



FEARNHILL SCHOOL

Fearnfile

Issue 601

14 November 2022

Star performance!

Welcome to this bumper edition of Fearnfile.

We have a great deal to celebrate and share, starting with our Ofsted report which has now been made public - [page 3](#), and can be read here www.fearnhill.herts.sch.uk/about/ofsted/

We are delighted that the hard work by staff and students over the last few years has been recognised and praised by inspectors. Our students deserve the very best we can do for them and we will continue to grow and flourish as we move forward.

We have lots more to celebrate, as we now have a world champion power lifter, Sarah Mavro, in our midst - [page 12](#). Congratulations Sarah! Kacey Butler secured her black belt in karate (so don't argue with her), and Mr Fowler realised a lifelong ambition when he met Chris Packham, TV presenter and environmental campaigner, on a trip to the Schools Climate Assembly in Sheffield - [page 7](#). There are also details inside of winners of the Halloween reading challenge - [page 6](#), and success at the under 16 table tennis - [page 12](#).

There have been lots of visitors this week. We were delighted to welcome Amandeep Dhillon to meet Year 8 and talk to them about the Sikh religion - [page 9](#), and there were more visitors to our SEND coffee morning, where parents and carers shared experiences and met key colleagues who can support our students to achieve - [page 2](#).

Year 11 parents and carers also joined students at the Post 16 evening on Wednesday, learning more about the sixth form and looking to the future - [page 4](#). Other visitors included 77 Year 5 students from Wilbury School who had a great morning in

science, making slime and burning food, among other challenges! They had a great time - [page 9](#).

You will remember that we took all of Year 7 to London just before the half term break, and a full report is inside - [pages 10/11](#).

There is also news from the music department - [page 8](#), and details of some new support we are putting in place for everyone at Fearnhill, some mental health advisors who are here to support all of us when things get tricky - [page 2](#).

Staff and students took time out during morning break last Friday to mark Remembrance Day. Many thanks to those who took part, especially music teacher Mrs Landsman who came in on her day off to play the Last Post - [page 5](#).

As always, none of this could happen without your support. Thank you – onwards and upwards!

Liz Ellis
Headteacher



Week beginning 14/11 - week 2 Week beginning 21/11 - week 1

Student Awards

w/e 21 October

Student of the Week	Defne 8P	26 points
Form of the Week	10N	226 points
House of the Week	Howard	869 points
Teacher of the Week	Ms Lyons, English	292 points

w/e 4 November

Student of the Week	Juhi 9H	22 points
Form of the Week	7Q	266 points
House of the Week	Neville	854 points
Teacher of the Week	Mrs Cross, MFL	313 points

Have you got what it takes to be Student of the Week? Try your best in all lessons and extra-curricular activities and you could find yourself nominated and crowned!

School News

Hi everyone!

My name is Jennie Walton and I am the Education Mental Health Practitioner (EMHP) at Fearnhill.

I work with Hertfordshire Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust and am currently in my training year, completing my studies at the University of Reading. I will be at Fearnhill every Friday, the rest of my week will be at other schools in the local area or studying.

I will be working with young people at the school, delivering 1-1 interventions to those with anxiety or low mood. I will also be delivering assemblies, group interventions and workshops to support the wellbeing of everyone in the school.

I look forward to meeting you all, and if you see me around the school, please do stop me to say hello!



SEND

This week saw the first Fearnhill SEND coffee morning. It was well attended and parents enjoyed a hot drink and a pastry provided by Kirsty from Herts Parents Group. Kirsty was also able to speak to parents about the recent work we have been doing with them for the Autism in Schools project and what other support they can provide. You can find details on their website here: <https://www.hertsparentcarers.org.uk/>

Our parent governor Jenny was also able to share her experience and role with parents. The whole Inclusion team were in attendance and were happy to take questions from parents and discuss their child's needs. We really look forward to holding more of these in the future - at least every term and the aim is that we invite relevant professionals and agencies to speak to us.

Cate Brown - SENDCO

Feedback from those attending:

'it was such a positive experience, looking forward to the next one'

'enjoyed the morning coffee. Thank you!'

'lovely idea, thanks for arranging and more please!'

'great idea, more please!'

We are delighted to share the news that Ofsted inspectors have graded Fearnhill School as 'Good'.

School inspectors visited Fearnhill School just a few days into the new term and concluded that the school was 'Good' in all areas, a positive improvement since the last inspection three years ago.

