, we will look at how Germany recovered after World War I and will be using the skills of causation and significance.

**MUSIC:** *Film Music* – Pupils will be studying the use of *leitmotifs* (a short, recurring musical phrase associated with a character, place, or idea) by film composers. They will create a film trailer that builds tension.

**PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS:** *What challenges exist to religion today?* An evaluation of how far the existence of secularism, humanism, atheism, and alternative belief systems pose a problem for mainstream religion.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION:** Students will continue to gain confidence in Badminton. Students will learn about 'alternative sports' and experience a range of activities that they may not have sampled before. Students will also be taught a formal sports science fitness unit, which will be especially useful for those considering PE as a GCSE option.

**PSHE:** *Being Me in My World* – Students will learn about self-identity, relationships, peer influence, risks, and consent. They will develop skills to manage social dynamics, make healthy choices, and access support, fostering positive relationships and behaviours in various social contexts.

**SPANISH:** *Sports* – Students will revise the present, and radical changing verbs will be introduced. They will also study demonstrative adjectives.

**TECHNOLOGY:** Students follow a rotational system, all starting at different points. Key topics covered in year 9 are: making an Ugly Toy from recycled fabrics, a unit of Food Technology exploring a café culture, and an electronics project making a music box.

### News

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

## 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!

## FROZEN – WHOLE SCHOOL MUSICAL – AUDITIONS

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

- **Information meeting:** Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September in MUSIC – 3:15–3:45pm
- **General auditions:** Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September in MUSIC – 3:15–5pm
- **Callback auditions:** Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September in DRAMA – 3:15–4:30pm
- **First read through:** Friday 19<sup>th</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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

## OPEN EVENING – FITZHARRYS AMBASSADORS

Our annual Open Evening will be held on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> 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.

## SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

Please note that Year 9 students will have their individual portrait photographs taken at school on **Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> September**, as well as tutor group class photos. Students should be correctly attired, wearing their shirts, ties, and blazers.

## 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 <sup>th</sup> September	Y9 Individual Portraits and Tutor Group Photos (School Photographer)
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> September, 3:15–4:30pm	<i>Frozen</i> – Callback Auditions – Drama Studio
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> September, 1:10pm	School closes early ahead of Open Evening
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> September, 5:30–8:00pm	Open Evening
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> September	INSET Day – school closed to students
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> Sept – Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> Oct	Open Mornings (tours at 9am and 10am – booking required)
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> October, doors 7pm, start 7:30pm	FSA Fundraiser: Quiz Night
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> October	Last day of term for students
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> October	HALF TERM
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November	Start of Term 2

## Absence

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