



Our Overview newsletters are designed to contain all the key information you'll need each term.

## Learning

### ENGLISH:

#### GCSE Poetry

Students study the remainder of the poems in the GCSE collection which they began in Year 9. Ms Corfield and Miss Hartley's classes are studying the Worlds and Lives collection, and Mr O'Neill and Miss Sinclair are studying the Power and Conflict collection. Both groups will practise giving attention to analysis of language, structure and form, and contextual factors. Students will learn to construct comparative analytical paragraphs to GCSE standard. Students will learn how to approach unseen poems.

### MATHS:

Individual class focus for this term:

- **Miss Morgan & Mrs Payne's class:** Percentages with Miss Morgan, and Ratio and Proportion with Mrs Payne
- **Miss Keeble's class:** Percentages – building on prior knowledge to calculate and interpret percentage changes, with a particular focus on worded and multi-step problems.
- **Mr Smytheman's class, Mr Whitley's class, and Mr Poolman's class:** Percentages – we will use diagnostic tests to enhance existing knowledge from Year 8. Consistent use of "multipliers" and calculators can deeply strengthen this topic, which has significant links to other subjects too.

### TRIPLE SCIENCE:

In **Biology**, students will study the circulatory, respiratory and plant organ systems. They will develop an understanding of transport of substances in different organisms.

In **Chemistry**, students will study reactivity, displacement, and the production of salts in reactions. They will also study neutralisation, acids, and alkalis.

In **Physics**, students study electrical circuits. They will look at the behaviour of series and parallel circuits, calculate and measure voltages, current and resistance in various circuits, and complete required practicals to investigate resistance.

### COMBINED SCIENCE:

In **Combined Science**, students will study a **Biology** topic on the circulatory, respiratory and plant organ systems. They also study a **Physics** topic looking at electrical circuits. They will look at the behaviour of series and parallel circuits, calculating and measuring voltages, current and resistance in various circuits and completed required practicals to investigate resistance.

### PSHE:

*Being Me In My World:* Year 10 students reflect on liberty, safety, and global perspectives. They navigate the emotional intricacies of grief and understand social media's influence on identity. The course emphasises online 'netiquette' and teaches proactive risk management in digital and real-world contexts.

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

## News

School Website: [Home page](#)  
Facebook: [@fitzharryschool](#)  
Instagram: [fitzharrys](#)  
Twitter: [@fitzharrys](#)

## Key Contacts

Head of Key Stage 4: **Mr M O'Neill**  
KS4 Student Wellbeing Managers:  
**Miss R David & Miss K Carmichael**  
Assistant Head, Personal Development: **Mr M Davies**

## Useful Links

School Website: [Careers](#) | [Exams Office](#)  
Revision Resources [Padlet](#)  
Post-16 Choices [Padlet](#)  
Adviza Careers [Portal](#)

# Aspiration

## GCSE ASSESSMENT WEEKS

At the end of this term (w/c 9th & w/c 16th October), Year 10 students will have their first GCSE assessed task. These assessments will be based on the GCSE content that they have covered so far and will give an initial sense of how they are progressing with their KS4 studies. Teachers will guide any necessary revision through homework tasks.

## YEAR 10 INFORMATION EVENING FOR PARENTS

On Thursday 28th September, 6-7.30 pm, we are holding an *Information Evening* on site for Year 10 parents. This is an opportunity for parents to find out more about what to expect this year, and how best to support your children.

This will include:

- Key events in Year 10
- Messages from Mr O'Neill – Head of Key Stage 4
- How to support your child with English and Maths
- How to support your child's independent study

## SENECA LEARNING

As part of our support for Year 10 this year, we have invested in SENeca Premium for Key Stage 4. SENeca is an online learning platform that has high-quality courses for all subjects at Key Stage 3, GCSE and A Level. GCSE students will have access to extra resources & functions on this platform to support effective revision across all subjects. More information can be found in this welcome letter: [Seneca Premium – letter to parents](#).

## NEW FITZHARRYS AWARDS SYSTEM

Our new Fitzharrys Awards launch this term, recognising 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. Each student will be issued with an Awards Booklet to record evidence of their progress. A guide for parents detailing the new awards system will follow in the coming weeks.

## ATTENDANCE GUIDE

Excellent attendance offers the best opportunity to ensure academic success. Please read our new guide: [Attendance – A Guide for Parents & Carers](#), which contains useful information to help support your child's good attendance.

# Opportunity

## CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

Our [extra-curricular offer](#) is now online. To kickstart the creation of a new club, talk to School Council reps or tutors!