Headteacher Liz Ellis said: "We are delighted that the team of Ofsted inspectors recognised the quality of work and progress at Fearnhill.

"They acknowledged the major improvements that have taken place since 2019 and gave their seal of approval to all aspects of the school's work.

She concluded: "All members of the school community; students, staff, governors, parents and carers, continue to work together every day to ensure the best possible education is available to Letchworth children."

The inspectors commented particularly on the fact that pupils describe the school as being 'like a family', describing students as 'happy and safe'.

The report states: "Pupils value the positive relationships they have with staff and each other. They learn important values such as tolerance and compassion. In their experience, it is fine to be different.

"Classroom routines are well established to support all pupils to participate fully in their lessons. Pupils are engaged in their lessons and learn effective strategies for remembering new information. This helps them to achieve well.

"Pupils know how to behave appropriately. They behave well in the vast majority of lessons and during social time. The school environment is calm and orderly.

"Pupils enjoy school. They speak positively about the extra-curricular and enrichment activities that they take part in, such as sports and performing arts. Many pupils are also involved in the 'Fearnhill Flyers' programme which partners with Balliol College, Oxford."

The report goes on to praise school leaders for their investment in staff training and curriculum development to ensure that all students and pupils achieve well.

Inspectors highlighted the support that students receive from staff in regards to their social and cultural development, commending leaders for their provision through tutor time, assemblies, visiting speakers and lessons, focusing on developing the qualities of a 'Fearnhill Student'. The five attributes of a Fearnhill students are: kindness, resilience, self-awareness and confidence. Inspectors observed that many students demonstrate the qualities of a 'Fearnhill Student' by supporting younger pupils.

All pupils, including students in the sixth form, receive independent careers advice offering relevant information about academic and technical training opportunities this leads to the majority of sixth-formers having a good understanding of opportunities available to them once they finish school.

Liz Ellis confirmed: 'We will continue to grow and flourish as a school community with the support of everyone in the 'Fearnhill Family'.

Trained Ofsted inspectors visit a school for two days and publish a report to detail their findings – and categorise the school into one of four categories: 'outstanding', 'good', 'requires improvement' and 'inadequate'.

The report can be read in full on our website:

www.fearnhill.herts.sch.uk/about/ofsted/



Sixth Form

Applications for Sixth Form entry 2023 has opened. Application forms can be found on our website www.fearnhill.herts.sch.uk/sixth-form/admission-to-the-sixth-form/ The deadline for applications will be 2nd December at 4pm. There will be interviews for all applicants in January and conditional offers will be made. Our Sixth Form Induction will be taking place in July to give students a taste of what Sixth Form has to offer. Please see Mr Marlow, Head of Post 16 studies, if you have any questions.



FEARNHILL
SCHOOL



SIXTH FORM APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN
SCAN HERE FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Fearnhill School, Icknield Way, Letchworth Garden City, Hertfordshire SG6 4BA
01462 621200
admin@fearnhill.herts.sch.uk



SCAN ME

In brief ...

The school musical production this year is *The Addams Family A Comedy Musical*. If you go through any wardrobes at home anytime soon and find anything pale grey or white that are surplus to requirements we would happily take them from you. There are a large group of ghostly ancestor characters - so any dresses, skirts, jackets, trousers, shoes etc would be very useful.

Calling all former students - have you collected your exam certificates? These are important legal documents and we have a number still waiting to be picked up. Contact Mrs Bremner, Data & Exams manager, kerri.bremner10@fearnhill.herts.sch.uk for details of how to collect them.

On Friday, 18th November, we will be supporting Children in Need. For the price of £1, students may come into school wearing their own clothes. A letter has been sent to parents with details.

Have you enjoyed a tub of chocolates recently? Our food department would love to have your empty tubs - they are useful for students taking their food items home. Please bring them into the School Office.

Do you have piles of newspapers cluttering up your house? Our Art department is looking for newspapers (not magazines) for forthcoming projects—please hand into the Art department or School Office. Thank you.

We Will Remember

The whole school came together to mark Remembrance Day on Friday 11th November. At 11am staff and students were asked to gather outside the Maths block where we had a number of students and former students in their cadet uniforms standing to attention. Music teacher Mrs Landsman played the Last Post, sixth form student Chara O'Donoghue read a poem (reproduced below) that they'd written especially for the occasion and a 2 minutes silence was observed.

