



# FEARNHILL SCHOOL



## Fearnfile

Issue 620

6 November 2023

### Making School Safer

As Headteacher I am acutely aware of my biggest responsibility: to do all that I can to ensure that students are safe in school. No one can guarantee the safety of another person, but I know that I must do what I can to keep school safe for everyone. Two aspects of safeguarding offer a perennial headache to headteachers everywhere: toilets and mobile phones. Here I want to outline our approach in these two areas.

#### Toilets

Access to toilets during the school day is a basic human right for all students. Likewise, toilets should offer privacy for students and be clean and hygienic. This creates some problems, because - away from teacher supervision - toilets can attract unwanted behaviour. Sometimes students use toilets for vaping, using their phones and even vandalise them. I am amazed that some students choose to eat their lunch sitting on the floor in the toilets. Whilst these issues are common to many schools it does not mean we should accept them.

In response, we have increased the number of occasions when the toilets are checked and cleaned during the day including during break and lunch. We also ensure that each year group has their own toilets so that they are less likely to be intimidating places for younger students. We have seen a reduction in vandalism and eating in the toilets and they are cleaner. We have also confiscated mobile phones from students and have had to sanction students for vaping in toilets. As a result, we have seen a reduction in poor behaviour in the toilets.

CCTV was recently upgraded around the school site, but I want to reassure you that we do not have CCTV in the toilets.

We generally discourage students from going to the toilet during lessons because they miss out on learning, and because it prepares them for adult life (the teachers cannot go to the toilet during lessons after all!).

However, there are no hard and fast rules here. We will always try to respond in a reasonable manner to student requests. There is a large supply of free sanitary products discreetly available for girls if they ever need them; they can ask at student reception whenever required.

If you ever have concerns that your daughter or son does not feel safe using toilets at Fearnhill - for any reason - please let me know.

#### Mobile Phones

In the last 15 years there has been a sea change in how teenagers use mobile phones. I am convinced the increase in use of mobile phones by

*continued on page 2*



### FEARNHILL SIXTH FORM

GROWING EXCELLENCE EVERY DAY



### OPEN EVENING

6 - 7.30pm

**Wednesday 8th November**

Join us at 6pm for a short talk about life within the Sixth Form followed by an opportunity to meet with students and subject leaders.



admin@fearnhill.herts.sch.uk  
01462 621 200

Fearnhill School  
Icknield Way  
Letchworth, Garden City  
Hertfordshire  
SG6 4BA

#### Inside you'll find ...

- DofE Award
- Climate Assembly 2023
- Student Awards
- Author of the 1/2 Term
- Black History Month in Drama

**Week beginning 6/11 WEEK 1**

**Week beginning 13/11 WEEK 2**

# Student Awards

**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!**

## 9th-13th October

Student of the Week	E Worbey 7P	15 points
Teacher of the Week	Mrs Russell, Science	303 points
Form of the Week	9N	195 points
House of the Week	Pearsall	584 points

## 16th-20th October

Student of the Week	E Doyle 10P	9 points
Teacher of the Week	Mr Williams, Humanities	227 points
Form of the Week	8G	134 points
House of the Week	Neville	428 points

## 30th Oct-3rd Nov

Student of the Week	P Hitchcock 8P	12 points
Teacher of the Week	Mrs Cross	165 points
Form of the Week	8P	172 points
House of the Week	Pearsall	413 points

# Headteacher's Letter *continued*

teenagers is a cause of the rapid deterioration in the mental health of young people. There is strong evidence that this is the case (see for example [THIS](#) article in the Financial Times).

Furthermore, we know that mobile phones are designed to be addictive. As adults, many of us spend more time scrolling than is good for us and it is often much worse for children. Schools often have issues with phones such as cyber bullying, filming in school, messaging during lessons and gaming to name a few.

For this reason, we have made it clear that we do not want to see phones during the school day - phones should be switched off and in bags at all times. Students have responded very well to this, with very few issues linked to phones. There has been a reduction in reports of cyber-bullying (especially in school).

Yet students are still using phones on site before the start and after the end of the school day. For this reason, we are now going to make it clear that we do not want students using their phones anywhere on site at any time. Where students need to contact home, or use their phone for any other specific purpose, they can speak to a teacher and will be allowed to use their phone in that circumstance.

