



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

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

ENGLISH: <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.
MATHS: 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.
SCIENCE: Students will be undertaking a physics topic on forces and motion. They will also complete a biology topic on organisms, looking at cell biology and the skeleton.
ART: 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.
COMPUTER SCIENCE: Students will take part in the national Bebras Competition. 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.
DRAMA: 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.
FRENCH: <i>Toys and bears</i> – A journey through childhood via tales and toys. Students will study adjectives, “there is” and “there are”, and possessive adjective, and gain cultural knowledge of toys and tales from around the world.
GEOGRAPHY: <i>Exploring the UK</i> – Students investigate the physical and human geography of the UK as a whole.
HISTORY: Students will study what medieval life was like all over the world. They will first analyse what medieval life was like in England and then compare this with life in Asia and South America during the same period.
MANDARIN: 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.
MUSIC: <i>Rhythm and Pulse</i> – Pupils will be learning how to read and write from Western Classical musical notation.
PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS: <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.
PHYSICAL EDUCATION: Students will continue to experience “taster lessons” on a wide variety of sports and physical activities. They will develop transferable fundamental movements, teamwork skills, and improve their knowledge and experience of cardiovascular fitness.
PSHE: <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.
TECHNOLOGY: Students follow a rotational system, all starting at different points. Key topics covered across year 7 are: an animal themed pencil holder, making a drawstring bag, healthy eating, and key knife skills for cooking.

News

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

Key Contacts

Head of Year 7 & Transition: **Mr J Poolman**
Year 7 Student Wellbeing Manager: **Mr T Clarke**
Assistant Head, Personal Development: **Mr J Clelland**

Queries

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

Aspiration

APPROACH TO LEARNING REPORTS

Year 7 have had a brilliant start to the year with most students being graded as active or ambitious in their Approach to Learning, and Approach to Homework. This is a fantastic reflection of all the positivity and hard work taking place in classroom. Congratulations, Year 7!

CAREERS FAIR

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.

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

Use this link to access our [extra-curricular offer](#) for Term 2. To kickstart the creation of a new club, talk to School Council reps or tutors!

SILENT DISCO

Year 7 are having a Silent Disco on the evening of Wednesday 3rd December (7–9pm). Tickets will cost £6; this price includes £1.50 for on-the-night purchases from refreshments stalls – no need to bring cash. More details to follow.

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.

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.

Integrity

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.

Integrity

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.

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/>

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**

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> and if you do not yet have access as a parent please sign up here:

<https://club.teentips.co.uk/register/parents/?ca=b0b22db7c0c44f6ebbe4c320c6fb6ec5>

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

Absence

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

Key Dates

Monday 10th November

Friday 14th November

Wednesday 3rd December, 7-9pm

Thursday 4th December

Tuesday 9th December, 7pm start

Friday 5th December

Thursday 18th December

Friday 19th December

Monday 22nd December – Friday 2nd January

Monday 5th January

Tuesday 6th January

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

Children in Need – Non-School Uniform Day

Y7 Silent Disco

All Years – Careers Fair

Carol Concert – Trinity Church

Y7-11 Flu Vaccinations (see **letter**)

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)