Students had been discussing the meaning of Remembrance Day in tutor time this week and had decorated windows and doors with personalised poppy crosses.

On a lighter note, our lovely canteen ladies also joined in with specially decorated poppy cookies for lunch.

We Will Remember:

*The guns roared all night,
stuck in that hole in the ground,
though you're a soldier, you still feel fright,
for your family you fought without a doubt.*

*The company commands,
"over the front" they shout,
But you follow their demands,
for a country you loved.*

*Now the sounds ring out,
to fall like this, t'was behoved,
you no longer hear them shout,
for now you are at rest.*

*Now it is over and battles are won.
But we will remember and never be done.*

Behoved - it is a duty or responsibility to do something
Chara O'Donoghue



Library



Congratulations to Maison C who won the Halloween Challenge, photographed here with Charlie L who came second.

The Library is open before school from 8am and after school until 4pm.
You can also visit the library during break and lunch times to read a book, do some homework on the computer or play a card or board game
(sorry, no computer games!)

Mrs Thurlby, Library & Literacy Assistant



**THE LIBRARY CHRISTMAS TREE
IS LOOKING BARE
CAN YOU HELP?
WE NEED
HOME MADE BOOK THEMED
DECORATIONS**

FOR THE 1ST DEC

THANK YOU

How to Crochet a Book Christmas Tree Decoration
(remember Crochet Club on Tuesday if you need wool or help!)



Make the pages.

Row 1: Make a chain of 32.

Row 2: Then starting in the 2nd chain from hook, crochet 31 single crochet across. Turn.

Row 3: Chain 1 then work 31 single crochet. Turn.

Row 4: Chain 1 then work 31 single crochet.
Fasten off.

Make the cover

Row 1: Make a chain of 23.

Rows 2 to 11: Chain 1 then crochet 22 single crochet. Turn.
Row 12: Chain 1 then crochet 22 single crochet. Fasten off.

Sew on face

Sew or crochet the book together
Add a cord to hang from the tree.



Word of the Week



Furtive: Attempting to avoid notice or attention / behaving in a suspicious or guilty way.



Oblivious: To be unaware or unconcerned about what is happening around you.

Climate Assembly

This year's School Climate Assembly 2022, saw us travel north to King Edward VII School, Sheffield.

8 Year 10 students and 2 Year 11 students set off from a soggy Letchworth at 8am on Thursday 20th October to travel up to Sheffield to help us in our continued battle against climate change.

This year's focus was very much around the galvanising of the students to take action and protest to increase the volume of concern but also to demand action on change and to hold people to account on the promises they have made to reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases.

The first workshop was led by Scarlett Westbrook. She is the youngest regular policy writer in Parliamentary history. Her work gets climate and concerns into schools curriculums.

Lunch was carbon zero food, which we ate whilst watching the documentary film *Overheated*. We remained in the giant marquee for the Keynote speech by Chris Packham, famous TV presenter, broadcaster and campaigner. Chris delivered a fantastic speech to the young adults in the marquee and a feeling of optimism and a chance of change was evident in the air.

The last workshop for us was Sustainable Schools. Our students worked well with a number of other students to brainstorm ways of improving the sustainability of schools in the UK. Just in England, school grounds cover an area twice the size of Birmingham.

We left the conference buzzing with lots of new ideas and ready to campaign to help reduce the impact of climate change by limiting the warming to 1.5C and to ensure that we hold the politicians, TNCs and world leaders accountable.

It was a long journey but definitely worthwhile. Massive thanks to Mrs Cottenden for travelling up and keeping Mr Fowler company on the 5 hour journey.



Art

Year 10 students enjoyed a workshop looking at different techniques including using ice and fabric dye on cotton and sculptural building using card forms.

The workshop was run by Luton-based artist Abi Spendlove who recently had a solo exhibition of her work *Mediator* at the Broadway Gallery, Letchworth. <https://abispendlove.co.uk/>



Music

It has been a busy term so far for the music department with rehearsals well underway for the school production of The Addams Family. We are really excited to bring a full-scale musical to the Fearnhill stage again and hope you will join us in the audience! Students are also preparing pieces for the Christmas Concert which will be in person for the first time since the pandemic! Please pop the dates in your diary and look out for further communication about tickets coming soon!

