



FEARNHILL SCHOOL

Headteacher – Ms E Ellis BA, MA

8th September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to the start of a new academic year at Fearnhill. As always it is an exciting and busy time, and it is particularly pleasing to welcome our Year 7 students and parents at the start of their Fearnhill journey. I am writing to update you on various developments that have taken place and to give you important information about forthcoming events.

Exam Results

Firstly, I am delighted to report that our results at GCSE and A Level this summer were excellent. With the challenges of Covid and the disruption young people faced, they still managed to outperform their targets in many cases.

- To give you a small flavour, in 2019 when results were last reported, 47% of students achieved GCSE level 4 or better in five subjects including English and maths. This year, 72% of Fearnhill students achieved that benchmark.
- At A Level, we continued the excellence from 2019, when we were in the top 3% nationally for 'added value' for students and 51% of them achieved A*/B grades. This year a remarkable 68% of A Level grades were at A*/A/B.

You may have read about some of our key successes in the Comet, on Facebook or the school website. We are confident that these results will keep improving and clear about our priorities and focus this year. Our students are now settling into their new courses and we are excited about the future.

New Staff

As the school continues to grow in popularity, this year we are pleased to welcome a number of new colleagues to our team:

Mr Marlow	Director of Sixth Form
Mr Fox	English
Ms Lyons	English
Ms Armstrong	Science
Mr Ogedengbe	Maths
Mr Parsons	Maths
Ms Lattimer	Maths
Ms Hughes	Geography
Ms Bettinson	Psychology
Ms Bossley	Art
Mr Wall	Design and Technology
Ms Moreno	Spanish

Icknield Way, Letchworth Garden City, Hertfordshire SG6 4BA

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Building Update

Over the summer we have carried out some improvements to our provision to support our growing numbers. We have opened a dance studio and a media suite along with moving our Inclusion and Student Support Centre into more suitable accommodation. We will continue to press for ongoing projects to ensure Fearnhill offers the best possible learning environment for our young people.

Uniform

Students have come back to school this week looking smart and business-like. We are very aware of the increasing cost challenges for parents and carers to buy uniform and we keep ours as simple as possible. Do contact us if you have any concerns and we will do our best to help you. We keep a stock of some items in school. High standards of uniform are important at Fearnhill, including our rules about hairstyles (no unnatural colours) and piercings (one in each ear and no facial jewellery to be worn). You can find more information here: [Fearnhill School uniform](#)

Open Evening, Thursday 15th September

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING OPEN EVENING AND OPEN MORNINGS

Open Evening will take place on **Thursday 15th September from 6pm until 8.30pm**. In order to prepare for this, **school will finish early on that day at 12.10pm**. There will be no lunch served on this day. Students who receive free school meals will be able to collect a packed meal at morning break.

School will be open at the normal time on Friday 16th September and students are expected to attend as normal.

Many students will be involved in this important event and you will be contacted to give your consent for your child to take part. It is a great opportunity for us to celebrate our school community and share our success. Please do remind any friends or family with children of primary age to come and see for themselves what is on offer at Fearnhill. The Open Evening and Mornings are an opportunity to speak to students, staff and myself about the school. Our website and social media have more details.

Site Safety

As we settle in to the new term, can I remind parents and carers not to park on the roads into and out of the school car park. We do need to ensure students are kept safe at all times, so please do make your drop offs as quickly and safely as possible to avoid congestion, using the short loop as you come in and leaving promptly.

Governor Vacancies

As students leave us each year, vacancies arise for the role of parent governor. School governors play a key role in the community and can shape the direction of a school, supporting the development of Fearnhill in all kinds of ways. The time commitment involved is not huge and it is a great opportunity to become part of something worthwhile and rewarding. I will be delighted to talk to you in more detail about what the role

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involves; please email me on head@fearnhill.herts.sch.uk, or our chair of governors, Nye Hathway, on nye.hathway10@fearnhill.herts.sch.uk to arrange a chat.

Upcoming dates for your diary

Our school calendar [Fearnhill School calendar](#) has full details of forthcoming events, but I would like to draw your attention to the **Year 7 pastoral and learning evening on Thursday 22nd September**. Full details will be sent out shortly.

Thank you for your ongoing support for Fearnhill; do contact the office on admin@fearnhill.herts.sch.uk with any general queries, and individual members of staff if you have a subject related question. Email addresses for key staff are on our website. The first edition of **Fearnfile** will be out on Friday 9th September and we hope you enjoy it.

Food Allergies

This is a reminder that students should not bring in to school any form of nuts, due to children with severe allergies. Our school wants to provide the safest environment possible for students and staff with anaphylaxis (life-threatening allergies). In order to reduce the risk of a life-threatening exposure we need everyone's co-operation. Please do not send products containing nuts or peanuts to school (including Nutella).

Please check the ingredients of all foods your children bring to school and also avoid sending items which say, "May contain traces of nuts", as these could pose a serious risk.

We realise this request poses an inconvenience for you when packing your child's snack and lunch, however we wish to thank you in advance for your support and understanding of this potentially life-threatening allergy.

Please contact the school if you have further questions or concerns.

Once again, thank you for your support.

Yours faithfully

Ms E Ellis
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