I hope you will agree that the approaches we are taking to keep students safe are reasonable, proportionate and effective. As always we are very grateful for your support as we continue to work to make Fearnhill the best school that it can be.

**Tim Spencer, Headteacher**

**Do you follow us on social media? We have changed some of our pages so for an instant fix of all our latest news you can now follow us on the following channels:**

[FACEBOOK](#) <https://www.facebook.com/FearnhillSch/>

[X \(Twitter\)](#) <https://twitter.com/FearnhillSchool>

[Instagram](#) <https://www.instagram.com/fearnhillsch/>

# Geography



**Year 7 students have enjoyed learning map skills in their Geography lessons - the first lesson being that maps in real life are so much larger than on a mobile phone!**

## Duke of Edinburgh's Award

**Fearnhill School is proud to announce that we are now licensed with the Duke Of Edinburgh Foundation, which will allow our Year 9 and 10 students to take part in the DoE Award Scheme.**

Founded in 1956 by the previous Duke of Edinburgh, the DoE Award takes place in 114 nations and offers students the chance to take part in a series of activities to challenge them and push them to try new things, which they may not have otherwise attempted.

Mr Fowler and Mr Fox are both keen on as many students as possible completing the Duke Of Edinburgh's Award as it helps develop the "soft skills" that will help them in life: communication, teamwork, and organisational skills are essential to completing the DoE Bronze award.

Mr Fox said: "We at Fearnhill pride ourselves on our four traits and recognise a Fearnhill student should be kind, confident, self-aware and resilient.

"The Duke of Edinburgh award embodies these four traits, and we can think of no better way to reward our students for doing what they would do naturally. The school has invested heavily into specialist equipment for the students so they can take part in this scheme."

The Duke of Edinburgh award is split into four sections: volunteering, skill, physical activity and the expeditions. For the first three sections, students must complete two activities for three months, and the third for six months. The expeditions will take place in the summer term, after a small number of practice walks to get students used to map reading. Their main expedition will feature an overnight stay in one of the brand new tents the school has purchased for the Duke of Edinburgh award, and cooking their own food on one of the cooking stoves, again purchased by the school specifically for Duke of Edinburgh.

Once completed, the DoE Bronze Award makes an excellent addition to a CV, and allows students an extra thing to be able to discuss at a job interview, or use on a college/university application.





# Catering



To build on whisk sponge skills from Yr8 and layered construction in Y9, Yr10 have made trifles from scratch. Starting with a whisk sponge base, a set jelly, homemade egg custard and whipped cream, Yr10 are practicing lots of high level practical skills. *Ms Fullard*

# Black History Month - Drama

To celebrate Black History Month in October, Year 10 drama students looked at characters and events from the National Theatre's production of 'Small Island' that focuses on the prejudice and inequality faced by the passengers of the Empire Windrush in 1948.

This practical lesson explored scenes from the play and photographs from the time using dramatic strategies like freeze frames, thought tracking and physical theatre.

We followed the character Hortense in her experiences of leaving the Caribbean to be with her husband Gilbert in Earls Court, West London.

The lesson ended with a reflective discussion about the future and modern-day Britain. *Mr Sheridan*



# Climate Assembly 2023

**This year's School Climate Assembly saw us travel north to the UK's second city, Birmingham.**

A combination of Year 11 and 12 Geography students set off from Letchworth at a bright and early 7am on Thursday 19th October to travel up to King Edward's School, Birmingham 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 for action on change and to hold leaders and politicians to account on the promises they have made to reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases (COP26).

The first speeches were given by Chris Packham, famous TV presenter, broadcaster and campaigner, and Scarlett Westbrook, she is the youngest regular policy writer in Parliamentary history. Her work gets climate concerns and management written into schools curriculums. Both gave impassioned speeches that fired up the 3000 students within the marquee.

The students then completed a workshop working with other schools to plan and design climate combatting homes and settlements of the future.

Lunch was carbon zero food and we remained in the giant marquee for the second workshop investigating insulation of homes within the UK and the current poverty crisis. This workshop was quite hard hitting and I am proud that some of our Fearnhill students made their voices heard during this workshop.

The final session of the day saw TV personality and Wildlife Photographer Hamza Yassin chairing a debate on various climate issues with students voting for which challenge they perceived as greatest.

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 1.5°C and to ensure that we **hold the politicians, TNCs and world leaders accountable**.

