



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:

Revising Literature Paper 1

Students will learn to hone their knowledge of both *Romeo and Juliet* and *Jekyll and Hyde*, and to refine their ideas, building on practices and feedback loops.

MATHS: Individual class focus for this term:

- **Mr Poolman's class:** Transformation of Graphs, and Direct and Inverse Proportion Problems
- **Mrs Payne & Miss Morgan's class:** Graphs, Quadratics, Simultaneous Equations and Functions
- **Mr Whitley's class:** Data, Maths Memory skills
- **Mrs Twyford's class:** Transformations, Data, Compound Measures and Constructions
- **Mrs Price's class:** Core skills revision for GCSE exams

SEPARATE SCIENCES:

In **Biology**, students will study ecosystems, focusing on interdependence between organisms and measuring abundance and distribution of a population. They will study nutrient cycles and complete a required practical focused on decay.

In **Chemistry**, students will continue the study of organic chemistry looking at polymers and their many uses. They will also study chemical analysis and look at the tests that can be used to identify substances and ions. They go on to look at the Earth's resources where they study water and water treatment, extracting metals from their ores, and recycling of materials.

In **Physics**, students will continue with the topic of forces, looking at pressure on surfaces, in fluids, and the causes of upthrust. They will then begin a topic on magnetism looking at the fields around permanent magnets and electromagnets. They will carry out experiments to investigate these fields.

COMBINED SCIENCE

Students will study a **Biology** topic on nutrient cycles. They will then look at the impacts of humans on biodiversity including deforestation, global warming, and pollution. In **Chemistry**, they will study the components of the earth's atmosphere and treating wastewater. In **Physics** they will study a topic on waves looking at wave properties and in particular electromagnetic waves and their many uses.

CORE PE:

Students studying GCSE PE will be preparing for their practical examinations with a close end date in mind. To support this, we encourage them to use Core PE classes as an opportunity to work on their specific areas of need.

Students who are not taking GCSE PE will use their Core PE time productively, following their 'healthy active lifestyle', by working on their own programmes in our Fitness suite or with semi-competitive activity in games situations.

PSHE:

In PSHE, we will explore 'Healthy Me' by understanding decision-making in sexual relationships, the role of self-worth, consent, contraception, and diverse views on sexual health. Pupils will learn about hormonal health's influence on life, the importance of respecting different beliefs, and effective strategies for managing pressures in relationships.

Aspiration

IMPACT PROGRESS CHECK

Following their mock exams in Term 2, students received an impact progress check. Feedback included specific targets to work on for each subject, set by their teachers. The targets, if completed, will have a positive impact on your child's GCSE performance. We ask for parents' support to ensure that students are working to achieve these targets: please check regularly to see if they have completed them and encourage them to progress.

Hard copies of the impact progress checks were sent home via students in the usual way. A digital copy can be accessed via your **My Child at School** login. If you experience any difficulties accessing this information, please **contact** your child's tutor.

POST-16 PATHWAYS

Year 11 students can at times feel overwhelmed by pressures of coursework completion and revising for the upcoming final exams. As such, exploring pathways for life after Year 11 and completing applications can feel like an additional burden. The Key Stage 4 pastoral team are here to help and will provide support and guidance.

Every Year 11 student at Fitzharrys School will receive an appointment with an external career advisor who can help provide a realistic picture of the options for next steps. If your child has not yet had their appointment but would like to be prioritised, they should let their form tutor know and we will make the arrangements.

In the meantime, attending open events at local course providers can be very helpful. 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)
- **Abingdon & Witney College: Events – Abingdon & Witney College** (abingdon-witney.ac.uk)
- **City of Oxford College: Events – City of Oxford College** (activatelearning.ac.uk)

MARCH MOCK EXAMS

Year 11 will take their final mock exams in March at the end of term 4. Students will receive information in class on how to prepare for these. Full revision details can be found on the school website here:

<https://www.fitzharrys.oxon.sch.uk/students/revision/>

Year 11 also have several final coursework deadlines to meet during term 4. Students will have been given information on each subject's specific deadlines. It would be helpful if you can check in regularly with your child to ensure they are prepared and on track to meet these. Thank you for your support in the run up to GCSE exams.

It is essential that students are fully equipped for their 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

5th – 11th February 2024 is **National Apprenticeship Week** and there will be online events that students and parents can attend, as well as opportunities in school to learn more about apprenticeships. This **pre-recorded parent information session** has more details about modern day apprenticeships.

PERIOD 6 INDEPENDENT REVISION

Classroom E3 is available every day from 3.15pm to 4.30pm. This 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 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.

Integrity

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.

PASSPORT TO PROM

The Year 11 Prom will be held on Friday 5th July 2024 and every member of Year 11 is welcome. Please be reminded that we are utilising a 'Passport to Prom' system to support high aspirations and the further development of integrity in our students as they approach their exams. Tickets will become available to students who have positive score of at least 50 House points by the time the final exams begin in May. Students are aware that points will be subtracted for each sanction (e.g. a poor behaviour incident or missed homework), so please 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. If your child is concerned about their eligibility, it is not too late! The pastoral team will provide discreet support to get back on track and develop the right mindset to have a successful end to Year 11.

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.

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 th January, 2.15–3.15pm	Year 11 BTEC Performing Arts – Mock Exam Performance
Sunday 28 th January, 10am–12pm	FSA Giant Jumble Sale, Fitzharrys Main Hall
Friday 2 nd February	Year 10 & 11 Performing Arts students – <i>Electra and her Shadow</i> performance
Friday 9 th February, 3.15pm	End of Term 3
Saturday 10 th – Saturday 17 th February	Ski Trip, Masella, Spanish Alps
Monday 12 th – Friday 16 th February	HALF TERM HOLIDAY
Monday 19 th February	Start of Term 4 (Week A)

News

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

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](#)

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**