



**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

### ENGLISH:

#### **Creative Writing, *Lord of the Flies*, and *Romeo and Juliet***

Students will conclude their study of *Lord of the Flies* with some creative writing work inspired by Golding's style. They will then study Shakespeare's play *Romeo and Juliet*.

### MATHS: Individual class focus for this term:

- **Mrs Payne & Miss Morgan's class:** Sequences & Graphs, and Congruence & Similarity
- **Miss Keeble's class:** Angles, and Algebra
- **Mr Whitley's class:** Pythagoras & Trigonometry, before moving on to Angles
- **Mr Smytheman's class:** Pythagoras & Trigonometry, before moving on to Angles
- **Mr Poolman's class:** Angles - Pythagoras & Trigonometry

### SEPARATE SCIENCES:

In **Biology**, students will study non-communicable diseases, their treatment and risk factors. They will move on to look at photosynthesis, the importance of this reaction, and the uses of glucose. As part of this they will complete a key required practical.

In **Chemistry**, students will study energy changes in chemical reactions and calculate the energy released or taken in during exothermic and endothermic reactions. They will study crude oil, fuels, and the products of combustion.

In **Physics**, students will be studying atomic structure and look at the properties, uses and dangers associated with nuclear radiation. They will also look at the nuclear reactions of fission and fusion.

### COMBINED SCIENCE

In Combined Science, students will study **Biology** topics looking at non-communicable diseases and risk factor for disease, as well as a topic on photosynthesis and the uses of glucose. They will look at a **Physics** topic studying the particle model of matter, and look at the kinetic theory for solids, liquids, and gases. They will calculate and experimentally determine the density of objects, and look at changes of state and specific latent heat.

### CORE PE:

Students will be working in competitive and semi competitive situations. Some students use the time to develop their confidence in their GCSE PE practical areas and others participate in a more recreational but purposeful way. Our 'healthy active lifestyles' motto remains at the core of everything we do.

### PSHE:

We will explore our Dreams & Goals, focusing on the balance between physical and emotional needs for success. This sequence will delve into relationships, health goals, work/life balance, and the importance of community in achieving these aspirations. Emphasis will be placed on resilience, mental health, and nurturing important relationships, providing a comprehensive understanding of achieving personal goals.

For a full breakdown of curriculum content for all subjects, visit our [Curriculum Maps](#) page on the school website.

## Key Contacts

Head of Key Stage 4: **Mr M O'Neill**  
 KS4 Student Wellbeing Manager: **Miss R David**  
 Assistant Head, Personal Development: **Mr T Edwards**

## Useful Links

Revision Resources [Padlet](#)  
 Post-16 Choices [Padlet](#)  
 Adviza Careers [Portal](#)  
 School Website [Careers pages](#)

# Aspiration

## WORK EXPERIENCE

The deadline for all year 10 students to confirm their placement for work experience is Wednesday 31st January 2024. In order to develop independence and professional skills, students have the responsibility of contacting employers and confirming their placement for the week beginning 8th July 2024. The guidance that we have shared with all students can be found on our [Work Experience webpage](#).

## NEXT STEPS

It is useful for Year 10 students to start thinking about their next steps, so that their studies have a focus and trajectory. To help students formulate ideas, attending open events at local colleges can be a great starting point. The following websites are a good starting point for information about courses and upcoming open events:

**JMF6 Abingdon** – Fitzharrys & John Mason schools' combined sixth form: [JMF6 \(jmf6abingdon.co.uk\)](http://jmf6abingdon.co.uk)

**Abingdon & Witney College:** [Events – Abingdon & Witney College \(abingdon-witney.ac.uk\)](http://abingdon-witney.ac.uk)

**City of Oxford College:** [Events – City of Oxford College \(activatelearning.ac.uk\)](http://activatelearning.ac.uk)

## MARCH MOCK EXAMS

Year 10 will have their first full set of mock exams in March at the end of term 4. Students will be informed in class about how to prepare for these and will spend some time in lessons preparing. Details of how to support students' revision can be found on the school website here: <https://www.fitzharrys.oxon.sch.uk/students/revision/>

It is essential that students are fully equipped for these exams, ensuring they have pens, pencils, an eraser, ruler calculator, compass, and protractor. Compasses and protractors can be hired for student services for 50p each if needed. Students will not be able to borrow equipment from school during the mock exams. If there are any issues with organising this equipment, please contact your child's tutor who will be able to provide support.

