

21 October 2022

Dear parents and carers,

As we reach the end of the first term of the year, I wanted to thank you for your support. It has been an excellent first term with students having a superb attitude to learning, whilst embracing the wider opportunities in school. Our new year 7s have settled in brilliantly, as was evident in yesterday's 'meet the tutor' evening, whilst the rest of the school community have demonstrated aspiration, interest, and application in lessons, thriving in all subject areas.

Alongside this, students have grasped a range of opportunities outside of the classroom. In Humanities our year 11 student enjoyed rivers fieldwork and History trips to London; our year 8 Scientists won the Faraday challenge competing against all schools in the OX14 partnership; Year 10 students received their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze awards; Year 9 students have visited the Theatre to see *Macbeth*; JMF6 students attended TedX talks at Radley College. Sports clubs are up and running, with Netball, Football and Hockey being well attended. Students have also begun rehearsals for this year's production of 'Sister Act'. We are looking forward to even more opportunities, both in and out of lessons, in term 2. We will be writing to you in early November with an outline of the term ahead for each year group.

### **New Staff**

We are delighted that Mrs Julia Powley has recently joined Fitzharrys in the role of Home School Link Worker. Regular attendance and punctuality are essential if students are to benefit fully from their education, and we know that parental support is vital to help students maintain full attendance. Mrs Powley will be available to support and work with families aiming to reduce any current issues and prevent future difficulties. We also welcome Miss Lois Jones who has joined our learning support team as a learning support assistant.

### **Uniform**

In preparation for term 2, I would like to remind you about the school's expectations around uniform. Whilst the vast majority of students meet our expectations superbly, we have noticed an increase in trainers and hooded tops being worn to school. A guide to uniform can be found here [Uniform - Fitzharrys School](#). We will be focussing on uniform with student at the start of term, and I am grateful for your support with this. If you have any queries, please contact your child's tutor in the first instance.

### **Parents' evenings**

Following our parent communication survey last year, we have decided to go with a blended offer of online and in person parents' evenings this academic year. Years 7, 9 and 11 will have in person parents' evenings, whilst year 8 and 10 will be held online through EPrise and Teams. Details of each event will be sent out in advance.



## Results

Yesterday the Department for Education published performance data from the summer 2022 exams for all secondary schools, sixth forms and colleges. This is the first time that data has been published since the start of the pandemic. The data published includes the following:

- Fitzharrys Progress 8 figure (the relative progress of our students in eight subjects, compared to students with similar levels of attainment at the end of primary school).
- Fitzharrys Attainment 8 figure (the raw score achieved by our students in the same eight subjects).
- The percentage of our students who entered the Ebacc (a government measure which means students took all of English, maths, sciences, a language, and history or geography GCSE).
- Fitzharrys Ebacc average point score (our students' average score in the same Ebacc subjects).
- The overall figure for how many of our students entered GCSEs.
- How many of our students stay in education or employment after Year 11.
- The percentage of our students achieving a grade 5 or higher in both English and maths GCSEs.

The government has made a number of changes to the website where they display school and college results ([www.find-school-performance-data.service.gov.uk](http://www.find-school-performance-data.service.gov.uk)). These include:

- changing the name of the website from 'Compare school and college performance' to 'Find and check the performance of schools and colleges in England'
- removing the table of all schools' national performance
- removing the ability for users to create their own tables of selected schools and colleges
- removing the red / amber / green ratings on school performance measures

All of this is designed to discourage users from making direct comparisons between schools and colleges this year or comparing this year's data to previous years. The publication of results does not directly impact students at all. Students already received their own results in August. These results will be used by the government and by Ofsted when we have an inspection, with the context in which they were achieved taken into account.

One of the measures included in the government website mentioned above is our Progress 8 figure, which is a relative measure based on students' progress from primary school in eight subjects. A score of 0 means the school adds an average amount of progress to students. A score between 0 and 1 means the school adds an above average amount of progress to students. A score between 0 and -1 means the school adds a below average amount of progress to students. You will also be able to look at the local authority average for all the key measures, but not be able to directly compare schools. I hope this information is helpful in enabling you to understand this year's performance data for Fitzharrys School.

I hope you and your families have a restful half term break. We look forward to welcoming all students back into school on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November.

Yours sincerely



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Headteacher



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