



Our Overview newsletters are designed to contain all the key information you'll need each term.

## Learning

**ENGLISH:** *Speaking and Writing for Change* – Students will read *An Inspector Calls*, as well as a range of non-fiction texts broadly focusing on gender and class from the 1800s to the present day. Students will explore oracy skills and will write and perform a speech on an issue that matters to them.

**MATHS:** In year 9, students begin to create their blue book GCSE revision guide. We study *Number* in term one, including different types of numbers and their uses. We also ensure that number skills are secure as they form the foundation of all future topics. We then move on to rounding and accuracy.

**SCIENCE:** Students will study a biology topic on cell structure and transport in cells involving key required practicals. Students will either study a chemistry topic on atomic structure, ions and separation techniques, or they will complete a physics topic looking at conservation of energy and energy transfers.

**ART:** Using the photography of Tim Flach, students will begin developing work in response to endangered species. They will refine their skills in Colour Pencil by looking at the work of Tim Jeffs before exploring skills in Monoprinting, inspired by the work of Andy Warhol from his *Endangered & Vanishing species* series.

**COMPUTER SCIENCE:** Students will learn about techniques used by cybercriminals to steal data, disrupt systems, and infiltrate networks. They study social engineering and cybercrimes like hacking, DDoS attacks, malware, and methods used to protect the individual and networks against attacks.

**DRAMA:** Students revisit the concepts of Status and Proxemics in our 'Master and Servant' performances, in a scene adapted from Shakespeare's *The Tempest*.

**FRENCH:** *Family and friends – Who am I and who are my family and friends?* Students will revisit "être" and "avoir", possessive adjectives and the verb "s'appeler". They will use the comparative and the superlative.

**GEOGRAPHY:** *Cracking Coasts – How does the sea shape our coastlines?* This topic focuses on the processes that act on the coast, and the features that are formed by erosion and deposition. Also, how coastal management plays an important part in shaping the coastlines.

**HISTORY:** *Interwar years and Weimar Germany* – This term we are looking at how Germany recovered after World War One and how this led to the Second World War.

**MUSIC:** *Film Music* – Pupils will be studying the use of leitmotifs (a short, recurring musical phrase associated with a character, place, or idea) by film composers. They will create a film trailer that builds tension.

**PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS:** *What challenges exist to religion today?* An evaluation of how far the existence of secularism, humanism, atheism, and alternative belief systems pose a problem for mainstream religion.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION:** Students continue to develop their skills in two major Invasion Games: Netball and Rugby.

**PSHE:** This term PSHE focuses in greater depth on *Being me in my World*, looking at expectations and perceptions of relationships, consent, peer approval, and being me in a group, as well as risks and social influences.

**SPANISH:** *Who am I and who are my family and friends?* Students will revisit the use of "ser" / "tener" and adjectives

**TECHNOLOGY:** Students follow a rotational system, all starting at different points. Key topics covered in year 9 are: making a drawstring bag designed via various finishing techniques, a unit of Food Tech exploring a range of mainly savoury main meals, a seasonal electronics project, and a making a jewellery box.

For a full breakdown of curriculum content for all subjects, 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](mailto: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.

# 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 9s are encouraged to attend the information meeting to find out more.

- **Information meeting:** Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September in Music – 3.15–3.45pm
- **General auditions:** Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September in Music – 3.30–4.30pm
- **Callback auditions:** Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 27<sup>th</sup> September at 3.15pm.

## FSA QUIZ NIGHT

The [Fitzharrys School Association](#)'s popular [Quiz Night](#) fundraiser is set for Friday 13<sup>th</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> September, 5.30–7pm. All parents and carers are welcome to attend; the session is open to all.

# Integrity

## 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.



## 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.

## SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

Further to our focus on wearing the correct uniform, please note that Year 9 students will have their individual portrait photographs taken at school this **Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> September**. Students should be correctly attired, wearing their shirts, ties, and blazers.

## 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](mailto:schadwick@fitzharrys.school) for more details.

## Key Dates

Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> September, 3.15–3.45	Shrek – Information Meeting – Music Department
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 9 Individual Portraits (School Photographer)
Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> September, 10am–2pm	Our Finest Hour – Digital Collection Day – South Block, Fitzharrys School
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> September, 3.30–4.30	Shrek – General Auditions – Music Department
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> September, 5.30–7pm	CAMHS IN-Reach session on Talking To Your Child About Anxiety, in the Library
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> September, 3.30–4.30pm	Shrek – Call-back Auditions – Music Department
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> October, 1.10pm	School closes early ahead of Open Evening
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> October, 5.30–8pm	Open Evening
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> October	INSET Day – school closed to students
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> October	Open Mornings (tours at 9am and 10am – booking required)
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> October, doors 7pm	FSA Fundraiser: Quiz Night
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	Last day of term for students
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> – Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> October	SUMMER HOLIDAY
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> October	Start of Term 2