



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.

ENGLISH: *Macbeth* – Students will study the Shakespeare play *Macbeth*, being introduced to aspects of Tragedy. Students 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: Students will revisit fractions and decimals, work on solving equations, and continue to practice past paper questions regularly to help them prepare for the assessments that take place at the end of the school year.

SCIENCE: All classes will complete a Biology topic focused on the digestive system and enzymes and the chemistry of food and food tests. They will also complete a Chemistry topic on structure and bonding, looking in detail at how elements bond together to form compounds. Students will also undertake a Physics topic looking at the different methods used to generate electricity, and the advantages and disadvantages associated with each method.

ART: *Ceramics* – Taking inspiration from the work of Kate Malone, Peter Randall-Page, Karl Blossfeldt and others students will build, decorate, and glaze tiles and pots around a theme of natural forms. Students will first build test tiles and create inspiration sketchbooks which they will fill with observational drawings in a range of media.

COMPUTER SCIENCE: Students will learn several key algorithms that reflect computational thinking. They will use logical reasoning to compare the utility of alternative algorithms for the same problem.

DRAMA: Year 9 students will use the Eminem song *Stan* as a dramatic exploration, focusing on non-naturalistic drama techniques such as Externalised Conscience and Thought Tracking.

FRENCH: *Food* – What do I eat and is it healthy? Students will learn about quantities and revisit the use of partitive articles.

GEOGRAPHY: *Wild Weather* – How is the weather getting wilder? Students will examine the difference between weather and climate, before studying hurricanes in depth.

HISTORY: Students will investigate the harsh facts of the Holocaust that took place in Europe during the 1930s and 1940s. They will assess why we should remember the Holocaust in the 21st century.

MUSIC: *Minimalism* – Pupils will be learning about the movement in the arts of Minimalism. Pupils will study Minimalist pieces of music and their composition techniques.

PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS: *Does religion make evil and suffering easier to bare?* A discussion of the problem of evil and the concept of suffering through the lenses of Christianity and Buddhism, and an assessment of Global Goals relating to the eradication of poverty around the world.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION: Students in Term 4 will be developing their skills in a competitive way in Badminton, Fitness, and Basketball on a rotational basis.

PSHE: *Healthy Me:* Students cover the teenage brain's amazing abilities, understanding and protecting it against risks, the impact of social groups, life-saving skills, and mental health first aid. We'll learn to make informed decisions, seek help when needed, and foster healthy physical and mental lifestyles.

SPANISH: *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 use of "jugar", "hacer" and opinions. Students will learn the future tense.

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.

Aspiration

SUPPORT PROGRESS

Support your child's progress by looking back at their last Impact Progress Report (delivered at the start of Term 3) 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.

SENECA

If you have not already done so, we encourage all parents to sign up to SENECA Learning to support your child's homework and revision; emails have been sent to those not yet signed up.

KS4 students have access to the premium package which includes some extra GCSE revision resources. KS3 students have access to a full suite of revision and homework activities for all subjects. Students in all year groups are regularly recognised for their SENECA Learning use. This [parent guide](#) has details on how to support your child with SENECA.

KEY STAGE 4 OPTIONS

Thank you for your support with the Year 9 Options form returns. Following a period of careful processing and planning by our KS4 team, students can expect to hear confirmation about their Options subjects in term 6.

Opportunity

CAREERS FAIR

We are hosting a [Careers Fair](#) during the school day on Tuesday 5th March, open to all students. Parents are invited to visit from 3.30–4.30pm. A variety of employers will attend. Students will have the opportunity to speak to employers about their business and potential job roles, apprenticeships and routes into employment and training.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH – NAVIGATION TRAINING

Year 9 students that are undertaking the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award will embark on their navigation training on Saturday 16th March, ahead of their practice expedition next term. Please note – all students will require walking boots or trainers with good grip for this outing. A communication detailing meeting points and start times is being sent separately.

SHREK: THE MUSICAL

Our student performers and backstage crew have been working hard on rehearsals for [Shrek the Musical!](#) Evening performances will take place on Thursday 14th and Friday 15th March; doors 6.30pm, with curtain up at 7pm. Refreshments will be available on the night. Tickets cost £5.00 each and should be available via [ParentMail](#) from Thursday 23rd February.

Integrity

COMIC RELIEF: RED NOSE DAY

There will be a non-school uniform day on Friday 17th March in aid of Comic Relief. Suggested donation is £1 (with the option to donate more) and will be collected online via [ParentMail](#) in the usual way in due course. Tutor groups will also be encouraged to plan fundraising events they can run themselves in school on the day, to further support fundraising efforts. Please do encourage your child to share any fundraising ideas they have with their tutor.

FSA JUMBLE SALE UPDATE

A big thank you to all who supported the FSA Giant Jumble Sale last month; a whopping £2158.55 was raised!

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
Phone: **01235 520698**

Key Dates

Tuesday 27th February, (after school)
Thursday 29th February
Tuesday 5th March
Sunday 10th March, 10am-3pm
Tuesday 12th March (school hours)
Wednesday 13th March, 2pm
Thursday 14th – Friday 15th March, 7pm
Friday 15th March
Saturday 16th March
Monday 18th March
Thursday 28th March, 1.10pm finish
Friday 29th March – Friday 12th April
Monday 15th April

Year 9 Vale Tournament Netball, John Mason School
Year 9 Languages Day @ Queens College Oxford (by invitation)
Careers Fair – all years – open to parents 3.30-4.30pm
Shrek: Sunday Dress Rehearsal – whole cast & crew
Shrek: All day rehearsal
Shrek: Matinee performance for primary school pupils
Shrek: Evening performances
Comic Relief: Red Nose Day – Non School Uniform Day
Year 9 Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award – practice walk
Years 8 – 11 HPV vaccination catchup (some students only)
End of term
EASTER HOLIDAY
Term 5 begins