



2023–24: Term 1 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

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

ENGLISH: *England Poetry* – Students will study a range of poetry from across the ages, inspired by, and dealing with, the idea of England. Students will learn to compare poetic method and will produce a comparison of two poems.

MATHS: We will be covering a topic on Fractions, Decimals, Percentages and Ratio & Proportion. This is a key topic which connects to many other mathematical topics, including probability – and contains a core set of number skills for numeracy in other subjects.

SCIENCE: Students will first study a biology topic on the Respiratory System and the effect of drugs such as alcohol and smoking on the body. They will go on to study a physics topic on the effect of Forces on objects and pressure.

ART: We begin to look at Architecture; taking inspiration from a range of artists including Simon Ling, John Constable, and Beomsik Won. Students will explore drawing techniques in pencil and pen. They will look at their immediate surrounding at school, and make their own source images using collaging to create “monster buildings”.

COMPUTER SCIENCE: Students will develop their knowledge of Online Safety, including issues like online grooming, sexting, selfies, keeping a positive digital footprint, and the impact of screen time on physical and mental health.

DRAMA: Students begin with performances of ‘Charlie and the Chocolate Factory’, before revisiting Physical Theatre (introduced in year 7) to create a slow-motion piece called *The Crash*, using a technique called ‘Thought Tracking’.

FRENCH: *Going back to school – What is school like in France?* What about Harry Potter? Students will revisit key verbs in the present tense. They will describe their day and give opinions about school.

GEOGRAPHY: *A Risky World – Are natural hazards more dangerous than ever before?* Exploring the structure of the Earth, looking at how the tectonic plates move and how this forms hazards, such as earthquakes and volcanoes.

HISTORY: Students look at the history of the British Empire and the impact that has had on the world around us. They will then decide whether they think we should be proud of the British Empire.

MUSIC: *Reggae* – Pupils will learn about the historical context and the key musical elements of Reggae.

PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS: *Does religion cause or reduce inequality?* A discussion of the extent of inequality in our world today, looking at topics including sport, gender, racism, and homelessness, reaching a judgement of how religion impacts this inequality.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION: Students will develop their skills and explore more advanced principals in two specific Invasion Games: Netball and Rugby.

PSHE: This term PSHE focuses in greater depth on *Being me in my World*, looking at family and family factors, faith and beliefs, and the power of first impressions. Students will ask themselves this question: “Who am I?”

SPANISH: *Spanish basics* – Students will study Spanish pronunciation, articles, adjectives, and negative sentences.

TECHNOLOGY: Students follow a rotational system, all starting at different points. Key topics covered in year 8 are: designing a mechanical toy, a boom box, making a drawstring bag, and a unit of Food Tech exploring cafe culture.

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 Years 8–9: **Mr J Crowe**
Deputy Head of KS3 (Years 8–9): **Dr S Ouvry**
Years 8–9 Student Wellbeing Manager: **Miss P Allen**
Assistant Head, Personal Development: **Mr M Davies**

Queries

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

Aspiration

NEW FITZHARRYS AWARDS SYSTEM

Our new Fitzharrys Awards launch this term, recognising our students' achievements that reflect our core values: Aspiration, Opportunity, Integrity. Every student can work towards achieving Bronze, Silver, and Gold awards by completing a series of activities that support the development of our core values. Each student will be issued with an Awards Booklet to record evidence of their progress. A guide for parents detailing the new awards system will follow in the coming weeks.

ATTENDANCE GUIDE

Excellent attendance offers the best opportunity to ensure academic success. Please read our new guide: [Attendance – A Guide for Parents & Carers](#), which contains useful information to help support your child's good attendance.

IMPACT PROGRESS CHECKS

At the end of this term, Year 8 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:

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

Thank you for your support.

Opportunity

CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

Our [extra-curricular offer](#) is now online. To kickstart the creation of a new club, talk to School Council reps or tutors!

SHREK – WHOLE SCHOOL MUSICAL – AUDITIONS

Our musical this year will be [Shrek!](#) Year 8s are encouraged to attend the information meeting to find out more.

