



2025–26: Term 2 Overview

Our Overview newsletters contain the key information you'll need each term.

Briefing on curriculum content, extra-curricular opportunities, current school messages and more, parents and carers can use this outline to support students and help them succeed at school.

Learning

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

ENGLISH:

Lord of the Flies with English Language Paper 1

Students will learn to explore theme and character and to comment on their development throughout the novel. Students will learn to analyse the language and structure of an extract, and to evaluate a critical opinion based on an extract. Students will learn to write creatively to a brief.

MATHS:

Individual class focus for this term:

- **Mr Whitley, Miss Morgan & Mrs Payne's classes:** *Volume and Sequences & Graphs*
- **Mrs Twyford's class:** *Ratio skills, percentages, angles*
- **Dr Taylor & Mr Smytheman's classes:** *Pythagoras & Trigonometry, starting Angles skills*
- **Mr Poolman's class:** *Trigonometry, Angles*

SEPARATE SCIENCES:

In **Biology**, students will be studying how disease can be prevented through treatment such as vaccination, and the use of monoclonal antibodies in detecting disease.

In **Chemistry**, students will study quantitative chemistry, looking at relative formula mass for compounds, percentage composition and molar calculations, as well as completing key practicals such as titrations.

In **Physics**, students will study a range of different electrical components in circuits, and study the topic of UK mains electricity, its safe use, and the transmission of electricity from the power station to the consumer.

COMBINED SCIENCE:

In Combined Science, students will study a **Physics** topic looking at UK mains electricity, its safe use, and the transmission of electricity from the power station to the consumer. They will also cover **Chemistry** topics looking at reactivity and making salts, as well as chemical calculations and conservation of mass.

CORE PE:

In Core PE lessons, all Key Stage 4 students will have continued opportunities to enjoy competitive or semi-competitive activity. We encourage students to embrace their core PE lessons and participate with good effort and spirit. Students will be able to choose an activity from a range of Core PE activities on offer.

PSHE:

Celebrating Difference – Students will explore what equality means in the UK. The benefits of a multicultural society, the power dynamics in relationships, and the challenges of inequality will be covered. They will also gain insights into how health can impact life opportunities, and the importance of taking responsibility for one's wellbeing.

News

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

Key Contacts

Head of Key Stage 4: **Mr M O'Neill**
Deputy Head of Key Stage 4: **Dr S Ouvry**
KS4 Student Wellbeing Managers:
Mrs R David & Miss K Lammin
Assistant Head, Personal Development: **Mr J Clelland**

Useful Links

School Website [Careers pages](#)
School Website [Exams Office page](#)
School Website [Revision page](#)
Revision Resources [Padlet](#)
Post-16 Choices [Padlet](#)

Aspiration

INFORMATION REPORT

This term, Year 10 students will receive Information Reports. These give feedback on attainment and progress but do not contain a written comment from teachers (comments are included in term 5's Progress Checks, following the Year 10 mock exams). Information Reports present a good opportunity to review the targets that were set to be completed in your child's last report and see if they have had an impact on progress or confidence. These reports will include the students' GCSE targets. For more detail about target setting, visit our [Reports](#) webpage.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Year 10 students will complete a Work Experience placement from Monday 6th to Friday 10th July. They are currently busy researching local employers for their work placement as students must find a placement themselves. We have an online resource called Unifrog that will help to manage administration around Work Experience, and all year 10 students have a Unifrog account. The guidance on this process can be found on your child's class notes on ePraise. If you have any questions about work experience, please email FHS-KS4Team@fitzharrys.school.

UPCOMING POST-16 OPEN EVENINGS

It's never too early to start exploring ideas for next steps after the GCSE exams. This term, there are several open evenings that your child could attend to get inspiration for post-16 study.

These upcoming open days would be useful events for students to attend to explore the options on offer:

- | | |
|--|---|
| • Wednesday 5 th November, 3.30–7pm | Abingdon and Witney College Open Day (Abingdon campus) |
| • Wednesday 12 th November, 3.30–7pm | Abingdon and Witney College Open Day (Witney campus) |
| • Wednesday 12 th November, 4.30–7.30pm | City of Oxford College Open Evening (Leys College site) |
| • Wednesday 19 th November, 4–7pm | Bicester Construction Skills Centre Open Evening |
| • Wednesday 19 th November, 4.30–7.30pm | City of Oxford College Open Evening (City Centre site) |
| • Thursday 27 th November, 5–7pm | JMF6 (John Mason & Fitzharrys sixth form) Open Evening (Fitzharrys School site) |

CAREERS FAIR AND PATHWAYS EVENING

We are hosting a Careers Fair during the school day on Thursday 4th December. A variety of employers and training providers from our local community will set up stalls in the hall. Students will have the opportunity to informally speak to employers about their business and potential job roles, apprenticeships, and pathways into employment and training.

Our Pathways Evening, for students in Years 10–13 and their families, will run in the school hall from 5:30pm–7:00pm on Thursday 4th December. This will give students, parents and carers and opportunity to hear speakers from Universities, Colleges, and Apprenticeship providers, as well as to speak informally to them at stalls. More details will follow in due course.

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

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 2](#).

Opportunity

CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

Use this link to access our [extra-curricular offer](#) for Term 2. To kickstart the creation of a new club, talk to School Council reps or tutors!

