



2023–24: Term 2 Overview

Our Overview newsletters are designed to 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:

Revising English Language Papers 1 and 2

Students will learn to hone their examination technique for both sections of both papers, building on practices and feedback loops.

MATHS:

Students will receive comprehensive feedback following the mock exams to help them identify key areas of revision and focus. The individual class focus for this term is as follows:

- **Mr Poolman's class:** *Function Notation, Inverse and Composite Functions, and Transforming Graphs.*
- **Miss Morgan & Mrs Payne's class:** *Data, Constructions, and Applied Graphs.*
- **Mr Whitley's class:** *Probability, and Transformations.*
- **Mrs Twyford's class:** *Transformations, Data, and Constructions.*
- **Mrs Price's class:** *Transformations (reflection, rotation, translation, and enlargement).*

SCIENCE:

Triple Science

In **Biology**, students will be studying variation, evolution, and selective breeding. They will go on to focus on the evidence for evolution and how Darwin developed the theory of natural selection.

In **Chemistry**, students will continue studying organic chemistry looking at polymers and their many uses. They will then complete a topic on using Earth's resources with a focus on alloys, polymers, glass and ceramics, and fertilisers.

In **Physics**, students will continue to study the topic of forces, looking at the motion of objects in detail, Newton's laws, conservation of momentum and pressure in fluids.

Combined Science

In Combined Science, students will be studying a **Chemistry** topic looking at crude oil and its uses as a fuel. They will also look at identifying different ions and separating mixtures. In **Physics**, students will look at waves and their properties.

PSHE:

Dreams & Goals – We will equip ourselves with strategies to handle anxiety, grasp financial planning and its challenges, pinpoint dream job aspirations, reflect on future relationships and their legal aspects, prepare for unexpected setbacks, and evaluate our pathways to achieve overarching health, relationship, and life 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 Managers:

Miss R David & Miss K Carmichael

Assistant Head, Personal Development: **Mr M Davies**

Useful Links

Revision Resources [Padlet](#)

Post-16 Choices [Padlet](#)

Adviza Careers [Portal](#)

School Website [Careers pages](#)

Aspiration

MOCK EXAMS

The mocks are now underway and are the best opportunity Year 11 students will have to experience the pressure of examinations, as well as to practise the behaviours and skills that will benefit them for their GCSEs. The mock exams allow students to apply all the revision and examination strategies they have learned and discover what works best for them, helping them to focus their attention and effort, and make sure they're on the path to exam success.

MOCK EXAM RESULTS

On Thursday 30th November, Year 11 students will have a special assembly where they will receive their mock exam results. This is done to replicate, in some way, the process that happens on the real results day in the summer. Students are then given time to reflect on their progress since their last mock exams and set targets for the final GCSEs. Students will receive copies of their results alongside their Impact Progress Check report. This report will include a target for each subject that, if completed, will aid your child's progress. We would be very grateful to have your support in encouraging students to complete these targets. A digital version of the Impact Progress Check report will be available on [My Child at School](#).

PARENT TEACHER CONSULTATION EVENING

Our Year 11 Parent Teacher Consultation Evening will be held in school on Thursday 14th December, 4.30–7.30pm. Bookings via [Epraise](#) are expected to open from Thursday 7th December; confirmation will be sent by email in due course. We look forward to communicating with parents and carers about the progress and wellbeing of your children, and to working together to ensure further progress in the run up to examinations.

UPCOMING POST-16 OPEN EVENINGS

This term, there are several open evenings that your child could attend to start thinking about what to do for post-16 study. The links below provide more details:

- [Abingdon & Witney College](#): Abingdon Campus Open Day, Wednesday 1st November 2023, 3.30pm–7pm
- [City of Oxford College](#): Open Day, Wednesday 15th November 2023, 4.30pm–7.30pm
- [JMF6 Abingdon](#): Open Evening – Thursday 23rd November 2023, 5pm–7pm

PASSPORT TO PROM – 2024

The Year 11 Prom will be held on Friday 5th July 2024 and every member of Year 11 is welcome. The year group will be consulted on the theme and other ideas to make it a memorable evening for all and there is the opportunity for students to join the Prom Committee to help with fundraising and coordination of the event.

To support high aspirations and the further development of integrity in our students as they approach their exams, we are using an 'in it to win it' system for students to earn their invitation to the prom. Tickets will become available to students who earn over 50 house points above 0 by the time the GCSE exams begin in May. Students are aware that points will be subtracted for each poor behaviour incident or missed homework, so please regularly encourage your child to aspire to earn house points and fulfil commitments for behaviour and personal study. We want every student to attend Prom and are here to offer support wherever needed.

Contact Head of Year, Mr O'Neill with any queries: moneill@fitzharrys.school

Opportunity

PERIOD 6: STUDY SUPPORT

Key Stage 4 students are welcome to use the upper school space in East block after school to revise or complete homework. There are computers, revision guides and exam past papers to aid study. This is a great opportunity for students to help each other with revision and to develop and nurture independence.

KS4 WELLBEING CHRISTMAS QUIZ

The first of three KS4 wellbeing events will be our second annual Christmas Quiz, taking place on Monday 18th December after school (timings TBC). 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! Main contact: Mr O'Neill moneill@fitzharrys.school

Integrity

CHILDREN IN NEED – NON-SCHOOL UNIFORM DAY

There will be a non-school uniform day on Friday 17th November in aid of Children in Need. The school council has set the contribution at £1 per student participating, and 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.

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 can be brought to form tutors at the start of December. Further details will be shared in assemblies and via school email in due course. The school will deliver donations to the food bank before the end of term.

FLU VACCINATIONS

Flu vaccinations are being offered to Year 7-11 students at school on Wednesday 6th December. An email with full details and a link to an online registration form was sent out on 19th October – please ensure this is completed ASAP if you would like your child to receive this vaccination at school.

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 12th December, 7pm. This is not a ticketed event; all are welcome to come along to join in the festivities on the night. We hope you will also join us for this year's **Staff Panto**, being planned for Friday 15th December, 7pm; ticket information to follow. Save the dates! Communications regarding both events will follow later this term.

Key Dates

Monday 30th Oct – Friday 13th Nov
Wednesday 1st November, 3.30–7pm
Wednesday 15th November, 4.30–7.30pm
Friday 17th November
Thursday 23rd November, 5–7pm
Thursday 30th November
Friday 1st December
Wednesday 6th December
Monday 11th – Friday 15th December
Tuesday 12th December, 7pm start
Thursday 14th December, 4.30–7.30pm
Friday 15th December, 7–8.30pm
Monday 18th December (time TBC)
Wednesday 20th December
Thursday 21st Dec – Friday 5th Jan
Monday 8th January
Tuesday 9th January

Y11 Mock Exams
Abingdon & Witney College Open Evening (Abingdon site)
City of Oxford College Open Evening
Children in Need – Non-School Uniform Day
JMF6–Abingdon Open Evening (Fitzharrys School site)
Y11 Mock Exam Results day
INSET Day; school closed to students
Flu Vaccinations
Inter-House Cross Country Competition Week (in PE lessons)
Carol Concert – Trinity Church
Y11 Parent Teacher Consultation Evening (PTCE) – onsite
Staff Panto (doors 6.30pm, start 7pm)
KS4 Christmas Quiz
End of Term 2 (school closes at 1.10pm)
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY
INSET DAY; school closed to students
Start of Term 3 (Week B)

News

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

Queries

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

Main school office email: office.4127@fitzharrys.school
Phone: **01235 520698**