It was a long journey but definitely worthwhile. Massive thanks to Miss Cheeseman for travelling up and keeping me company on the 4 hour round journey. *Mr Fowler*





## Author

of the

## 1/2 term

**Anthony Horowitz** is one of the most prolific writers working in the UK, and is unique for working in so many areas – juggling books, TV series, films, plays and journalism. Anthony has written over 50 books, including the bestselling *Alex Rider* teen spy series, which is estimated to have sold 21 million copies worldwide and has been filmed for TV, and the thrilling adventure series, *The Power of Five*. He was made a CBE for services to Literature.



# Anthony Horowitz

## Alex Rider Books (we have books 1-10)

### Book 1 - Stormbreaker

A fabulous story that crackles with suspense and daring and shows that a bit of cheek will take you a very long way. Alex Rider is fourteen when his whole world is turned upside down. Already an orphan, his guardian is killed in suspicious circumstances and Alex is finds himself forcibly recruited into the MI6 to train as a super spy. He performs deeds of unimaginable daring, faces terrible danger – and lives to tell the tale. A great, pacy read.

### Book 2 - Point Blanc

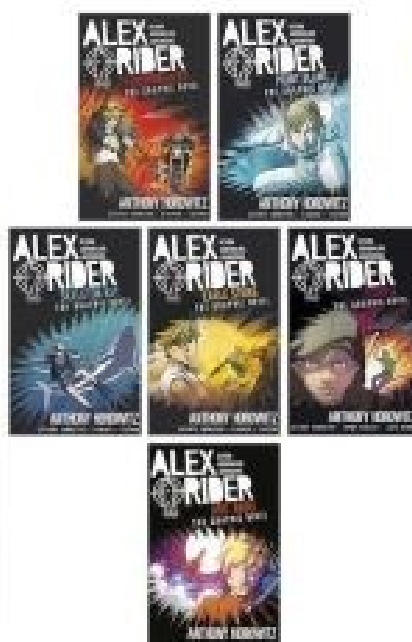
High in the Alps, death waits for Alex Rider. Investigations into the 'accidental' deaths of two of the world's most powerful men have revealed just one link: both had a son attending Point Blanc Academy, the exclusive school for rebellious rich kids, run by the sinister Dr Grief and set high on an isolated mountain peak in the French Alps. Armed only with a false ID and a new collection of brilliantly disguised gadgets, Alex must infiltrate the academy as a pupil and establish the truth about what is really happening there.

**We also have the first six books as graphic novels.**

## The Power of Five

### Book 1 – Raven's Gate

A sinister and incredibly atmospheric story of the supernatural; first of five in the Power of Five series. Matt has always known he has unusual powers. Raised in foster care, he is sent to Yorkshire on a rehabilitation programme, only to find himself in the midst of sinister goings-on. Matt investigates and uncovers a terrible secret - eight guardians are protecting the world from the evil ones, beings banished long ago by five children. But devil worshippers want to let the evil ones back in. As the story reaches its climax, it looks like Matt has succeeded in stopping them...or has he?



LoveReading  
a kids eBOOKS account



# Performing Arts Student Awards

Forename	Form	Subject	Reason	Month
Mo	9H	PE	Hits balls really, really well.	Sept
Maisie	10P	PE	Excellent start to GCSE PE practical.	Sept
Eliana	7H	Art	Great start to the year. Enthusiastic & natural talent for the subject.	Sept
Grace	11G	Art	A very hard worker which shows through artwork. A star helping out at the open eve making parents & children feel welcome.	Sept
Oliver	8G	Drama	Excellent effort in every activity.	Sept
Oscar	10P	Drama	Excellent effort with character creation.	Sept
Derya	9H	Music	Excellent commitment playing the trumpet & doing the school production. We are super impressed!	Sept
Kionte	10H	Music	Impressive commitment to composition & excellent effort outside of lessons.	Sept
Braeden	8H	PE	Excellent ATL in general & helping others understand rugby rules in lessons.	Oct
Elvin	10P	PE	Excellent contributions in GCSE theory - excellent attainment in recent unit test despite being off at beginning of term.	Oct
Brooke	7P	Art	Superb ATL & attention to detail.	Oct
Millie	10P	Art	Great start to the GCSE course! Hard working, resilient & enthusiastic which is shown in her sketchbook!	Oct
Lottie-Rose	7N	Music	Amazing. Answered lots of questions in lesson.	Oct
Cheryl	10G	Music	Working so hard towards GCSE.	Oct

