



**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

**ENGLISH:** Students will study *Macbeth* and the aspects of Tragedy. They will produce an analytical essay exploring theme, character, language, structure, form and context in an extract from the play and the play as a whole.

**MATHS:** This term we will be continuing with algebra – the language of mathematics. Learning to speak, write and read as a mathematician enables students to generalise and solve complex problems. Solving problems and equations using algebra will follow this.

**SCIENCE:** Students will study a Physics topic looking at energy resources and the different methods of generating the electricity that we need. They will also study either a Chemistry topic focused on the periodic table and the properties group 1, group 7 and group 0, or they will study a Biology topic focused on cell division, and the use of stem cells.

**ART:** The Power of Art – students will use their skills to produce artworks which give a voice to endangered animals. Taking inspiration from artists and protesters alike, students will produce outcomes championing chosen animals.

**COMPUTER SCIENCE:** Students will learn simple Boolean logic and some of its uses in circuits and programming.

**DRAMA:** Students will prepare and then take part in a final performance of *The Tempest*, adding in both comic scenes and narration linking all the scenes together.

**FRENCH:** *Sport and Free Time* – What do I do in my free time? Is sport important and what sport will I do in the future? Students will revisit the perfect tense and the future.

**GEOGRAPHY:** *Curious Crime* – Why was Jack the Ripper never caught? Students will look at the social impacts of crime, and what impact crime has on them both directly and indirectly in their local area.

**HISTORY:** Year 9 investigate WW2 and discuss whether America was justified in dropping atomic bombs on Japan.

**MUSIC:** *Samba* – Pupils will be learning how Samba evolved and the cultural impact of Samba music. They will learn a Samba piece and then compose their own.

**PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS:** *Does religion play a role in medical ethics?* An investigation into the relationship between religion and animal rights, experimentation, zoos, abortion, euthanasia, and genetic engineering.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION:** Students will be developing their skills in a competitive way in Badminton, Fitness, and Basketball on a rotational basis.

**PSHE:** We will look at Dreams & Goals, concentrating on recognising our personal strengths, understanding effective planning techniques, and envisaging our life's aspirations. Emphasis will be on distinguishing between mental health and illness, the influence of media on mental wellbeing, and avenues for mental health support.

**SPANISH:** *Technology* – How do I use technology and what do I think of it? Students will learn the use of “por” and “para” and the continuous present.

**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 break of subject curriculum content, please visit our [Curriculum Maps](#) page on the school website.

## 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**  
Assistant Head, Personal Development: **Mr T Edwards**

## Queries

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

# Aspiration

## IMPACT PROGRESS CHECKS

During the week commencing 15<sup>th</sup> January, students will receive impact progress checks. Feedback for each subject includes specific targets set by teachers that, if completed, will have a positive impact on your child's progress.

We would be very grateful to have parents' support in encouraging students to complete these targets by:

1. Reviewing the targets with your child and discussing how and when they will achieve them.
2. Placing the report somewhere prominent and regularly checking to see if they have completed their targets.

Thank you for your support.

## KEY STAGE 4 OPTIONS WEEK

This term, students will need to make their Options choices for GCSEs. This is an exciting time for students, and we want to make sure they are making informed decisions. Instead of an Options Evening, we run a full Options Week (w/c 15<sup>th</sup> January) in which students will take part in the following events both in and out of lessons:

- A variety of careers activities
- Enterprise challenge
- Talks and support from current Year 10 students
- Post-16 education choices talks
- A taster lesson for all subjects, which will include assessment structure, examples of work, and a taster activity.

## PARENT TEACHER CONSULTATION EVENING

Our Year 9 Parent Teacher Consultation Evening will be held at school on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January, 4.30–7.30pm.

Bookings via Epraise are expected to open from 6pm on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January. We look forward to communicating with parents about the progress and wellbeing of your children, and to working together to ensure further progress.

## 100 BOOKS – READING CHALLENGE

Students are being encouraged engage with our [100 Books to Read Whilst You're at Fitzharrys](#) booklet. Each time a student has read ten books from our list, they will be entered into a prize draw to win book vouchers from local bookstore, Mostly Books. Reading Award badges will be given out when students reach the milestones of 25 books, 50 books and 75 books. Any student who reads all 100 books before leaving Fitzharrys will receive a Platinum Award.

## BRITISH NATIONAL RECORD

Congratulations to Divine, one of our Year 9 boys, who is now the under-15 British National Record holder for the 60m sprint, recording a time of 6.98 seconds. We are all incredibly proud of Divine and look forward to watching his future achievements in athletics.

# Opportunity

## CROSS COUNTRY

All students in Years 7, 8 and 9 took part in cross country in their PE lessons at the end of term 2. The highest finishers will be invited to the County Cross Country Championships at Radley School on 24<sup>th</sup> January.

## SKI TRIP 2024

Parents of students who are signed up for the Ski Trip 2024 should have recently received a Ski trip Newsletter with lots of key details for the upcoming trip – please check your email inboxes.

## NETBALL & FOOTBALL TEAM TRIP – HOLLAND 2025

A letter regarding the planning of our bi-annual trip to Holland is being sent out to parents of students in years 7–9. The letter will contain a link to an electronic form to register expressions of interest; please note this must be completed by 18<sup>th</sup> January, to help with planning.

## CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

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

# Integrity

## UNIFORM

Please be reminded of our school uniform policy:

<https://www.fitzharrys.oxon.sch.uk/assets/POLICIES/Uniform-Policy-March-23-v2.pdf>

We will be focussing on ensuring all students meet our high expectations. For support with uniform, please contact your child's tutor in the first instance.

## FITZHARRYS COMMUNITY: FSA JUMBLE SALE

Thanks to all intending to support the **FSA Giant Jumble Sale** (Sunday 28th January, 10am-12pm). The FSA team are looking forward to helping our community find a few bargains whilst helping the planet by reducing waste, reusing and recycling. They would love volunteers to help set up (on Saturday 27th) or on the day of the sale. [Email FSA here](#). Further details on how to donate items or volunteer help can be found in [this letter](#).

## Key Dates

Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 9 Options Week
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> January, 4.30–7.30pm	Year 9 Parents Evening, in person
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> January, 10am–12pm	FSA Giant Jumble Sale, Fitzharrys Main Hall
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 9 <i>Dear England</i> trip, Amey Theatre (signed-up students only)
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February, 3.15pm	End of Term 3
Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> – Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup> February	Ski Trip, Masella, Spanish Alps
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> February	HALF TERM HOLIDAY
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February	Start of Term 4 (Week A)