



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: *Speaking and Writing for Change* – Students will conclude their study of texts that speak and write for change, culminating in a speech of their own. They will begin a creative writing unit, focusing on writers' choices.

MATHS: This term we will be moving on to *Algebra* – the language of mathematics. Learning to speak, write and read as a mathematician enables students to generalise and solve complex problems.

SCIENCE: All students will study a chemistry topic on atomic structure, ions, and separation techniques. They will also either cover a physics topic on energy transfer by heating or they will look at a biology topic on cell structure and the transport and exchange of substances.

ART: *Endangered Species* – students revisit the work of Tim Jeffs, focussing on his observational drawings using pencil. Students explore drawing and painting techniques inspired by the *To the Bone* series by street artist: Sonny.

COMPUTER SCIENCE: Students begin basic programming in Python, creating a simple chatbot which will respond to user input. Students will also write simple codes using sequence, selection and iteration programming constructs.

DRAMA: Students continue work on characters and scenes from *The Tempest*, with a focus on comic techniques and further refinement of physical theatre skills. They will also learn and practice an Elizabethan dance called *The Pilgrim and Saints dance* as part of our final performance of the play.

FRENCH: *Technology* – How do I use technology and what do I think of it? Students will revise the near future and study the future. Students will revise regular verbs in the present tense and common irregular verbs.

GEOGRAPHY: *How can we help people in developing countries?* Understanding why some countries are more developed than others. Identifying ways we can measure development and compare countries' standards of living.

HISTORY: *The rise of the Nazis* – We investigate the reasons why Hitler and the Nazi party gained increasing support from the German people following on from the successes of the Weimar government in the 1920s.

MUSIC: *Rock n' Roll* – Pupils will study how Rock n' Roll evolved from the Blues (which they studied in Year 8). They will be studying how it differs, and how it leads to contemporary commercial Popular Music.

PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS: *Are science and religion compatible?* We assess how religious beliefs, including revelations and miracles, compare with scientific theories about space, creation and design, the beginning of life and causation.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION: Students continue to develop skills in Invasion Games: Netball, Football and Rugby, before moving on to cardiovascular fitness with a progressive training programme, ending in an inter-house competition.

PSHE: *Celebrating Difference* – Students address key questions around diversity, discrimination, and bullying. Learners will explore the importance of positive language, the effects of bullying, and how to challenge and protect themselves against prejudice and discrimination.

SPANISH: Relationships – Can I share opinions on friendships and marriage? Students will revise the near future and the possessive 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.

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

KEY STAGE 4 OPTIONS

Year 9 students will choose their KS4 Options subjects later this year. There is a dedicated [KS4 Options webpage](#) on our website; please note this has not yet been updated for this year, but it will give parents and students an initial idea of what the process entails. Full details on subject content for KS4 can be found on our [Curriculum Maps](#) page.

Opportunity

DUKE OF EDINBURGH – BRONZE AWARD

The [Duke of Edinburgh \(DofE\)](#) is a scheme endeavours to empower young people; to support them as they learn new skills, overcome obstacles, and build confidence and resilience. Through an assembly, Year 9 students will be introduced to the DofE Bronze Award programme, which starts properly after Christmas. Letters home will follow.

CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

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

Integrity

YEAR 9 SEXUAL HEALTH CAROUSEL

Year 9 students will have a Sexual Health wider-learning day at school on Tuesday 14th November. Supported by the School Nurse and [The Abingdon Bridge](#) as well as other professionals, students will learn about consent and boundary setting, contraception, STIs, and healthy relationships, in a carousel of talks.

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](#) to support their aim to combat poverty and hunger, bringing emergency food and support to local people who are referred to them in crisis. 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

Tuesday 14 th November	Y9 Sexual Health Carousel – Wider Learning Day
Friday 17 th November	<i>Children in Need</i> – Non-School Uniform Day
Thursday 23 rd November, 5–7pm	JMF6–Abingdon Open Evening (Fitzharrys School site)
Friday 1 st December	INSET Day; school closed to students
Monday 11 th – Friday 15 th December	Inter-House Cross Country Competition Week (in PE lessons)
Tuesday 12 th December, 7pm	Carol Concert – Trinity Church
Friday 15 th December, 7–8.30pm	Staff Panto (doors 6.30pm, start 7pm)
Wednesday 20 th December	End of Term 2 (school closes at 1.10pm)
Thursday 21 st Dec – Friday 5 th Jan	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY
Monday 8 th January	INSET DAY; school closed to students
Tuesday 9 th January	Start of Term 3 (Week B)