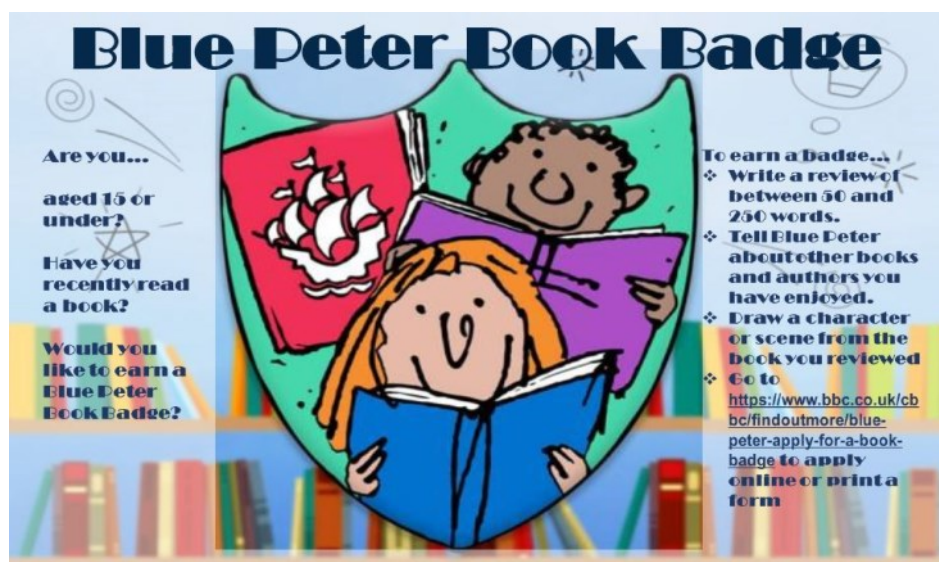
# Library

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!)

Crochet Club is proving popular but is running out of wool so if you have any to spare it would be much appreciated. Here are some pieces made by Kyla and Alesha.

*Mrs Thurlby, Library & Literacy Assistant*



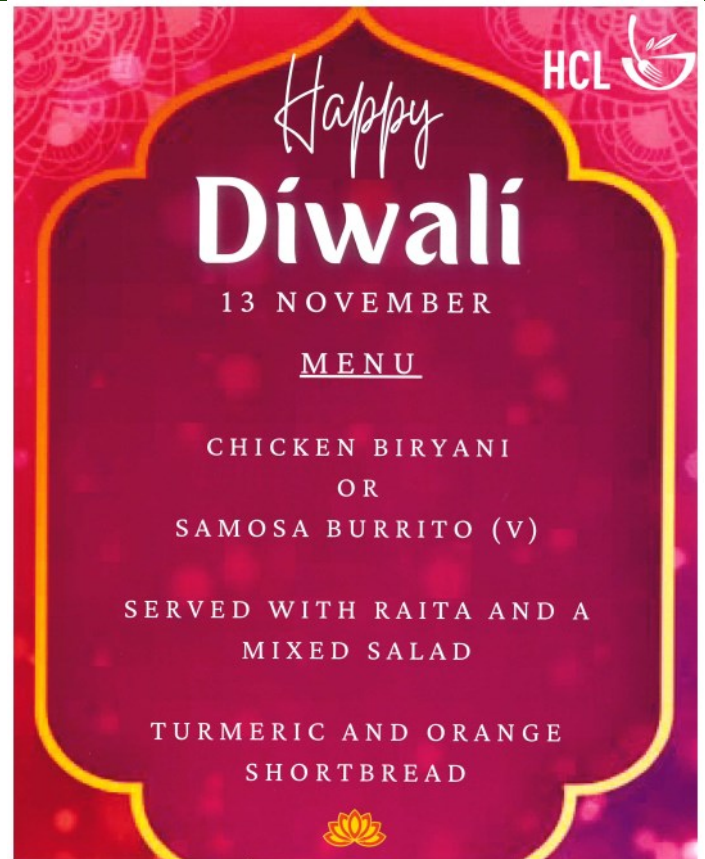


## Extra Curricular Activities

### Run your own club

Is there a boardgame you would like to play with friends, a hobby you would like to share or a group interest you would like to research?

