

28<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Dear parents and carers,

At the end of each term, I am privileged to write to you to share some of the achievements of our students, alongside signposting you to key events and information in readiness for the next term. This term has been particularly busy, as today's achievement assemblies illustrated. Many students received awards, nominations, and certificates for a wide range of achievements at Fitzharrys.

It was particularly pleasing to see so many students receive Bronze and Silver awards. These awards require commitment, engagement, and resilience. For the Bronze award students must demonstrate they have taken part in 5 activities and events that show Aspiration, 5 showing they have partaken in Opportunities, and 5 that demonstrate Integrity. For the Silver Award students must do 7 in each area of our school values. To have so many students picking up their certificates and badges today was wonderful. They should share their certificates with friends and families and wear their badges on their blazers with pride. We are proud of them, and all the achievements that were recognised in the assemblies, and across a packed term.

### **Aspiration**

Events to further raise aspiration have included visits to Buckingham University, a creative translation day for year 9 languages students, year 9 fame labs science competitions as part of the ATOM festival, a Chemistry competition for year 7 and 8 students at OLA, and year 9/10 young adult book quiz. Year 7 students also visited the RSC in Stratford to see 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. In Humanities year 9 Historians have visited the Soldiers of Oxford Museum, while year 11 Geographers have carried out fieldwork in Oxford. JMF6 students have been busy throughout the term too; English Literature students visited Keats' house, Biologists visited Oxford University, A level Chemistry workshops have also taken place at Abingdon School through the OX14 Learning Partnership.

### **Opportunity**

Complementing the learning in lesson have been extra and super curricular activities. A real highlight was Shrek with some outstanding performances and contributions from an impressive number of students across years 7-11. Other Arts and Performance opportunities included a Music workshop at the Dragon School, and impressive contributions to the OX14 LP Shakespeare shorts competition.

On a sporting front our year 8 girls put in a strong showing at the county 5-a-side football finals. Girls from year 7 and 9 also did brilliantly in their respective Vale netball tournaments, with year 7s becoming Vale champions before heading to the county finals, where they finished fourth. Year 8 and 10 boys were both knocked out in the latter stages of their county cup football competitions following impressive results on the way.



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The careers fair gave students from all year groups the chance to meet a range of employers. Year 8 students also took part in a human library, where they were able to talk to local businesses at length about different jobs. Students from year 10 did superbly in the Robocon competition held at Abingdon School. Duke of Edinburgh Bronze students were busy practising key skills, while Silver award winners shared their adventures to staff, friends and family. Our mock trial team did superbly as their work from across the year culminated in an event at the Magistrates Court in Oxford, while our OX14 opportunities continue with Oxbridge Club now in full swing.

### Integrity

Charity has been a focus this term: Comic Relief saw a range of student-led events raise over £1,000 for this important charity. On the same day, Mr Nobbs had his head shaved for Transplant Sport UK, raising an impressive and important £1,200. Students and staff have been showing integrity in other ways too. Our JMF6 peer support leads have been working hard with students lower down the school, guiding through the challenges and demands of their studies.

We are proud of the many achievements of our students, both in and out of the classroom. Yet we are always keen to get feedback from our stakeholders. This year's parent survey can be found at <https://forms.office.com/e/UXQhS26Qnt> Please do take the time to complete it by the end of April.

### Preparing for term 5

A reminder that students can wear their summer uniform when we return from the Easter break. This means all students can now wear a school polo shirt and tailored shorts, both of which are purchased through the school supplier. Details of the summer uniform can be found at: [Uniform - Fitzharrys School](#)

Today we also said thank you and goodbye to Mr Edwards who has been working temporarily as Assistant Head since January. We are grateful for his contribution to Fitzharrys, and wish him the best moving forward. Mr Clelland will be our new Assistant Headteacher: Personal Development, taking on the role permanently from the start of term 5. He will introduce himself to students early in term 5.

Lastly, I want to wish the very best of luck to our year 11 and year 13 students with their continued revision over the Easter break, and then with their exams that will begin during term 5. We know how well prepared they are thanks to the work of their teachers and the support staff in school. A reminder to parents that key revision and exam information can be found at: [Revision - Fitzharrys School](#) and [Exams Office - Fitzharrys School](#)

I wish you and your families well for the Easter break and look forward to welcoming all students back on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April.

Yours sincerely



Will Speke  
Headteacher



OXFORDSHIRE SECONDARY SCHOOLS  
**OSSHTA**  
HEADTEACHERS' ASSOCIATION



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