# Opportunity

## NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK

5<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> February 2024 is [National Apprenticeship Week](#) and there will be online events that students and parents can attend. Year 10 students will receive an assembly introducing apprenticeships on March 7<sup>th</sup> and we can also share a [pre-recorded parent information session](#) with you that has more details about modern day apprenticeships.

## PERIOD 6 INDEPENDENT REVISION

Classroom E3 is available every day from 3.15pm to 4.30pm and is a space for Key Stage 4 independent study. It is not supervised by staff, but students can arrange to meet with their teachers there to go over aspects of the course. It is furnished with a good range of revision guides and resources.

## KS4 WELLBEING EVENTS

Fitzharrys School aims to balance students' hard work in their GCSE lessons with providing opportunities where they can prioritise their wellbeing. We had 17 fantastic teams at the Christmas Quiz last term, and it was a really lovely atmosphere. There are two more wellbeing events planned this year, with the next one being a Bingo Night at the end of Term 4! More information will be sent out once details are confirmed.

## SKI TRIP 2024

Parents of students who are signed up for the Ski Trip 2024 should have recently received a Ski trip Newsletter with lots of key details for the upcoming trip – please check your email inboxes.

## CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

A reminder our [extra-curricular offer](#) is online and is regularly updated. Why not try a new club or activity this term?

# Integrity

## UNIFORM

Please be reminded of our school uniform policy:

<https://www.fitzharrys.oxon.sch.uk/assets/POLICIES/Uniform-Policy-March-23-v2.pdf>

We will be focussing on ensuring all students meet our high expectations. For support with uniform, please contact your child's tutor in the first instance.

## YEAR 10 REWARD TRIP

Following consultation with the Student Council and a vote across the whole year group, the Year 10 reward trip will be an afternoon at Xscape in Milton Keynes at the trampoline park and bowling centre, likely to be planned for April. More details will follow in due course once confirmed.

Behaviour choices may impact students' ability to participate. Students will be eligible to attend the trip if they have a positive number of House points of at least 50. Sanctions represent negatives with escalating levels of severity. At this stage, it is still possible for every Year 10 student to attend the reward trip but, if your child becomes concerned that they may not meet the threshold, they can ask their form tutor for support in getting back on track.

Please contact the head of Key Stage 4, Mr O'Neill with any queries. Email: [moneill@fitzharrys.school](mailto:moneill@fitzharrys.school)

## WELLBEING

We recommend students regularly visit our [Revision Padlet](#) which, as well as tips on revision techniques, includes a section on wellbeing, with links to resources for dealing with exam stress and how students can best look after themselves as they prepare for their final examinations. Check in on a regular basis for the latest links and updates.

## FITZHARRYS COMMUNITY: FSA JUMBLE SALE

Thanks to all intending to support the [FSA Giant Jumble Sale](#) (Sunday 28th January, 10am-12pm). The FSA team are looking forward to helping our community find a few bargains whilst helping the planet by reducing waste, reusing and recycling. They would love volunteers to help set up (on Saturday 27th) or on the day of the sale. [Email FSA here](#). Further details on how to donate items or volunteer help can be found in [this letter](#).

## Key Dates

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January, 10am-12pm

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February, 3.15pm

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> – Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February

Year 10 Poetry Live Event, New Theatre, Oxford (signed-up students only)

FSA Giant Jumble Sale, Fitzharrys Main Hall

Year 10 & 11 Performing Arts students – *Electra and her Shadow* performance and workshop with Oxford School of Drama, Main Hall

End of Term 3

Ski Trip, Masella, Spanish Alps

HALF TERM HOLIDAY

Start of Term 4 (Week A)

## News

School Website: [Home page](#)

Facebook: [@fitzharrysschool](#)

Instagram: [fitzharrys](#)

X: [@fitzharrys](#)

## Queries

If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to [contact](#) the school.

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

Phone: **01235 520698**