The library is a space available for you after school, speak to Mrs Thurlby for more details.



THIS MENU IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE DEPENDING ON SUPPLIER STOCK AVAILABILITY.

@HCLCatering

www.hcl.co.uk

### Homework Club



Years 7-11  
Monday-Friday  
In Inclusion  
With Mrs  
Cottenden





North Herts School Sport Partnership hosted a brilliant afternoon of primary basketball here at Fearnhill School last Friday - a huge thank you to our Year 10 Sports Leaders who did a brilliant job helping throughout the afternoon.

North Herts SSP @NorthHertsSSP · Nov 3

A very competitive and edge of the seat @YourSchoolGames Y5/6

Basketball competition was won by @SamuelLucasPE1 this afternoon at @FearnhillPE. Played in the right spirit by all 10 School's in attendance, it was a great afternoon umpired by excellent leaders. Well done all 🏀



## PE SPORTS CLUBS/PRACTICES Autumn Term 2023



	Netball	Basketball	Rugby	Football	Badminton/ Table Tennis	Lunchtime 1:25-1:55pm
<b>Mon</b>	KS3 SSN/LFD		Year 7 GMD	Year 8&9 SMY	All years MTR	
<b>Tues</b>			Year 8 GMD			KS3 Dance JMN Year 11 Intervention in B2 SSN
<b>Weds</b>	Year 10-13 SSN	Year 8&9 OSD		Year 7 Boys SMY Year 7&8 Girls MTR		Student Choice SMY
<b>Thurs</b>		Year 7 OSD		Year 10-13 AWS		Year 11 Practical Intervention OSD
<b>Fri</b>						Year 10-13 Basketball MTR

SSN = Ms Straughn OSD = Mr Shepherd SMY = Mr Manley MTR = Mr Turner JMN = Mrs Martin GMD = Mr McLeod AWS = Mr Williams LFD = Ms Fullard

All Clubs/Practices will take place after school, unless stated otherwise, from 3:00-4:00pm

# Extra Curricular Activities



**FEARNHILL  
SCHOOL**

## Extracurricular Activities Autumn Term 2023-2024

Day	Club	Year Group	When	Where
<b>M o n d a y</b>	Badminton/Table Tennis	All	After school	PE
	Choir	All	Lunch	MU1
	Football	8 & 9	After school	PE
	Homework	7-11	Lunch & after school	Inclusion
	Netball	7-9	After school	PE
	Rugby	7	After school	PE
	School Production	All	After school	Hall
	Students Own	All	After school	Lib
<b>T u e s d a y</b>	Crime Club	10-13	Lunch	H5
	Dance	7-9	Lunch	PE
	Homework	7-11	After school	Inclusion
	GCSE PE Elevate Theory Session	11	Lunch	PE
	Rugby	8	After school	PE
	School Production	All	Lunch	Hall
	Students Own	All	After school	Lib
	Sustainable Society (Wk 1)	7-13	Lunch	H1
<b>W e d n e s d a y</b>	Basketball	8 & 9	After school	PE
	Creative Writing	All	Lunch	E5
	Football (Boys)	7	After school	PE
	Football (Girls)	7 & 8	After school	PE
	Homework	7-11	Lunch & after school	Inclusion
	Netball	10-13	Lunch	PE
	School Production	All	After school	Hall
	Science	7-9	Lunch	S3
	Sewing	All	Lunch	T9
	Students Own	All	After school	Lib
	Students Sport Choice	All	After school	PE





# Extra Curricular Activities

Day	Club	Year Group	When	Where
T h u r s d a y	Basketball	7	After school	PE
	Cooking	All	After School	T1
	Football	10-13	After school	PE
	History	All	Lunch	H2
	Homework	7-11	After school	Inclusion
	Jigsaw Puzzle/Lego	All	Lunch	Inclusion
	GCSE PE Elevate Practical Session	11	Lunch	PE
	Students Own	All	After school	Lib
	Wind Band	All	Lunch	MU1/2
F r i d a y	Basketball	10-13	After school	PE
	Christian Union	All	Lunch	H2
	Composition	10 & 11	Lunch	MU2
	Homework	7-11	Lunch & after school	Inclusion
	Students Own	All	After school	Lib



# Knowledge Organisers

At Fearnhill, we believe in the power of knowledge. Teachers in every subject have put together a Knowledge Organiser which has all the key knowledge students need to learn to understand that topic.