Dates for your diary:

Christmas Concert – Tuesday 20th December

The Addams Family – Tuesday 31st Jan, Wednesday 1st Feb, Thursday 2nd Feb

We are also very pleased to welcome Mr Marlow this year to join us in the music department (also Head of Sixth Form). He has had a great impact already and we are loving having him get involved with the show and extracurricular clubs.

Extra-Curricular Timetable – Lunch Time

Monday	Boys' Choir with Mr Marlow
Tuesday	School Production and Year 11 Intervention
Wednesday	Ukulele Club
Thursday	Choir



LEARN AN INSTRUMENT

AT FEARNHILL!

We have fantastic tutors from Herts Music Service ready to teach you to play an instrument or sing! Learning an instrument is a great **hobby**, good for your **well being** and will boost your **confidence**.

The drum teacher currently has space, and we have many brass and string instruments available to lend to students to begin their musical journey - however many other instruments are also available!

If you are interested in learning an instrument, please apply via the link <https://ukhertfordshire.speedadmin.dk/registration#/> (Scroll down to the purple box and find Fearnhill)



Humanities

Year 8 Sikh Visit

Year 8 had a visit from Mrs. Dhillon who is a member of the local Sikh community. She told us about the different Guru's and showed us various artifacts from the Sikh religion. The students enjoyed learning about the 5K's and what each one represents and were shown various articles of clothing. We also had a look at some of the daily prayers written in Punjabi.

We would like to thank Mrs. Dhillon for coming in and sharing her experiences with us.



Primary Liaison



Primary science visit

This week saw 76 Y5 students from Wilbury Junior School visit us and to carry out some science experiments. This was all incredibly exciting for Y5 who conducted activities burning foods, using fire to reveal hidden messages and everybody's favourite, making slime! Our wonderful Y8 and Y12 STEM ambassadors were on hand to make sure that everything ran smoothly and helped the children to have a fabulous time. We look forward to welcoming Y5s again next term.



Wall of Fame

We know we have some pretty amazing students who get up to all sorts of different endeavours out of school – and we'd like to hear about them!

Do you know of any Fearnhill students who have won an award out of school for their endeavours? It could be baking the best cake, being awarded a medal for bravery, first in a ballroom dancing competition, performing in a show or achieving a top grade in a music exam. We would like to celebrate our students by having a Wall of Fame to give recognition to pupils who go that extra mile to embrace excellence out of hours. The ideal Fearnhill Student.

We are not looking for students who get lots of recognition IN school ... although being exceptional in school obviously doesn't preclude them getting recognition for what they do out of school.

If you'd like to nominate anyone, please send their name and brief details to our media administrator Ann Lynn and she'll take it from there. Ann.lynn10@fearnhill.herts.sch.uk

London Trip



London trip

Year 7 students, accompanied by staff and governors, enjoyed a day's sightseeing in London, travelling by train, tube and boat. Sadly our budget couldn't stretch to any aircraft flights!

Students were taken on a whistlestop tour of the sights by blue badge guides who complimented all the students on their behaviour. Sights included the Tower of London, The Mall, Westminster, Big Ben, the Old Bailey, St Paul's Cathedral, Leadenhall Market, Smithfield and even a glimpse of Buckingham Palace. Lesser-known sights such as the memorials for William Wallace, Wat Tyler and the Peasants' Revolt and Postman's Park piqued the students' interest as did the wildlife on view in St James' Park. Not many students expected to see a pelican in the middle of a London Park. A lunchtime trip aboard one of the Uber Boats was an unusual and easy way to see many of the sights along the Thames, as well as a fortunate respite from some of the light showers that appeared through the day.

Many thanks to our guides for the day and well done to the Year 7s on their impeccable behaviour.



Sport

GCSE students competed in the U16s local schools table tennis tournament at Hitchin Boys School with the girls team winning their section. Congratulations to those who took part.

Girls: Isla C, Kacey B, Alana S & Tia S

Boys: Jude H, Wes T, Harry S & Blake N



We have a World Champion in school!

Congratulations to sixthformer Sarah Mavro who won the Global Powerlifting World Championship in Slovenia last month. Sarah was introduced to the sport just last year by her brother Paul who also won his class at the championships.