Queries

Please [contact](#) the school with any queries | Email: office.4127@fitzharrys.school | Phone: **01235 520698**

KS4 WELLBEING CHRISTMAS QUIZ

The first of three KS4 wellbeing events will be our annual Christmas Quiz, scheduled to take place near the end of Term 2 in December after school, from 3:45–6:30pm – date TBC ASAP. All students are welcome to join and form teams for a range of rounds. Food will be provided and there will be prizes to win! Contact: Mr O'Neill moneill@fitzharrys.school.

Y10 FRENCH EXCHANGE

A [letter](#) about a French Exchange opportunity for Year 10 students was sent out by email on 30th September. Places are limited. If you would like your child to participate in the 2026 exchange, please complete this [online form](#), by Friday 21st November 2025.

FITZHARRYS COMMUNITY: CHRISTMAS EVENTS

We are looking forward to bringing the wider school community together for our annual [Carol Concert](#) at Trinity Church on Tuesday 9th December, 7pm. This is not a ticketed event; all are welcome to come along to join in the festivities on the night. More details will follow later this term. We are also excited to announce the return of Fitzharrys' **Staff Panto!** It will be held on the evening of Thursday 18th December – further info and ticket details to follow soon.

FSA FUNDRAISER: CHRISTMAS TREES FOR SALE

A reminder that the FSA are now selling premium Nordmann Fir Christmas Trees, and 100% of profits will be donated to the school. Find out how to pre-order yours here: [Christmas Trees for Sale](#). Order deadline: 10th November.

CHILDREN IN NEED – NON-SCHOOL UNIFORM DAY

There will be a non-school uniform day on Friday 14th November in aid of Children in Need. The school council has set the contribution at £1 per student participating, with an option to donate more if you wish. Donations will be collected via ParentMail accounts. Students may bring and wear an appropriate alternative PE kit for their PE lesson if they wish to do so. We are grateful for the support of parents and carers in reminding students that jewellery is not permissible for health and safety reasons.

Integrity

PASTORAL TEAM – CONTACT INFORMATION

The Key Stage 4 team have a shared mailbox. If you need to contact the school regarding any pastoral or behavioural matters, please email: FHS-KS4Team@fitzharrys.school and one of the team (Mr O'Neill, Dr Ouvry, Ms David or Ms Lammin) will respond as soon as possible.

FOODBANK COLLECTION

In the lead up to Christmas, we will once again be collecting items for [Abingdon Foodbank](#) to support their aim to combat poverty and hunger, bringing emergency food and support to local people who are referred to them in crisis. Donations need to be brought to form tutors by the start of December. Further details will be shared in assemblies and via email soon. The school will deliver donations to the foodbank before the end of term.

FLU VACCINATIONS

Flu vaccinations are being offered to Year 7–11 students at school on Friday 5th December. An email with full details including a [letter with a link to the online registration form](#) was sent out on Monday 3rd November – please ensure this is completed ASAP if you would like your child to receive this vaccination at school.

THE WELLBEING HUB

The Wellbeing Hub is available to all pupils, parents/carers and staff with the aim of spreading knowledge and confidence of how to support wellbeing in adolescence. There is guidance and support on a wide range of topics, from managing relationships, exam stress, anxiety, equalities and a lot more. For parents there are specific blogs which discuss tips of how to support your children through these years. There are also several short courses designed for both pupils and adults. Pupils have access through <http://club.teentips.co.uk> and if you do not yet have access as a parent please sign up here:

<https://club.teentips.co.uk/register/parents/?ca=b0b22db7c0c44f6ebbe4c320c6fb6ec5>

BUS INFORMATION

Thank you to parents and carers who completed our bus survey. This is useful information for the school to know, particularly if the buses are running late. We are also in communication with Thames Travel/The Oxford Bus Company following parental feedback about lateness or buses not arriving. One of our parents has also kindly sent in walking routes to Fitzharrys from the various bus stops for the 35 bus; view these here: [Bus-35-Maps-to-Fitz.pdf](#)

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.

Please note, **Educake** have created a bespoke help page for parents and students at Fitzharrys, here: <https://www.educake.co.uk/parents-carers-at-fitzharrys-school-1923/>

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: [Opportunity: Super & Extra-Curricular – Fitzharrys School](#).

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

Key Dates

Monday 10 th November	FSA Fundraiser: Christmas Tree Sale – pre-order deadline
Friday 14 th November	<i>Children in Need</i> – Non-School Uniform Day
Thursday 27 th November, 5–7pm	JMF6 Sixth Form Open Evening (Fitzharrys School site)
Thursday 4 th December	All Years – Careers Fair
Thursday 4 th December, 5:30–7pm	Y10–13 Pathways Evening (students' families welcome)
Tuesday 9 th December, 7pm start	Carol Concert – Trinity Church
Friday 5 th December	Y7–11 Flu Vaccinations (see letter)
Thursday 18 th December	Fitzharrys' Staff Panto
Friday 19 th December	End of Term 2 (school closes at 1.10pm)
Monday 22 nd December – Friday 2 nd January	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY
Monday 5 th January	INSET Day (school closed to students)
Tuesday 6 th January	Start of Term 3 (Week B)

Absence

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