



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 our [Curriculum Maps](#) webpage.

<p>ENGLISH: <i>Shakespeare</i> – Students will study <i>The Merchant of Venice</i>. They will engage with Shakespeare’s language and themes, and will learn about dramatic form, ultimately writing an analytical essay about a key extract.</p>
<p>MATHS: <i>Transformations, Shape and Constructions</i> – This topic is all about how we can accurately draw shapes and what happens when we perform various operations on them. Using Pythagoras and Trigonometry, we start to explore the links between the lengths of sides and angles in a right-angle triangle.</p>
<p>SCIENCE: Students will continue their study of electrical circuits before moving on to look at electromagnetism and its uses. They will also continue a Biology topic focussed on ecosystems, natural selection, and genetics.</p>
<p>ART: Students will return to print making and painting this term. They will be introduced to reduction printing techniques to produce multi-layered prints of skulls inspired by the highly decorative candy skulls that have evolved from the Day of the Dead traditions.</p>
<p>COMPUTER SCIENCE: Students will learn a new language: JavaScript using the App Lab software. They will develop new skills and design their own mobile app.</p>
<p>DRAMA: Students will use the lyrics from the song <i>Old Man</i> by Randy Newman to create a devised duologue between an old man and his adult child, as they try to resolve their difficulties at the end of the old man’s life.</p>
<p>FRENCH: <i>Technology – PE – Art</i> – Appreciating the natural world via Technology lessons content, exploring architecture, and creating PE warm up routines. Students will study modal verbs, superlatives and comparatives and the imperative. They will make cross curricular links with Technology, Art, and PE.</p>
<p>GEOGRAPHY: <i>Geography of Sport</i> – Students explore how geography relates to sport, connecting well known sports players or events with geographical places and considering sustainability in sport.</p>
<p>HISTORY: Students will gain an understanding of the worldwide fight for female suffrage and have discussions around current equality issues in society.</p>
<p>MUSIC: <i>Music Production</i> – Pupils will be learning about contemporary forms of composition using music technology.</p>
<p>PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS: <i>Death – is it an end or a beginning?</i> A discussion of the meaning of life and death (personal, religious, and secular) and the significance of the concept of immortality and the resurrection of Jesus.</p>
<p>PHYSICAL EDUCATION: Students will develop their skills and explore advanced principals in Strike and Field games.</p>
<p>PSHE: A greater depth look at <i>Relationships</i>, focusing on the importance of self-control, understanding relationships, personal space, and staying safe both in the physical and online worlds. We’ll learn to navigate social media, respect personal boundaries, and where to seek help, fostering inclusion and emotional wellbeing.</p>
<p>SPANISH: <i>Cultural trip</i> – Appreciating Spanish architecture and art, and planning a visit to Spain. Students will study “ir” and the near future. They will use comparatives.</p>
<p>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.</p>

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 Ouvre**
 Years 8–9 Student Wellbeing Manager: **Miss P Allen**
 Assistant Head, Personal Development: **Mr J Clelland**

Queries

Any queries, please **contact** the school.
 Email: office.4127@fitzharrys.school
 Phone: **01235 520698**

Aspiration

HELP SUPPORT PROGRESS

Support your child's progress by looking back at their last Impact Progress Report 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.

BEDROCK LEARNING

Congratulations to all students who received Bedrock awards in last term's Achievement Assembly. Awards were given to all students who were in the 'Green Zone': completing at least 2 Bedrock tasks every single week. Knowledge of vocabulary can unlock the curriculum for students, boosting their confidence and comprehension when they meet new texts, and increasing the sophistication and precision of their own written expression.

Bedrock Learning uses artificial intelligence to introduce students to appropriate new vocabulary, reading aloud to students to support them, and using a variety of interactive tasks to help consolidate their understanding. Do ask your child about the words they have been meeting through Bedrock, to help them to bring them into their own active vocabularies.

MATHS CHALLENGES

Following the Maths Challenge problem-solving sessions run in school last term, selected Year 7 and 8 students will be taking part in the **Junior Maths Challenge** this term, run by sixth form students from Radley College. This is a 60-minute problem-solving challenge aimed to test students' mathematical thinking, competing against both national and international students. We are also running a Maths Maestros Enrichment Club on a Friday lunchtime for students in Years 7-9, to explore some interesting Mathematical problems – encourage your child to attend!

Opportunity

CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

View our updated extra-curricular offer at: <https://www.fitzharrys.oxon.sch.uk/students/clubs-and-activities/>

WOMEN'S FA CUP FINAL TRIP

This trip offer has been very popular and is already heavily over-subscribed, so registrations have now closed. Communications home are expected imminently regarding the allocation of places.

Integrity

UNIFORM

Students can choose to wear our optional summer uniform during Terms 5-6; full details on our **Uniform** webpage. The summer uniform options include a blue school-logo polo shirt and tailored shorts. If students decide not to wear the summer uniform, they should remain in shirt, tie and blazer. We politely remind students that, as always, they should not wear hooded jumpers to school, and they should continue to wear formal school shoes, not trainers. Many thanks for your continued support with maintaining the high standards we expect at Fitzharrys School.

THE WELLBEING HUB

We are pleased to be able to introduce free access for parents to The Wellbeing Hub by Teen Tips. This online platform is crafted with expertise in child and adolescent mental health, offering resources to support your child's social and emotional wellbeing. Benefits include audio/video courses, weekly resources (podcasts, articles, tips), live monthly Q&As with psychotherapists, career advice, and a comprehensive and evolving Q&A library. Additionally, there are self-care resources, member offers, and access to expert webinars on various topics. You will have access to resources which are made for parents as the target audience.

You can find a Guided Video Tour of The Wellbeing Hub for Parents here:

<https://vimeo.com/818403262/d7891fd5a3?share=copy>, and a Visual Guide linked here:

<https://club.teentips.co.uk/app/uploads/2023/04/Parent-Guide-The-Wellbeing-Hub.pdf>

To sign up as a parent, please use this link:

<https://club.teentips.co.uk/register/parents/?ca=b0b22db7c0c44f6ebbe4c320c6fb6ec5>

Pupils were recently introduced to the platform in school. They can access age-specific resources, including educational films, blogs, and career guidance. For any queries, contact info@teentips.co.uk and dwhitley@fitzharrys.school. We hope The Wellbeing Hub enriches your family's experience and look forward to your feedback.

Key Dates

Thursday 25 th April	Y7-8 Junior Maths Challenge (selected students only)
Monday 6 th May	BANK HOLIDAY (school closed)
Wednesday 8 th May, 1-3pm	Y7-8 Carnegie Quiz @ Larkmead School (participating students only)
Sunday 12 th May	Y7-8 trip: Women's FA Cup Final @ Wembley (limited places being allocated)
Friday 24 th May	Last day of Term 5 – school closes at 3.15pm
Monday 27 th – Friday 31 st May	HALF TERM
Monday 3 rd June	Start of Term 6 (Week A)