



2023–24: Term 3 Overview

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

ENGLISH: *Dystopian Fiction* – Students will study a dystopian novel and, along the way, be introduced to the conventions of dystopian fiction. They will produce an analytical essay that connects the language, structure and form of an extract with that of the novel more widely.

MATHS: At the start of Term 3, we finish off our Length, Area & Volume topic before moving on to Sequences, Functions & Graphs. This unit enables pupils to connect the algebraic representations they'll have met in year 7 with graphical representations, as well as exploring conversion graphs and distance-time graphs.

SCIENCE: Students undertake a Biology topic studying Genes and evolution, natural selection, extinction, inheritance, and DNA. They will also complete a Chemistry topic on climate change, the carbon cycle, and the Earth's resources.

ART: Students will further develop their painting skills, taking inspiration from the work of Stephen Gardner and others. We will focus on using watercolour and biro to create mixed media studies of different buildings.

COMPUTER SCIENCE: Students will learn about: network protocols and the components that make up a computer network; how messages are sent across the internet; and explore Internet Services and the World Wide Web.

DRAMA: Students are studying Michal Frayn's play: *Audience*. Their assessment performance inspired by this script will be rehearsing a melodrama entitled *The Damsel in Distress* where students will devise their own ending.

FRENCH: *Animals* – Exploring the world of animals. Students will revisit the use of adjectives. They will study "venir de" in the present, possessive adjectives and reflexive verbs. Students will discover a French fiction character.

GEOGRAPHY: How do rivers shape our land? Students will study the journey of a river from its upper to its lower course, whilst exploring its key landforms, and the opportunities and challenges settlements near rivers face.

HISTORY: Students will study the Industrial Revolution and the impact it had on both Britain and Oxfordshire.

MUSIC: *Western African Drumming* – Pupils will be learning about traditional West African drumming; performing, composing, and how it is learnt by ear.

PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS: *Religious rites of passage – do they matter?* An investigation into different religious ceremonies that take place during a person's life, with an evaluation of their importance in today's world.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION: This term, students will have an opportunity to develop their skills and explore more advanced principals in Invasion and Net Games, with Gymnastics activities also being learned.

PSHE: We will explore the significant theme "Can the choices I make now influence my future?" This will include understanding long-term goals, the role of money in society, online safety, income variations across the world, and the impact of financial decisions on mental health and community dynamics.

SPANISH: *Volcanoes and earthquakes* – Understanding authentic texts and videos about volcanoes and earthquakes in Spanish speaking regions. Students will study colours, modal verbs and the use of the infinitive. They will make cross curricular links with Geography.

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](#)
X: [@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 T Edwards**

Queries

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

Aspiration

ACHIEVEMENT ASSEMBLY

Term 2 ended with an Achievement assembly which celebrated all the fantastic progress made by students since September. Over 30,000 House points have been awarded to Year 8 students already this year, with 68 students achieving their bronze House point award. 22 Year 8s received 3 or more subject award nominations for showing Aspiration, Opportunity and Integrity in their lessons, and 48 students received recognition for 100% attendance. Students that were absent for only one day due to a medical or other urgent appointment also received a 100% achievement award. Well done to form 8Z who had the best attendance average across the entire school for terms 1-2! The Achievement assembly was an inspiring review of all the hard work and dedication shown by our students. Congratulations to all!

IMPACT PROGRESS CHECKS

In Term 1, students received impact progress checks. The feedback from each subject included clear targets for students to work on, set by their teachers. We would encourage parents to look back at these and see if students have completed those targets as they, when achieved, will have a positive impact on your child's progress.

Hard copies of the impact progress checks were sent home via students in the usual way. A digital copy can be accessed via your [My Child at School](#) login. If you experience any difficulties accessing this information, please [contact](#) your child's tutor.

100 BOOKS – READING CHALLENGE

Students are being encouraged engage with our [100 Books to Read Whilst You're at Fitzharrys](#) booklet. Each time a student has read ten books from our list, they will be entered into a prize draw to win book vouchers from local bookstore, Mostly Books. Reading Award badges will be given out when students reach the milestones of 25 books, 50 books and 75 books. Any student who reads all 100 books before leaving Fitzharrys will receive a Platinum Award.

Opportunity

CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

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

CROSS COUNTRY

All students in Year 7, 8 and 9 took part in cross country in their PE lessons at the end of term 2. The highest finishers will be invited to participate in the County Cross Country Championships at Radley School on 24th January.

SCHOOL SLEEPOVER

A Year 8 School Sleepover will be held on Friday 26th January from 6pm, to 9am on Saturday 27th January. [This letter](#) with full details was sent out by school email on 5th January. Please note, [this electronic form must be filled out](#) in addition to sending payment via ParentMail – please ensure both actions are completed to help with administration.

NETBALL & FOOTBALL TEAM TRIP – HOLLAND 2025

A letter regarding the planning of our bi-annual trip to Holland is being sent out to parents of students in years 7-9. The letter will contain a link to an electronic form to register expressions of interest; please note this must be completed by 18th January, to help with planning.

Integrity

HPV VACCINATION

The HPV vaccinations are being offered to Year 8 students at school on Friday 19th January. [This letter](#) with links to online registration forms was sent out on 12th December – please ensure these are completed before the vaccination day if you would like your child to receive this vaccination at school.

UNIFORM

Please be reminded of our school uniform policy:

<https://www.fitzharrys.oxon.sch.uk/assets/POLICIES/Uniform-Policy-March-23-v2.pdf>

We will be focussing on ensuring all students meet our high expectations. For support with uniform, please contact your child's tutor in the first instance.

FITZHARRYS COMMUNITY: FSA JUMBLE SALE

Thanks to all intending to support the [FSA Giant Jumble Sale](#) (Sunday 28th January, 10am-12pm). The FSA team are looking forward to helping our community find a few bargains whilst helping the planet by reducing waste, reusing and recycling. They would love volunteers to help set up (on Saturday 27th) or on the day of the sale. [Email FSA here](#). Further details on how to donate items or volunteer help can be found in [this letter](#).

Key Dates

Friday 19th January

Friday 26th – Saturday 27th January, 6pm – 9am

Sunday 28th January, 10am-12pm

Friday 9th February, 3.15pm

Monday 12th – Friday 16th February

Monday 19th February

Year 8 HPV vaccinations

Year 8 Sleepover at Fitzharrys School

FSA Giant Jumble Sale, Fitzharrys Main Hall

End of Term 3

HALF TERM HOLIDAY

Start of Term 4 (Week A)