



2023–24: Term 1 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:

Lord of the Flies, and mock exams revision

Students will learn to respond to questions about the novel without extract, learning to construct an argument, justify their argument with well-selected evidence and explore analytically the themes, character, structure, form and context. They will then revise for mock exams.

MATHS:

Individual class focus for this term:

- **Mr Poolman's class:** We will be looking at measured and applied graphs, connecting prior theory work on graphs to real world scenarios such as kinematics. We will also work on constructions and bearings.
- **Miss Morgan & Mrs Payne's class:** Transformations, and Data
- **Mr Whitley's class:** Congruence and Similarity, Probability, and revision skills ahead of the mock exams.
- **Miss Twyford's class:** Sequences, Congruence & Similarity, and Probability
- **Mrs Price's class:** We will be working on Probability, while maintaining a focus on general number skills through our starters. We will also work on exam question technique.

TRIPLE SCIENCE:

In **Biology**, students will be looking at the structure of DNA and how proteins are produced. They will focus on their understanding of reproduction and inherited disorders.

In **Chemistry**, students will study the factors that affect the rate of a chemical reaction and carry out experimental work to investigate this.

In **Physics**, students will study the topic of forces and motion. Explaining changes in motion by considering the forces acting and calculating the speed, distance, time, and acceleration of objects. They will also carry out experimental work to investigate this.

COMBINED SCIENCE:

In **Combined Science**, students will look at a **Biology** topic focusing on variation, evolution, and selective breeding. They will also look at a **Physics** topic focusing on the different forces that act on objects, determining the size and effect of resultant force on an object, and complete experimental work to investigate forces and their effects.

PSHE:

Year 11's PSHE journey in Term 1 centres on the transition to adulthood and 'Being Me In My World'. They explore legal implications of relationships, drugs, and online activities. Emphasis is placed on consent, safety, and understanding emergency response. The curriculum prepares them for the complexities of adult life.

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

NOVEMBER MOCK EXAMS

Year 11 students will undertake mock exams in all subjects in November, beginning in the first week of Term 2 – straight after half term. Students will receive timetables towards the end of Term 1. The mock exams give students an opportunity to show how much they have improved since their Year 10 mock exams, demonstrate the new content and skills they have been learning, and identify areas of focus ahead of the final exams in the summer.

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 13th September in Music – 3.15–3.45pm
- **General auditions:** Wednesday 20th September in Music – 3.30–4.30pm
- **Callback auditions:** Friday 22nd 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 27th September at 3.15pm.

FSA QUIZ NIGHT

The [Fitzharrys School Association](#)'s popular [Quiz Night](#) fundraiser is set for Friday 13th 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 21st 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 5th 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.

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.



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).

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 for more details.

Key Dates

Wednesday 13th September, 3.15–3.45
Friday 15th – Sunday 17th September
Saturday 16th September, 10am–2pm
Wednesday 20th September, 3.30–4.30
Thursday 21st September, 5.30–7pm
Friday 22nd September
Friday 22nd September, 3.30–4.30pm
Thursday 5th October, 1.10pm
Thursday 5th October, 5.30–8pm
Friday 6th October
Monday 9th – Friday 13th October
Friday 13th October, doors 7pm
Friday 20th October
Monday 23rd – Friday 27th October
Monday 30th October
Monday 30th Oct – Friday 10th Nov

Shrek – Information Meeting – Music Department
Year 11 Silver Duke of Edinburgh assessed expedition
Our Finest Hour – Digital Collection Day – South Block, Fitzharrys School
Shrek – General Auditions – Music Department
CAMHS IN-Reach session on Talking To Your Child About Anxiety, in the Library
World Car-Free Day
Shrek – Call-back Auditions – Music Department
School closes early ahead of Open Evening
Open Evening
INSET Day – school closed to students
Open Mornings (tours at 9am and 10am – booking required)
FSA Fundraiser: Quiz Night
Last day of term for students
HALF TERM
Start of Term 2
Year 11 Mock Exams

Queries

Contact the school:
Email: office.4127@fitzharrys.school
Phone: **01235 520698**