## SHREK – WHOLE SCHOOL MUSICAL – AUDITIONS

This year's musical will be [Shrek!](#) Interested students should attend the information meeting to find out more.

- **Information meeting:** Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September in Music – 3.15-3.45pm
- **General auditions:** Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September in Music – 3.30-4.30pm
- **Callback auditions:** Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September in Drama – 3.30-4.30pm
- **Rehearsals** will take place on Monday lunchtimes (dance rehearsals/choreography), Wednesday after school (music rehearsals), and Friday afternoons (staging), and begin on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September at 3.15pm.

## FSA QUIZ NIGHT

The [Fitzharrys School Association](#)'s popular [Quiz Night](#) fundraiser is set for Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October, 7.30pm–10.30pm. There will be a licensed bar, option for a pizza dinner, and a wooden spoon for the losers! Entry forms will follow by school email soon.

## ANXIETY – CAMHS IN-REACH

A CAMHS In-Reach session about [Talking To Your Child About Anxiety](#) is being held in the school library on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September, 5.30-7pm. All parents and carers are welcome to attend; the session is open to all.

# Integrity

## OPEN EVENING – FITZHARRYS AMBASSADORS

Our annual Open Evening will be held on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October, 5.30-8.00pm, 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 for your support in ensuring high standards of uniform. Following the period of hot weather, we have returned to our regular policy. Students who are unable to wear full uniform should see their tutor with a note to be issued a uniform pass for that specific day. A full uniform code can be found here: [Uniform Policy](#). Please contact your Tutor or Head of Year with any concerns.

## WORLD CAR-FREE DAY

At Fitzharrys, we continue to focus on our environment and on being environmentally friendly. In that spirit, we are pleased to share this poster from Abingdon Carbon Cutters: [World Car Free Day](#) (Friday 22nd September 2023).

## LOANED BOOKS – CALL FOR RETURNS

In Years 7, 8 and 9 at Fitzharrys School, students study a novel. We lend students copies of the books so that they can complete some of the reading at home. In general, we get very good returns of these texts, but we have noticed that our stock is a little depleted. We would be very grateful if you could have a look around at home to see if you have any school copies of texts. Specifically, we would appreciate returns of:

- **Girl. Boy. Sea.** by Chris Vick
- **The Hunger Games** by Suzanne Collins
- **Strange Meeting** by Susan Hill

Cover images can be viewed below, to aid your search. Thank you for your support.



## OUR FINEST HOUR – DIGITAL COLLECTION DAY

Fitzharrys School is proud to be participating in [Their Finest Hour](#), a nationwide campaign organised by the University of Oxford and funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, which is collecting and preserving the everyday stories and objects of the Second World War.

Bring your diaries, letters, photos, memories, objects or stories about your family's wartime experience to our [Digital Collection Day](#) taking place at Fitzharrys School on Saturday 16th September 2023 between 10am–2pm, where they will be recorded and added to a free-to-use online archive launching in June 2024.

If you are interested in volunteering and helping on the day, your support would be gratefully received. Please contact Mrs Chadwick at [schadwick@fitzharrys.school](mailto:schadwick@fitzharrys.school) for more details.

## Key Dates

|                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Wednesday 13th September, 3.15–3.45 | Shrek – Information Meeting – Music Department                                |
| Saturday 16th September, 10am–2pm   | Our Finest Hour – Digital Collection Day – South Block, Fitzharrys School     |
| Wednesday 20th September, 3.30–4.30 | Shrek – General Auditions – Music Department                                  |
| Thursday 21st September, 5.30–7pm   | CAMHS IN-Reach session on Talking To Your Child About Anxiety, in the Library |
| Thursday 28th September, 6–7.30pm   | Year 10 Information Evening for Parents (in person)                           |
| Friday 22nd September, 3.30–4.30pm  | Shrek – Call-back Auditions – Music Department                                |
| Thursday 5th October, 1.10pm        | School closes early ahead of Open Evening                                     |
| Thursday 5th October, 5.30–8pm      | Open Evening  |
| Friday 6th October                  | INSET Day – school closed to students   |
| Monday 9th – Friday 13th October    | Open Mornings (tours at 9am and 10am – booking required)                      |
| Friday 13th October, doors 7pm      | FSA Fundraiser: Quiz Night  |
| Tuesday 17th October                | Year 10 Technology trip to BMW  |
| Friday 20th October                 | Last day of term for students   |
| Monday 23rd – Friday 27th October   | SUMMER HOLIDAY  |
| Monday 30th October                 | Start of Term 2   |

## Queries

[Contact](#) the school

Email: [office.4127@fitzharrys.school](mailto:office.4127@fitzharrys.school)

Phone: **01235 520698**