Congratulations, too, to Kacey Butler (photographed above with the table tennis team) who has achieved her black belt in Karate



Year 11

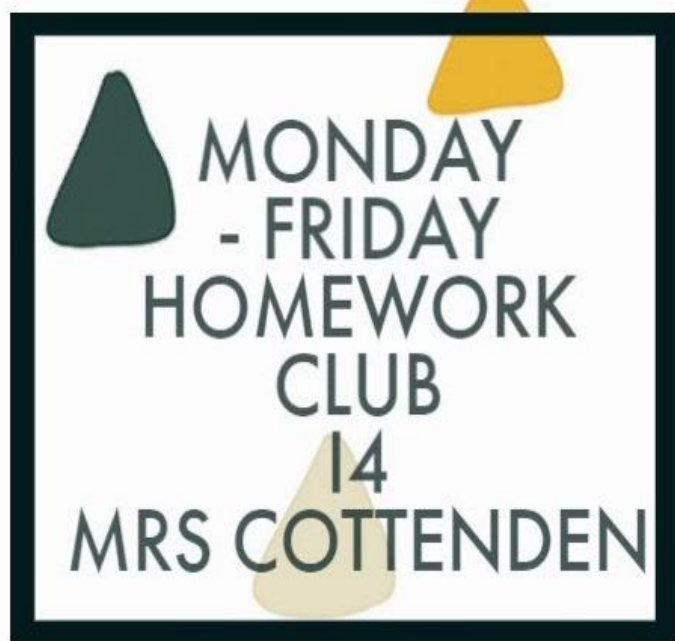


Year 11 were off timetable for 2 hours working in small workshop groups learning various effective ways to revise. The sessions were taught by senior leaders of the school and year 11 were able to learn vital techniques of revising in preparation for their mocks in December.

Look out for revision updates which will be posted on the school website www.fearnhill.herts.sch.uk



Student Clubs



KS3&4



We are proud to offer the National School Breakfast Programme at our school, come and enjoy a healthy breakfast with us.

Where to get free brekkie?

Breakfast Club in the canteen every morning from 8am

Or collect your free bagels from the SSC

Student Support and Inclusion have moved!

Our new home is now in the main school building - students can find Mrs Tollervey & Ms Brown and their teams upstairs next to Homework Club.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about HOW TO COMBAT ONLINE BULLYING

Defined as "ongoing hurtful behaviour towards someone online", cyber-bullying makes its victims feel upset, uncomfortable and unsafe. In the digital world, it has numerous forms – such as hurtful comments on a person's posts or profile; deliberately leaving them out of group chats; sharing embarrassing images or videos of someone; or spreading gossip about them. Cyber-bullying can severely impact a young person's mental health – so, in support of Anti-Bullying Week, we've provided a list of tips to help trusted adults know what to look for and how to respond to it.

- 1. GET CONNECTED**
Playing online games together with your child or connecting with them on social media (providing they're old enough) is not only fun but also an excellent way of establishing some common ground to discuss things you've both seen or done online – as well as keeping an eye on who your child is communicating with in the digital world.
- 2. KEEP TALKING**
Regular chats with young people about their online lives are good practice in general, but they can also be an excellent refresher to help prevent cyber-bullying situations. Topics you might want to revisit include why it's important to only connect online with people we know and trust, and why passwords should always remain secret (even from our best friends).
- 3. STAY VIGILANT**
Observe your child while they're using technology and just after they've used it. Are they acting normally, or out of character? Possible signs of a problem may include seeming quiet or withdrawn, jumpy or anxious, angry or repeatedly checking their phone. When you feel it's the right time, you may want to check in with them to see if everything is OK.
- 4. MAKE YOURSELF AVAILABLE**
If an online bullying incident does occur, it may take a while before your child is ready to open up about what happened. Just gently remind them that they can always come to you with any problems – and that they won't be in trouble. You might also suggest a trusted family member they could turn to, in case they feel too embarrassed to tell you directly.
- 5. BE PREPARED TO LISTEN**
When conversations about online bullying do take place, they're likely to be difficult, emotional and upsetting for both you and your child. Actively listen to your child while they're bringing you up to speed, and try not to show any judgement or criticism – even if they haven't dealt with the situation in exactly the way you would have hoped.
- 6. EMPOWER YOUR CHILD**
Depending on their age, your child might not want a parent 'fighting their battles for them'. In that case, talk through their options with them (blocking the perpetrator, deleting the app and so on). By allowing your child to choose the path they take, you're putting them in control but are also demonstrating that you're there to support them along the way.
- 7. REPORT BULLIES ONLINE**
Cyber-bullying often takes place through a particular app, social media platform or online game. If this is happening to your child, encourage them to report the offender to the app or game in question – ideally with screenshots to support their complaint. Most games and apps have reporting tools specifically to stamp out abusive behaviour and protect users.
- 8. ENCOURAGE EMPATHY**
Protecting themselves online is the priority, of course, but young people should also feel empowered to help if they witness other people falling victim to cyberbullying. Even if they don't feel confident enough to call someone out on their abusive behaviour online, they can still confidentially report that person to the app or game where the bullying occurred.
- 9. SEEK EXPERT ADVICE**
Victims of online bullying frequently experience feelings of isolation and anxiety, a loss of self-esteem and potentially even thoughts of self-harm or suicide. If you think that an incident of cyber-bullying has affected your child's mental wellbeing, then seek psychological support for them. There are some useful contact details in the central panel below.
- 10. INVOLVE THE AUTHORITIES**
If the nature of any online bullying makes you suspect that your child is genuinely in imminent physical danger – or if there are any signs whatsoever of explicit images being shared as part of the bullying – then you should gather any relevant screenshots as evidence and report the incidents to your local police force.

