



## 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

<b>ENGLISH:</b> <i>Character Poetry</i> – Students will study a range of poetry based on characters. They will explore poetic method through analysis and through their own poetry writing, ultimately producing an analysis of a single poem.
<b>MATHS:</b> We continue work on Number topics, looking at Place Value, Ordering, and Rounding. This set of skills is also useful in Science, when processing results of experiments. Classes will then begin their first Algebra unit.
<b>SCIENCE:</b> Students will be completing a chemistry topic on the States of Matter and how different mixtures can be separated. They will also complete a biology topic on Organisms, looking at cell biology and organisation.
<b>ART:</b> Students will explore a range of skills influenced by myths, monsters, legends and stories of cultures from across the globe and timeline. From the Minotaur to the Gruffalo, students will use drawing and collage to develop ideas and invent their own creatures, working towards creating a clay version in Ceramics next term.
<b>COMPUTER SCIENCE:</b> Students will learn to program with code blocks using <i>Scratch</i> and create a simple computer game. Students will also learn the basic concepts of programming: Sequence, Selection and Iteration.
<b>DRAMA:</b> Students will be working with the text <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> , and they will explore different ways to receive and deliver bad news to someone in a dramatic scenario.
<b>FRENCH:</b> <i>Toys and bears – A journey through childhood via tales and toys.</i> Students will study adjectives, “there is” and “there are”, and possessive adjective, and gain cultural knowledge of toys and tales from around the world.
<b>GEOGRAPHY:</b> <i>Marvellous Maps – Where do we live?</i> Students build on knowledge of globes, maps and atlases to interpret Ordnance Survey maps, using grid references, scale, topographical, aerial and satellite photographs.
<b>HISTORY:</b> Students begin by looking at Anglo-Saxon England and the problems it faced in 1066. We then look at the Norman invasion and the impact this had on England.
<b>MANDARIN:</b> Students will learn about some Chinese festivals, and learn how to talk about birthdays, months of the year, days of the week, and yesterday, today and tomorrow.
<b>MUSIC:</b> <i>Rhythm and Pulse</i> – Pupils will be learning how to read and write from Western Classical musical notation.
<b>PHILOSOPHY &amp; ETHICS:</b> <i>What are key Jewish beliefs?</i> An investigation into key aspects of Jewish belief including the nature of God, worship, holy books and texts, holy places, life after death, and festivals.
<b>PHYSICAL EDUCATION:</b> Students continue exploring Invasion Games: Netball, Football and Rugby. Some students will experience Dance with simple choreographed routines, allowing students to enjoy PE in a different way. For the final three weeks of term, we will follow a programme designed to develop students’ cardiovascular fitness with a progressive training programme culminating in an inter-house competition.
<b>PSHE:</b> <i>Celebrating Difference</i> – Students delve into the significance of prejudice, discrimination, and stereotypes. Emphasis is placed on the importance of understanding human rights, the impact of bullying, and the role of bystanders. The curriculum promotes empathy, inclusion, and challenges harmful biases.
<b>TECHNOLOGY:</b> Students follow a rotational system, all starting at different points. Key topics covered across year 7 are: a Christmas cracker project, designing a phone pod, making a drawstring bag, and key knife skills for cooking.

For a full breakdown of subject curriculum content, please visit our [Curriculum Maps](#) webpage.

## News

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

## Key Contacts

Head of Year 7 & Transition: **Ms K Emeny**  
 Year 7 Student Wellbeing Manager: **Mr T Clarke**  
 Assistant Head, Personal Development:  
**Mr M Davies**

## Queries

Any queries, please [contact](#) the school.  
 Email: [office.4127@fitzharrys.school](mailto:office.4127@fitzharrys.school)  
 Phone: **01235 520698**

# Aspiration

## APPROACH TO LEARNING REPORTS

Year 7 have had a brilliant start to the year with 84% of students receiving all 1s and 2s in their Approach to Lessons. This is a fantastic reflection of all the positivity and hard work taking place in classrooms. Congratulations, Year 7!

## TEAMBUILDING EVENT

Year 7 will be participating in a teambuilding event at school on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December. Tutor groups will engage in friendly competition and engage in activities designed to develop leadership and collaboration skills. To support this event, a contribution of £1 will be requested, to be paid via ParentMail. Full details will follow later this term.

# Opportunity

## CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

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

## SILENT DISCO

Year 7 are having a Silent Disco on the evening of Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December (exact times TBC), to fundraise for a charity nominated by the year group. Tickets will cost £5; this price includes £2 spending tokens for on-the-night purchases from refreshments stalls – no need to bring cash. More details to follow later this term.

# Integrity

## CHILDREN IN NEED – NON-SCHOOL UNIFORM DAY

There will be a non-school uniform day on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> 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 ParentMail 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 6<sup>th</sup> December. An email with full details and a link to the online registration form was sent out on 19<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> December, 7pm; ticket information to follow. Save the dates! Communications regarding both events will follow later this term.

# Key Dates

Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> November	<i>Children in Need</i> – Non-School Uniform Day
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> December	INSET Day; school closed to students
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	Y7 Teambuilding event
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	Flu Vaccinations
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> December (times TBC)	Y7 Silent Disco
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	Inter-House Cross Country Competition Week (in PE lessons)
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> December, 7pm start	Carol Concert – Trinity Church
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> December, 7pm–8.30pm	Staff Panto (doors 6.30pm, start 7pm)
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	End of Term 2 (school closes at 1.10pm)
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> Dec – Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> Jan	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> January	INSET DAY; school closed to students
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> January	Start of Term 3 (Week B)