- **Information meeting:** Wednesday 13th September in Music – 3.15–3.45pm
- **General auditions:** Wednesday 20th September in Music – 3.30–4.30pm
- **Callback auditions:** Friday 22nd September in Drama – 3.30–4.30pm
- **Rehearsals** will take place on Monday lunchtimes (dance rehearsals/choreography), Wednesday after school (music rehearsals), and Friday afternoons (staging), and begin on Wednesday 27th September at 3.15pm.

FSA QUIZ NIGHT

The [Fitzharrys School Association](#)'s popular [Quiz Night](#) fundraiser is set for Friday 13th October, 7.30pm–10.30pm. There will be a licensed bar, option for a pizza dinner, and a wooden spoon for the losers! Entry forms will follow by school email soon.

ANXIETY – CAMHS IN-REACH

A CAMHS In-Reach session about [Talking To Your Child About Anxiety](#) is being held in the school library on Thursday 21st September, 5.30–7pm. All parents and carers are welcome to attend; the session is open to all.

Integrity

OPEN EVENING – FITZHARRYS AMBASSADORS

Our annual Open Evening will be held on Thursday 5th October, 5.30–8.00pm, and we welcome the help of our fantastic students, many of whom are very keen to be Fitzharrys ambassadors, acting as tour guides and department support on the night. Communications will go out to students and parents over the coming weeks as we prepare for this event – thank you all in advance for your support in enacting a successful Open Evening.

UNIFORM

We would like to thank parents for your support in ensuring high standards of uniform. Following the period of hot weather, we have returned to our regular policy. Students who are unable to wear full uniform should see their tutor with a note to be issued a uniform pass for that specific day. A full uniform code can be found here: [Uniform Policy](#). Please contact your Tutor or Head of Year with any concerns.

LOANED BOOKS – CALL FOR RETURNS

In Years 7, 8 and 9 at Fitzharrys School, students study a novel. We lend students copies of the books so that they can complete some of the reading at home. In general, we get very good returns of these texts, but we have noticed that our stock is a little depleted. We would be very grateful if you could have a look around at home to see if you have any school copies of texts. Specifically, we would appreciate returns of:

- **Girl. Boy. Sea.** by Chris Vick
- **The Hunger Games** by Suzanne Collins
- **Strange Meeting** by Susan Hill

Cover images can be viewed below, to aid your search. Thank you for your support.



WORLD CAR-FREE DAY

At Fitzharrys, we continue to focus on our environment and on being environmentally friendly. In that spirit, we are pleased to share this poster from Abingdon Carbon Cutters: **World Car Free Day** (Friday 22nd September 2023).

OUR FINEST HOUR – DIGITAL COLLECTION DAY

Fitzharrys School is proud to be participating in **Their Finest Hour**, a nationwide campaign organised by the University of Oxford and funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, which is collecting and preserving the everyday stories and objects of the Second World War.

Bring your diaries, letters, photos, memories, objects or stories about your family's wartime experience to our **Digital Collection Day** taking place at Fitzharrys School on Saturday 16th September 2023 between 10am–2pm, where they will be recorded and added to a free-to-use online archive launching in June 2024.

If you are interested in volunteering and helping on the day, your support would be gratefully received. Please contact Mrs Chadwick at schadwick@fitzharrys.school for more details.

Key Dates

Wednesday 13 th September, 3.15–3.45	Shrek – Information Meeting – Music Department
Saturday 16 th September, 10am–2pm	Our Finest Hour – Digital Collection Day – South Block, Fitzharrys School
Wednesday 20 th September, 3.30–4.30	Shrek – General Auditions – Music Department
Thursday 21 st September, 5.30–7pm	CAMHS IN-Reach session on Talking To Your Child About Anxiety, in the Library
Friday 22 nd September, 3.30–4.30pm	Shrek – Call-back Auditions – Music Department
Thursday 5 th October, 1.10pm	School closes early ahead of Open Evening
Thursday 5 th October, 5.30–8pm	Open Evening
Friday 6 th October	INSET Day – school closed to students
Monday 9 th – Friday 13 th October	Open Mornings (tours at 9am and 10am – booking required)
Friday 13 th October, doors 7pm	FSA Fundraiser: Quiz Night
Friday 20 th October	Last day of term for students
Monday 23 rd – Friday 27 th October	SUMMER HOLIDAY
Monday 30 th October	Start of Term 2