



Learning

For a full breakdown of curriculum content for all subjects, visit our [Curriculum Maps](#) webpage.

ENGLISH: Students will study the novel *Strange Meeting*, exploring themes, characters, context, language, structure, and form. They will produce an essay about a theme or character.

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 complete a physics topic on energy, looking at the different methods of generating the electricity that we need, and the advantages and disadvantages associated with each method. They will also either cover a chemistry topic on atomic structure, ions, and separation techniques, or they will look at a biology topic on cell structure, and the transport and exchange of substances.

ART: This year, students will complete a range of shorter projects on the overarching theme of Nature. They will use a range of media, building on existing skills and knowledge; developing ideas and outcomes underpinned by Artist references and analysis. Skills covered will include drawing, painting, printmaking, ceramics and mixed media. The order in which projects are completed will vary from class to class.

COMPUTER SCIENCE: Students will take part in the national Bebras Competition. Students begin basic programming in Python. 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: *Lifestyle and hobbies* – students will learn how to use the past tense.

GEOGRAPHY: *Environmental issues* – students explore the issues affecting our environment today, from air pollution to water pollution.

HISTORY: *The Rise of Hitler* – Students will look at the methods used to build and retain the support that results in Hitler's dictatorship.

MUSIC: *Rock n' Roll* – Students 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 will continue to gain confidence in Badminton. Students will learn about "alternative sports" and experience a range of activities that they may not have sampled before. Students will also be taught a formal sports science fitness unit, which will be particularly useful for those considering PE as a GCSE option.

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: *Free time* – Students will revise the preterite and future tenses.

TECHNOLOGY: Students follow a rotational system, all starting at different points. Key topics covered in year 9 are: making an Ugly Toy from recycled fabrics, a unit of Food Technology exploring a café culture, and an electronics project making a music box.

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): **Mrs A Coekin**
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

KEY STAGE 4 OPTIONS

In term 3, Year 9 students undergo the process of choosing their KS4 Options subjects. Students will participate in a range of helpful activities across the course of one week, including subject taster lessons, advice from older students, and careers events to help them make informed choices. There is a dedicated [KS4 Options](#) page 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.

CAREERS FAIR

We are hosting a Careers Fair during the school day on Thursday 4th December. A variety of employers and training providers from our local community will set up stalls in the hall. Students will be able to informally speak with employers about their business and potential job roles, apprenticeships, and pathways into employment and training.

CAREERS NEWSLETTERS

Our careers newsletters are updated each month with school, local, and national information and opportunities relating to careers. When organisations and training providers send us information about talks, vacancies, and applications, these will be shared via our website. To view, visit: [Careers Newsletters](#).

SUPER CURRICULAR CHALLENGES

Our subject leaders have put together some ideas for extra challenges and enrichment opportunities that students could undertake, to sit alongside their studies this term: see our [Super-Curricular Challenges – Term 2](#).

Opportunity

CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

Use this link to access our [extra-curricular offer](#) for Term 2. To kickstart the creation of a new club, talk to School Council reps or tutors!

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.

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 9th December, 7pm. This is not a ticketed event; all are welcome to come along to join in the festivities on the night. More details will follow later this term. We are also excited to announce the return of Fitzharrys' **Staff Panto!** It will be held on the evening of Thursday 18th December – further info and ticket details to follow soon.

FSA FUNDRAISER: CHRISTMAS TREES FOR SALE

A reminder that the FSA are now selling premium Nordmann Fir Christmas Trees, and 100% of profits will be donated to the school. Find out how to pre-order yours here: [Christmas Trees for Sale](#). Order deadline: 10th November.

CHILDREN IN NEED – NON-SCHOOL UNIFORM DAY

There will be a non-school uniform day on Friday 14th November in aid of Children in Need. The school council has set the contribution at £1 per student participating, with an option to donate more if you wish. 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.

Integrity

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 need to be brought to form tutors by the start of December. Further details will be shared in assemblies and via email soon. The school will deliver donations to the foodbank before the end of term.

FLU VACCINATIONS

Flu vaccinations are being offered to Year 7–11 students at school on Friday 5th December. An email with full details including a **letter with a link to the online registration form** was sent out on Monday 3rd November – please ensure this is completed ASAP if you would like your child to receive this vaccination at school.

LOG-IN SUPPORT

We use Educational Technology (EdTech) to support learning, independent work, homework, and revision. Research suggests that EdTech, particularly that which offers opportunities for self-quizzing, self-marking retrieval practice, increases retention of key ideas and knowledge (EEF, 2021). Our priorities for homework are laid out **on our website**, where you will also find details of what types of homework to expect from each subject, and how frequently.

Students are taught to use each EdTech platform before being set independent work. However, we recognise that for parents and carers, there are many new processes, systems, and logins with which to become familiar: we hope you will find this **EdTech Parent Guide** helpful.

Please note, **Educake** have created a bespoke help page for parents and students at Fitzharrys, here:

<https://www.educake.co.uk/parents-carers-at-fitzharrys-school-1923/>

BUS INFORMATION

Thank you to parents and carers who completed our bus survey. This is useful information for the school to know, particularly if the buses are running late. We are also in communication with Thames Travel/The Oxford Bus Company following parental feedback about lateness or buses not arriving. One of our parents has also kindly sent in walking routes to Fitzharrys from the various bus stops for the 35 bus; view these here: **Bus-35-Maps-to-Fitz.pdf**

THE WELLBEING HUB

The Wellbeing Hub is available to all pupils, parents/carers and staff with the aim of spreading knowledge and confidence of how to support wellbeing in adolescence. There is guidance and support on a wide range of topics, from managing relationships, exam stress, anxiety, equalities and a lot more. For parents there are specific blogs which discuss tips of how to support your children through these years. There are also several short courses designed for both pupils and adults. Pupils have access through <http://club.teentips.co.uk> and if you do not yet have access as a parent please sign up here:

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

OPPORTUNITIES DONATIONS

It is our intention that all students in Years 7, 8, and 9 attend two core trips each year, with more details on our website: **Opportunity: Super & Extra-Curricular – Fitzharrys School.**

We work hard to keep costs down for trips and events, and remind you to please contact us and let the school office know if a cost proves a barrier for your child attending a trip or event.

If you would like to make a voluntary contribution to support another child to attend a trip, we would be enormously grateful. You may do so by bank transfer to the following account, quoting the name of the trip as the reference, or citing "general trip fund":

- Fitzharrys School
- Sort Code: 306753
- Account Number: 30069160

Key Dates

Monday 10 th November	FSA Fundraiser: Christmas Tree Sale – pre-order deadline
Friday 14 th November	<i>Children in Need</i> – Non-School Uniform Day
Thursday 4 th December	All Years – Careers Fair
Tuesday 9 th December, 7pm start	Carol Concert – Trinity Church
Friday 5 th December	Y7-11 Flu Vaccinations (see letter)
Thursday 18 th December	Fitzharrys' Staff Panto
Friday 19 th December	End of Term 2 (school closes at 1.10pm)
Monday 22 nd December – Friday 2 nd January	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY
Monday 5 th January	INSET Day (school closed to students)
Tuesday 6 th January	Start of Term 3 (Week B)

Absence

To report a student absence, please telephone the dedicated *Student Absence Line* as soon as possible: **(01235) 538243**. Thank you.