



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

ENGLISH: *Celebrity Non-fiction* – Students will study a range of non-fiction texts, including those from the nineteenth century, that deal with the topic of celebrity and fandom. Students will compare attitudes, methods, and effects.

MATHS: We will finish our *Fractions, Decimals & Percentages* topic before moving on to *Length, Area and Volume*.

SCIENCE: Students will complete a chemistry topic on elements, their properties and writing chemical formulae and the periodic table. They will also study a physics topic looking at the transfer of energy in a system, with a focus on the transfer of heat energy and how this can be reduced.

ART: *Architecture* – Students explore ideas in a range of media, influenced by the work of Stephen Wiltshire, Beomsik Won, and others. They will refine drawing skills, produce ceramic houses, and learn collograph printing techniques.

COMPUTER SCIENCE: Students will learn to design web pages. They will use notepad to write basic HTML and CSS commands. Their end of unit project will be to develop a website consisting of 3–4 pages.

DRAMA: Students look at the play *Audience* written by Michael Frayn, and study both naturalistic and melodramatic styles of acting, culminating in an end of term melodramatic performance of *The Damsel in Distress*.

FRENCH: *Rediscovering Gothic literature French style* – Students will revisit “avoir” and study the perfect tense with “avoir”. They will create Gothic scenes using a variety of adjectives. They will make cross-curricular links with English.

GEOGRAPHY: *Amazing Africa – How varied and different are locations in Africa?* Students extend locational knowledge and deepen spatial awareness of Africa, focusing on environmental regions, key physical and human characteristics, countries, and major cities.

HISTORY: Students will look at the History of Africa and research the impact of the Malian Empire. We then look at slavery and how over time it has led to racism across the world. We finish by looking at how this has had an impact on Britain in the 20th century, researching such topics as the Windrush Generation and the Bristol bus boycotts.

MUSIC: *Variations* – Pupils will be focusing on writing compositions using Western Classical musical notation. They will study a composition approach used by Western Classical composers, especially from the Baroque period.

PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS: *How far does religion support family life?* We assess the extent to which religious teachings support people's circumstances, lifestyles, and choices with a focus on how family life functions today.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION: Students will be exploring more advanced principles in specific Invasion Games: Netball, Football and Rugby. 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.

PSHE: *Celebrating Difference* – Students will delve deep into topics like injustice, bullying, and the beauty of diversity. Through this journey, pupils will be equipped with the knowledge and emotional skills to recognise, challenge, and make a positive impact against prejudice and discrimination.

SPANISH: *Poetry* – Students will study “ser”, “tener”, possessive adjectives, and the vocabulary of family.

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](#) page on the school website.

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

YEAR 8 PARENT TEACHER CONSULTATION EVENING

The Year 8 Parent Teacher Consultation Evening will be held online on Thursday, 30th November from 4.30pm. Bookings should go live one week in advance; exact date confirmation will follow by school email in due course. We look forward to communicating with parents and carers about the progress and wellbeing of your children, and to working together to ensure further progress.

IMPACT PROGRESS CHECKS

At the end of last term, Year 8 students received Impact Progress Checks; digital copies are available to view on [My Child at School](#). Please review the feedback from each subject and encourage your child to strive to meet the targets set by teachers – this will have a positive impact on your child's progress.

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 8 volunteers are needed to help run the Year 7 Silent Disco on Wednesday 6th December (times TBC). Volunteering is an excellent opportunity to develop confidence and advance valuable skills. It can also be used as evidence towards the new School Awards in the Integrity category. Register your interest with Miss Emeny or Mr Clarke.

Integrity

CHILDREN IN NEED – NON-SCHOOL UNIFORM DAY

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

Key Dates

Friday 17th November
Thursday 23rd November, 5–7pm
Thursday 30th November, 4.30pm–7.30pm
Friday 1st December
Wednesday 6th December (times TBC)
Monday 11th – Friday 15th December
Tuesday 12th December, 7pm
Friday 15th December, 7–8.30pm
Wednesday 20th December
Thursday 21st Dec – Friday 5th Jan
Monday 8th January
Tuesday 9th January

Children in Need – Non-School Uniform Day
JMF6–Abingdon Open Evening (Fitzharrys School site)
Y8 Parent Teacher Consultation Evening (online)
INSET Day; school closed to students
Y7 Silent Disco (with Y8 Volunteers)
Inter-House Cross Country Competition Week (in PE lessons)
Carol Concert – Trinity Church
Staff Panto (doors 6.30pm, start 7pm)
End of Term 2 (school closes at 1.10pm)
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY
INSET DAY; school closed to students
Start of Term 3 (Week B)