



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: *GCSE Poetry* – Students will study six poems from the GCSE collection, with attention to analysis of language, structure and form, and contextual factors. Students will learn to revise GCSE content ahead of a closed book comparative essay with an unknown question.

MATHS: Mr Smytheman's and Mr Whitley's classes will explore Fractions and Decimals. Miss Keeble's class will explore Percentages. Students studying with Mrs Payne will also work on Percentages, and on Ratio with Mrs Price. Students in Mr Poolman's class will build on their year 8 work on the topic of Perimeter and Area.

SCIENCE: Students will complete a Chemistry topic on structures and bonding, and start a Biology topic looking at organisation in plants and animals. They will study the blood and circulatory system, the heart and heart disease, and breathing and gas exchange, as well as transpiration in plants. Students will also start a Physics topic looking at the Particle model of matter, including density of solids and liquids, changes of state, and pressure in gases.

ART: Having experimented with observational studies and ceramic texture tiles, students will begin to construct their ceramic pots using the coil method, ready to decorate later in the summer.

COMPUTER SCIENCE: Students will work in teams or individually to design and build an app that solves a problem they care about. They will work their way through a range of activities and convey key concepts of their app idea in a 30 second pitch to an industry expert. They will obtain constructive feedback on their app ideas from the expert.

DRAMA: After completing a devised assessment using non-naturalistic techniques based on the Eminem song *Stan*, students will rehearse selected scenes from Dennis Kelly's play *DNA* and reflect on the role of gang behaviour in the storyline. Their assessed scene at the end of the term will focus on the effective use of Pitch, Pace, Tone, & Tempo Rhythm in performance.

FRENCH: Students will learn to give their opinion about food, practise adverbs of frequency and verbs + infinitive.

GEOGRAPHY: *Exciting Ecosystems* – Why are natural ecosystems important? Why should tropical rainforests matter to us? Is there more to polar environments than ice? Students begin the GCSE specification and start an investigation into the characteristics of ecosystems, and the relationship between them and humans.

HISTORY: *The Cold War* – students will be investigating the development of conflict between allied countries following WW2, which ultimately leads to The Cold War.

MUSIC: *Music Production* – Pupils will be learning about the role of the music producer and how a piece is taken from a musical idea to a recorded and produced piece of music.

PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS: *Crime & Punishment* – *does religion matter?* An observation of laws, policing, crime and punishment today and whether religion plays any part.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION: Students will develop their skills in Strike and Field games on a rotational basis.

PSHE: *Relationships* – Students will be looking at equality, assertiveness, the impact of pornography, contraception, and the consequences of unprotected sex. Learners will be empowered with knowledge to make informed decisions, communicate effectively, and seek help when needed, fostering positive and healthy relational dynamics.

SPANISH: *Celebrations and Festivals* – Students will study language focussing on celebrations and festivals, looking at preterite of to be and to go, and recognising the imperfect 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

BE GCSE READY

A reminder to please read this [English GCSE-ready communication](#) full of helpful tips about how parents can make sure students are prepared for their Key Stage 4 studies. A similar communication for Maths will follow.

HELP SUPPORT PROGRESS

Support your child's progress by reviewing their last Impact Progress Report and regularly checking to see if they have completed the targets set by subject teachers. Access digital copies of reports via [My Child at School](#).

BEDROCK LEARNING

Knowledge of vocabulary can unlock the curriculum for students, boosting their confidence and comprehension when they meet new texts, and increasing the sophistication and precision of their own written expression. Ask your child about the words they have met through [Bedrock Learning](#), to help encourage their own active vocabularies.

Opportunity

CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

View our updated extra-curricular offer at: <https://www.fitzharrys.oxon.sch.uk/students/clubs-and-activities/>

DUKE OF EDINBURGH – BRONZE AWARD

Year 9 students participating in the DofE Bronze Award will have a Camp Craft day on Saturday 27th April, ahead of the practice expedition on the weekend of 8-9th June. More details will follow.

Integrity

VACCINATIONS

TDP/MenACWY vaccinations are being offered to Year 9 students at school on Tuesday 16th May. An email reminder with links to online the registration forms will be sent out soon – please ensure these are completed if you would like your child to receive this vaccination at school.

UNIFORM

Students can choose to wear our optional summer uniform during Terms 5-6; full details on our [Uniform](#) webpage. The summer uniform options include a blue school-logo polo shirt and tailored shorts. If students decide not to wear the summer uniform, they should remain in shirt, tie and blazer. We politely remind students that, as always, they should not wear hooded jumpers to school, and they should continue to wear formal school shoes, not trainers. Many thanks for your continued support with maintaining the high standards we expect at Fitzharrys School.

THE WELLBEING HUB

We are pleased to be able to introduce free access for parents to The Wellbeing Hub by Teen Tips. This online platform is crafted with expertise in child and adolescent mental health, offering resources to support your child's social and emotional wellbeing. Benefits include audio/video courses, weekly resources (podcasts, articles, tips), live monthly Q&As with psychotherapists, career advice, and a comprehensive and evolving Q&A library. Additionally, there are self-care resources, member offers, and access to expert webinars on various topics. You will have access to resources which are made for parents as the target audience.

You can find a Guided Video Tour of The Wellbeing Hub for Parents here:

<https://vimeo.com/818403262/d7891fd5a3?share=copy>, and a Visual Guide linked here:

<https://club.teentips.co.uk/app/uploads/2023/04/Parent-Guide-The-Wellbeing-Hub.pdf>

To sign up as a parent, please use this link:

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

Pupils were recently introduced to the platform in school. They can access age-specific resources, including educational films, blogs, and career guidance. For any queries, contact info@teentips.co.uk and dwhitley@fitzharrys.school. We hope The Wellbeing Hub enriches your family's experience and look forward to your feedback.

Key Dates

Saturday 27 th April	Y9 Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award – Campcraft Training
Monday 6 th May	BANK HOLIDAY (school closed)
Tuesday 16 th May	Y9 Vaccinations: TDP/MenACWY
Saturday 18 th – Sunday 19 th May	Y9 Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award – Practice Expedition
Friday 24 th May	Last day of Term 5 – school closes at 3.15pm
Monday 27 th – Friday 31 st May	HALF TERM
Monday 3 rd June	Start of Term 6 (Week A)

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 J Clelland**

Queries

Any queries, please **contact** the school.
Email: office.4127@fitzharrys.school
Phone: **01235 520698**