FURTHER SUPPORT AND ADVICE

If you or your child need additional help with an online bullying issue, here are some specialist organisations that you could reach out to.

Childline: talk to a trained counsellor on 0800 1111 or online at www.childline.org.uk/get-support/

National Bullying Helpline: counsellors are available on 0845 225 5797 or by visiting www.nationalbullyinghelpline.co.uk/cyberbullying.html

The NSPCC: the children's charity has a guide to the signs of bullying at www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/bullying-and-cyberbullying/ and can be reached on 0800 500 5000

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

NOS National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday

Student Support

COST OF LIVING SUPPORT



Are you worried about the cost of living?

Would you benefit from free practical advice that could save you money?

Join us and find out how we can help!

For more information and to book call/text 07551 275413

We explore:

- Government Support
- Ways to reduce your costs
- Ways to increase your income
- How to budget
- Useful Apps
- Avoiding scams
- Where to get more help



COST OF LIVING SUPPORT

Tuesday 13th December @ 7pm Online
& Thursday 15th December @ 10am
Create Community, Station Road, SG6 3BB



Are you worried about the cost of living?

Would you benefit from free practical advice that could save you money?

Join our workshop & see how we can help!

For more information and to book call 07551 275413 or use the QR code below



Upcoming Events



26th November

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON

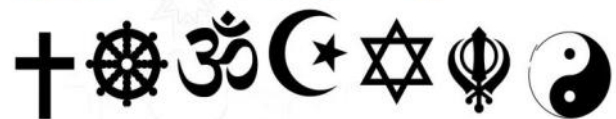
Join us for our annual Christmas Lights switch on throughout Letchworth Town Centre. You'll find Christmas Craft and Food & Drink stalls, live music and a Christmas Parade. As well as the chance to meet Santa Claus. Lights switch on at 5pm.

Planning for the event is well underway but we still have space for more food and drink vendors, stall holders & crafters.

If you're interested in being part of the event do get in touch events@lovelethworth.com or call us on 01462 486999.



Diversity



IT'S OKAY TO BE DIFFERENT AT FEARNHILL

DIVERSITY RUNS EVERY WEEK 1 WEDNESDAY LUNCH 12-1
EVERYONE IS WELCOME

We aim to provide a safe place to talk about our differences, learn about each other and to discuss how diversity can be celebrated at Fearnhill

For further information or questions contact:
kelsi.mphoko@fearnhill.herts.sch.uk

Thought of the Month



"Every day is a chance to begin again. Don't focus on the failures of yesterday, start today with positive thoughts and expectations"



Calendar

November 22	Year 8 Parents Evening
23	Year 9 reports home
25	Inset Day
28	Occasional Day
30	Year 11 MFL speaking mock
21 December	End of Term (early closure)

Spring term 2023

6 January	8.30am term starts
13-17 February	Half term
31 March	End of term

Summer Term 2023

17 April	8.30am term starts
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Contact Us

01462 621200

admin@fearnhill.herts.sch.uk

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Icknield Way
Letchworth Garden City
Hertfordshire SG6 4BA

Please ensure that we have your current address, mobile phone number and email address.

Any updates can be sent to the Main Office.

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