



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: *Creative Writing* – Students will study a genre and its conventions, and will plan, compose and edit a piece of descriptive writing that situates itself within that genre.

MATHS: Students explore probability, analysing real world contexts as well as utilising various mathematical tools to explore how the world of chance works.

SCIENCE: Students will complete a Biology topic looking at aerobic and anaerobic respiration, as well as the process of photosynthesis in plants. They will also study two Chemistry topics: one looking at the Earth's atmosphere, greenhouse gases and climate change and the carbon cycle; the second focusing on chemical reactions including combustion and thermal decomposition.

ART: This term we begin a new project looking at ideas and artwork inspired by the Day of the Dead celebrations. Student will work towards producing their own candy-skull inspired artwork, through a series of skills and technique workshops in a range of drawing media.

COMPUTER SCIENCE: Students will learn about network protocols and the components that make up a computer network. They will be able to explain how messages are sent across the internet and explore Internet Services.

DRAMA: Students in Drama continue work on status in this term, with a focus on the use of ranking and hierarchy and how those elements might affect a scene such as *Kicking Out* or *Big Bang*.

FRENCH: *I love food* – Experimenting with food. Students will revisit partitive articles with food, the verb “prendre” in the present tense. They will make cross curricular links with Food Technology as well as Science: healthy eating.

GEOGRAPHY: *Plentiful Population and Moving Migration* – Is migration always a choice? Students will explore how our global population has changed over time, and how population is distributed around the world, by looking at patterns of migration and urbanisation.

HISTORY: Students will look at the Industrial Revolution and the impact it had on Britain and the rest of the world.

MUSIC: *Jazz & Blues* – Pupils will be learning about the evolution of the Blues and that how it further evolved into Jazz.

PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS: *Is charity a necessary part of being religious?* An assessment of the origins of poverty, the existence of wealth and charity, and the extent that charity is a key part of religious practice.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION: Students in Term 4 will have an opportunity to further develop their skills and explore more advanced principals in Invasion and Net Games with Gymnastics activity also being learned.

PSHE: *Healthy Me:* Students focus on actions that support physical and emotional well-being, understanding the impact of substances, the importance of dental health, and how vaccinations contribute to public health. Strategies for making informed health decisions and responding to peer pressure will also be covered, empowering students to take responsibility for their health and safety.

SPANISH: *Sports* – Understanding verbs of sport in Spanish and creating warm up routines. Students will study the present tense of regular verbs, “jugar” and “hacer”. They will make cross curricular links with PE.

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.

Aspiration

SUPPORT PROGRESS

Support your child's progress by looking back at their last Impact Progress Report (delivered at the end of Term 1) and regularly checking it with them to see if they have completed the targets set by subject teachers. Digital copies of the Impact Progress Report can be accessed via your [My Child at School](#) account.

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

THE HUMAN LIBRARY: CAREERS EVENT

Year 8 will participate in a special careers event on Friday 23rd February. Local professionals from variety of different industries will kindly visit Fitzharrys to share their experiences. The students will move around in groups to meet all the visiting professionals, asking them questions about their jobs to learn about possible future careers.

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.

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.

CARNEGIES

This term, participating Year 7 & 8 students will begin the [Yoto Carnegies Award](#) shadowing scheme, where they will read and review this year's shortlisted books, and attend related 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.

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: [@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**
Asst. Head, Personal Development: **Mr T Edwards**

Queries

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

Key Dates

Friday 23rd February

Tuesday 5th March

Sunday 10th March, 10am–3pm

Tuesday 12th March (school hours)

Tuesday 12th March (after school)

Wednesday 13th March, 2pm

Thursday 14th – Friday 15th March, 7pm

Friday 15th March

Monday 18th March

Thursday 21st March, 10am–12pm

Thursday 28th March, 1.10pm finish

Friday 29th March – Friday 12th April

Monday 15th April

Year 8 Careers Event: Human Library

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

Shrek: Sunday Dress Rehearsal – whole cast & crew

Shrek: All day rehearsal

Year 8 Vale Tournament Netball, John Mason School

Shrek: Matinee performance for primary school pupils

Shrek: Evening performances

Comic Relief: Red Nose Day – Non School Uniform Day

Year 8 – Year 11 HPV vaccination catchup (some students only)

Year 7 & 8 Carnegies: Welcome Tea at Europa School

End of term

EASTER HOLIDAY

Term 5 begins