



Learning

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

ENGLISH:

Revising English Language Paper 2 and Poetry for Literature Paper 2

Students will learn to hone their examination technique for Language paper 2 as well as both of the poetry sections of Literature paper 2, building on practices and feedback loops. Students will also respond to feedback on their mock exams.

MATHS:

Individual class focus for this term:

- **Mrs Morgan & Mrs Price's class:** Mock preparation & improvements, Functions & Advanced graph skills
- **Mr Smytheman's class:** Mock paper preparation & improvements, Functions & Advanced graph skills
- **Mrs Twyford's class:** Mock preparation & improvements, measure and constructions, algebra skills
- **Mr Poolman's class:** Mock paper preparation & improvements, algebra skills with quadratics
- **Mr Whitley's class:** Statistics and Sequences & Graphs

SEPARATE SCIENCES:

In **Biology**, students will be studying reproduction and inheritance. They will look at the inheritance of single gene characteristics, learning about alleles, genotypes, phenotypes and some inherited disorders.

In **Chemistry**, students will study a topic on analytical chemistry, looking at tests for gases, ions and chromatography. They will also complete investigative work on these topics.

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 continue the topic of forces, looking at Newton's laws of motion, factors affecting acceleration and the effects of forces on materials.

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:

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.

Queries

Please [contact](#) the school with any queries

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

Absence

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

Useful Links

School Website:

[Careers](#) | [Revision](#) | [Exams Office](#)

Revision Resources [Padlet](#)

Post-16 Choices [Padlet](#)

Adviza Careers [Website](#)

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**

News

School Website: [Home page](#)

Facebook: [@fitzharrysschool](#)

Instagram: [fitzharrys](#)

X: [@fitzharrys](#)

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 are on the path to exam success. Students have been given their own exam timetables; parents can find a mock exams timetable on our website, in the [Exams Office](#). A wealth of useful tips for revising each subject can be found in this [Mocks Preparation Guide](#).

MOCK EXAM RESULTS

On Friday 5th December, Year 11 students will have a special assembly where they will receive their mock exam results. We do this 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 11th December, 4.30–7.30pm. Bookings via [Epraise](#) are expected to open from Thursday 4th December (TBC); 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 help them consider their options for post-16 study. The links below provide more details:

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| • 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

A reminder that our [extra-curricular offer](#) is online and regularly updated – check the link for the latest updates.

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.

PASSPORT TO PROM – 2026

The Year 11 Prom will be held on Friday 3rd July 2026 – please save the date! It is always a wonderful event, and we would like to see every Year 11 student there. 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 Leavers Committee to help with fundraising and coordination of the event.

To support every Year 11 student to make the most of the opportunities in their GCSE year, we are using a newly developed system for them to earn their 'Passport to the Prom'. This will replace the previous system, which used house points and detentions.

The full details of the new system can be read here: [Y11-Passport-to-the-Prom-2026.pdf](#). If you have any questions about Passport to the Prom or any other leavers events, please email: FHS-KS4Team@fitzharrys.school.

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.

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.

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>. Parents can 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 3rd – Friday 14th November

Monday 10th November

Friday 14th November

Wednesday 19th – Tuesday 25th November

Thursday 20th – Friday 21st November

Thursday 27th November, 5–7pm

Thursday 4th December

Thursday 4th December, 5:30–7pm

Tuesday 9th December, 7pm start

Friday 5th December

Thursday 11th December

Thursday 18th December

Friday 19th December

Monday 22nd December – Friday 2nd January

Monday 5th January

Tuesday 6th January

Y11 Mock Exams

FSA Fundraiser: **Christmas Tree Sale** – pre-order deadline

Children in Need – Non-School Uniform Day

Y11 MFL Mock Exams (French/Spanish)

Y11 Art Mock Exam

JMF6 Sixth Form Open Evening (Fitzharrys School site)

All Years – Careers Fair

Y10–13 Pathways Evening (students' families welcome)

Carol Concert – Trinity Church

Y7–11 Flu Vaccinations (see [letter](#))

Y11 Parents Evening (on site)

Fitzharrys' Staff Panto

End of Term 2 (school closes at 1.10pm)

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

INSET Day (school closed to students)

Start of Term 3 (Week B)