



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 the [Curriculum Maps](#) page on our school website.

ENGLISH: <i>Creative Writing</i> – Students will study the conventions of detective fiction and will produce a piece of narrative writing in the genre of their own.
MATHS: Students will undertake a Number unit and explore Integers, Powers & Roots. We will explore prime numbers as well as square and cube numbers, and we will look at various things we can do with factors and multiples.
SCIENCE: Students will be completing a Chemistry topic looking at chemical reactions, looking in detail at the reaction of acids and alkalis as well as the reactions of metals. They will also complete a Physics topic on waves, looking at wave properties, and the behaviour of light and sound waves.
ART: <i>Portraiture</i> – Students will develop and refine their observational drawing skills through looking at the complexities of the human face. They will explore the formal elements and proportion, culminating in a tonal self-portrait drawing. Students use their Year 7 school photo to produce pencil and monoprint portraits. They will be invited to submit an alternative photo if they wish, but it must be a similar 'passport-style', face-front image.
COMPUTER SCIENCE: Students will learn how data of various types (including text, sounds and pictures) can be represented and manipulated digitally, in the form of binary digits.
DRAMA: Year 7 students will begin working with Physical Theatre, creating their own haunted houses, and performing a group scene entitled: <i>The Ghost</i> .
FRENCH: <i>Geography and tourism</i> – We will be exploring the UK and France and discovering children's journeys to school around the world. Students will study "to do" and "to go" in the present tense, partitive articles, and vocabulary for opinions. They will make cross-curricular links with Geography.
GEOGRAPHY: <i>Under the Canopy</i> – Should we save the rainforests? Students will understand the key features of a rainforest ecosystem; exploring the benefits and the threats they face.
HISTORY: Students will look at the causes of the Crusades and how it impacted the Christian and Islamic world.
MANDARIN: Students will develop the ability to pronounce the words learnt in Term 1 to 3 without the help of pinyin. Also, students will be learning to memorize the structures of the characters and write texts in Mandarin.
MUSIC: <i>Form and Structure</i> – Pupils will be learning about how pieces of music are arranged into coherent sections.
PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS: <i>What are key Christian beliefs?</i> An investigation into key aspects of Christian belief including the existence of God and the Trinity, creation, places of worship, and the role of communities in celebrating festivals.
PHYSICAL EDUCATION: The focus for all will continue to be on high levels of activity and participation as well as establishing consistent routines and encouraging independence. Students will further explore Gymnastics, Invasion Games, and Net Games during Term 4 on a rotational basis.
PSHE: <i>Healthy Me</i> – Students will look at the extent of our responsibility for our mental and physical health. Lessons will cover mindfulness, nutrition and exercise, sleep, stress management, and choices affecting our well-being. Participants will learn to manage emotions, understand the impact of lifestyle choices, and develop strategies for maintaining health.
TECHNOLOGY: 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.

Aspiration

IMPACT PROGRESS CHECKS

During the week commencing 19th February, Year 7 students will receive Impact Progress Checks. Feedback for each subject includes specific targets set by teachers that, if completed, will have a positive impact on your child's progress. We would be very grateful to have parents' support in encouraging students to complete these targets by:

- Reviewing the targets with your child and discussing how and when they will achieve them.
- Placing the report somewhere prominent and regularly checking to see if they have completed their targets.

Thank you for your support.

PARENT TEACHER CONSULTATION EVENING

Our Year 7 Parent Teacher Consultation Evening will be held at school on Thursday 21st March, 4.30–7.30pm. Bookings will be made via [Epraise](#) and are expected to open from 6pm on Thursday 14th March. Further details will follow. We look forward to communicating with parents about the progress and wellbeing of your children, and to working together to ensure further progress.

SENECA

If you have not already done so, we encourage all parents to sign up to SENECA Learning to support your child's homework and revision; emails have been sent to those not yet signed up.

KS4 students have access to the premium package which includes some extra GCSE revision resources. KS3 students have access to a full suite of revision and homework activities for all subjects. Students in all year groups are regularly recognised for their SENECA Learning use. This [parent guide](#) has details on how to support your child with SENECA.

