



Learning

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

ENGLISH: *GCSE Poetry and Creative Writing* – Students will finish studying the first 5 poems from the GCSE collection, with attention to analysis of language, structure and form, and contextual factors. Students will then move on to a creative writing unit where they will practise writing detailed descriptions and short narratives using GCSE-style questions in preparation for their end-of-year exams.

MATHS: Maths: Miss Morgan's & Mr Poolman's classes will study Area & Perimeter, moving into Percentages. Mr Whitley and Dr Taylor's classes will focus on Area & Perimeter.

SCIENCE: Students will conclude the Chemistry topic on structures and bonding. They will then start a Biology topic looking at organisation in plants and animals. They will study the blood and circulatory system, the heart and heart disease, and breathing and gas exchange, as well as transpiration in plants. Students will also start a Physics topic looking at the Particle model of matter, including density of solids and liquids, changes of state, and pressure in gases.

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 continue exploring sequencing and decision-making algorithms through the use of flow charts implemented in Flowol software. They will move on to more complex systems with actuators.

DRAMA: After completing a devised assessment using non-naturalistic techniques based on the Eminem song *Stan*, students will rehearse selected scenes from Dennis Kelly's play *DNA* and reflect on the role of gang behaviour in the storyline. Their assessed scene at the end of the term will focus on the effective use of Pitch, Pace, Tone, & Tempo Rhythm in performance.

FRENCH: Topics for year 9 in French this term will centre around celebrity culture and holidays.

GEOGRAPHY: *Ecosystems* – Students will be introduced to GCSE Geography and gain an understanding of how different ecosystems are.

HISTORY: *WW2* – Students will be looking at significant events from WW2 surrounding both sides of the war, including how it came to an end.

MUSIC: *Music Production* – Pupils will be learning about the role of the music producer and how a piece is taken from a musical idea to a recorded and produced piece of music.

PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS: *Crime & Punishment* – does religion matter? An observation of laws, policing, crime and punishment today and whether religion plays any part.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION: Students will develop their skills in athletics and tennis on a rotational basis.

PSHE: *Relationships* – Students will be looking at equality, assertiveness, the impact of pornography, contraception, and the consequences of unprotected sex. Learners will be empowered with knowledge to make informed decisions, communicate effectively, and seek help when needed, fostering positive and healthy relational dynamics.

SPANISH: Topics for year 9 in Spanish this term will centre around food and healthy living.

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](#)

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

HELP SUPPORT PROGRESS

Support your child's progress by reviewing their last Impact Progress Report and regularly checking to see if they have completed the targets set by subject teachers. Access digital copies of reports via [My Child at School](#).

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?

DUKE OF EDINBURGH – BRONZE AWARD

Year 9 students participating in the DofE Bronze Award will have a Camp Craft day on Saturday 18th April, ahead of the practise expedition on the weekend of 16th–17th May. More details will follow for the participating students.

Integrity

VACCINATIONS

A reminder that TDP/MenACWY vaccinations are being offered to Year 9 students at school on Tuesday 21st April. Emails with links to the online registration forms were sent out last term – please ensure these are completed if you would like your child to receive this vaccination at school.

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.

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

Absence

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

Key Dates

Monday 13 th April	Term 5 begins – Week A
Saturday 18 th April	Y9 DofE Bronze Award – Campcraft day
Tuesday 21 st April	Y9 TDP/Men/ACWY vaccinations
Wednesday 22 nd April, period 1	Y9 Construction Careers Event @ Fitzharrys
Tuesday 28 th April, 7:30pm	FSA Committee Meeting, Fitzharrys' library, all welcome
Wednesday 29 th April	Y7-9 Junior Maths Challenge (participating students only)
Monday 4 th May	BANK HOLIDAY (school closed)
Tuesday 12 th May	Y9 SupportEd @ Abingdon School
Saturday 16 th – Sunday 17 th May	Y9 DofE Bronze Award – Practise Expedition
Friday 22 nd May	Last day of Term 5 – school closes at 3:15pm
Monday 25 th – Friday 29 th May	HALF TERM
Monday 1 st June	Start of Term 6 (Week A)