MATHS CHALLENGE

Selected Year 7 and 8 students have been offered the opportunity to take part in some Maths Challenge problem-solving sessions in school this term, run by sixth form students from Radley College. The Junior Maths Challenge is a 60-minute problem-solving challenge aimed to test students' mathematical thinking and will take place in term 5. It is a chance for our Year 7 and 8 mathematicians to compete against pupils from across the country, as well as students from international schools.

Opportunity

CAREERS FAIR

We are hosting a [Careers Fair](#) during the school day on Tuesday 5th March, open to all students. Parents are invited to visit from 3.30–4.30pm. A variety of employers will attend. Students will have the opportunity to speak to employers about their business and potential job roles, apprenticeships and routes into employment and training.

CARNEGIES

The [Yoto Carnegies Award](#) is 'the UK's oldest and most prestigious book award for children's fiction', with the shortlisted novels receiving wide critical acclaim. This term, participating Year 7 and 8 students will begin the Carnegies shadowing scheme, where they will read and review the shortlisted books, and attend events such as the welcome tea, quiz, and the forum. This shadowing scheme enables our keen readers to work alongside pupils from several local secondary schools to choose the book they feel most deserves the Yoto Carnegie Medal for Writing.

SHREK: THE MUSICAL

Our student performers and backstage crew have been working hard on rehearsals for [Shrek the Musical!](#) Evening performances will take place on Thursday 14th and Friday 15th March; doors 6.30pm, with curtain up at 7pm. Refreshments will be available on the night. Tickets cost £5.00 each and should be available via [ParentMail](#) from Thursday 23rd February.

EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA

Eggciting! An Easter Scavenger Hunt for Year 7 will be held on Wednesday 27th March, after school. Details will follow.

PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

Year 7 students are encouraged to enter our student-organised photography competition. The top-3 winning entries will receive a prize! Submit a photo on the theme of sunset to Ms Emeny by Friday 15th March. The winning entries will be selected the following week.

Integrity

COMIC RELIEF: RED NOSE DAY

There will be a non-school uniform day on Friday 17th March in aid of Comic Relief. Suggested donation is £1 (with the option to donate more) and will be collected online via [ParentMail](#) in the usual way in due course. Tutor groups will also be encouraged to plan fundraising events they can run themselves in school on the day, to further support fundraising efforts. Please do encourage your child to share any fundraising ideas they have with their tutor.

FSA JUMBLE SALE UPDATE

A big thank you to all who supported the FSA Giant Jumble Sale last month; a whopping £2158.55 was raised!

News

School website: [Home page](#)

Facebook:

[@fitzharryschool](#)

Instagram: [fitzharrys](#)

X: [@fitzharrys](#)

Key Contacts

Head of Year 7 and Transition: **Ms K Emeny**

Year 7 Student Wellbeing Manager: **Mr T Clarke**

Assistant Head, Personal Development: **Mr T Edwards**

Queries

Any queries, please [contact](#) the school.

Email: office.4127@fitzharrys.school

Phone: **01235 520698**

Key Dates

Monday 19th February (w/c)

Thursday 29th February

Tuesday 5th March

Sunday 10th March, 10am–3pm

Tuesday 12th March (school hours)

Wednesday 13th March, 2pm

Thursday 14th March, 6pm

Thursday 14th – Friday 15th March, 7pm

Friday 15th March

Tuesday 19th March (after school)

Tuesday 19th March (after school)

Thursday 21st March, 10am–12pm

Thursday 21st March, 4.30pm–7.30pm

Wednesday 27th March (after school, times TBC)

Thursday 28th March, 1.10pm finish

Friday 29th March – Friday 12th April

Monday 15th April

Year 7 Impact Progress Checks

Year 7 STEM Workshops

Careers Fair – all years – open to parents 3.30–4.30pm

Shrek: Sunday Dress Rehearsal – whole cast & crew

Shrek: All day rehearsal

Shrek: Matinee performance for primary school pupils

Year 7 Parent Teacher Evening bookings go live on Epraise

Shrek: Evening performances

Comic Relief: Red Nose Day – Non School Uniform Day

Year 7 Vale Tournament Netball, John Mason School

Year 7 Trip: A Midsummer Night's Dream performance (signed-up students only)

Year 7 & 8 Carnegies: Welcome Tea at Europa School

Year 7 Parent Teacher Consultation Evening (on-site, in person)

Year 7 Easter Scavenger Hunt

End of term

EASTER HOLIDAY

Term 5 begins