In school, they are used in lessons to support learning as a reference and as a way of checking answers. Knowledge Organisers (KO's) are also an excellent homework tool for self-quizzing and revising.

KO's have been updated on our website for this half term and can be accessed by clicking on the QR codes below:

				
Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11

# Student Support

The Sandbox is an NHS-funded service to support children and young people in Hertfordshire with their mental health and well-being.

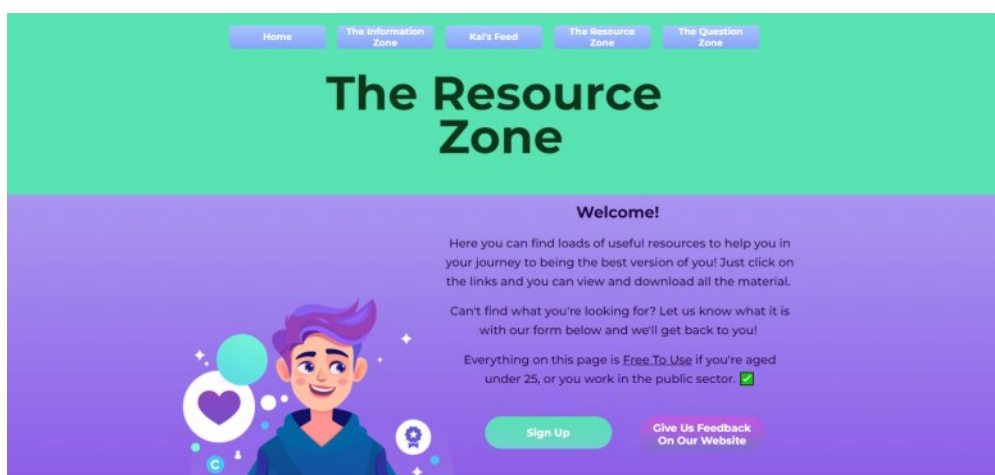
In addition to providing NHS-funded support, The Sandbox is a central place for information about common mental health issues, with information on how to access additional support or emergency services.

The website has a special area for parents/carers to access information on how to support young adults going through mental health difficulties as well as anger management, anxiety, self harm and gender identity.

<https://sandbox.mindler.co.uk/>

Please encourage students to visit the website and have a look at the different pages.

There are lots of ideas and resources on the website, with online modules to support young people up to 25. Some students at Fearnhill are already using it and have found it helpful.



## External Events



PERFORM  
TRANSFORM

### DANCE AND PHOTOGRAPHY TASTER WORKSHOPS

#### TAKE PART

Join our 4 FREE dance and photography workshops in collaboration with Wilbury Community Cafe (Suitable for families and adults / children must be accompanied by an adult)

#### WHAT WILL YOU BE DOING?

You will try some dance and photography skills with two professional artists:

- Choreographer and dancer - Kasia Truefitt
- Photographer - Sam Ivin

Learn about the PERFORM TRANSFORM project in 2024 at Letchworth Museum and how to join.



#### WHERE?

St Thomas Wilbury  
Bedford Road  
Letchworth, SG6 4DU



#### WHEN?

Saturdays from 11:00am - 1:00pm:

- 10 June, 14 October
- 11 November, 9 December

#### NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Contact BEEE Creative.  
Email: [carrie@beee-creative.co.uk](mailto:carrie@beee-creative.co.uk)  
Telephone: 07971 171061



# Student Support



We are proud to offer the National School Breakfast Programme - offering all students a free, healthy breakfast.

Breakfast Club is in the Canteen every morning from 8am where you can pick up a free bagel.

## Children's Wellbeing Practitioner Workshops (October-December 2023)

Workshops are open to all young people & parents/carers of children and young people who attend a school or are registered to a GP in Hertfordshire. A referral is not needed to access a workshop.

All workshops are currently being delivered online via Microsoft Teams. For more information about what each workshop covers and to book a place onto a workshop, visit the Children's Wellbeing Practitioner Eventbrite page: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/childrens-wellbeing-practitioners-school-nursingservice-hertfordshire-33494371787>

Workshop	Date & Time
<b>Emotional Wellbeing (For Young People 11-16)</b> A workshop focused on adolescents managing their own emotional wellbeing and things parents/carers can do to help.	Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November 6pm
<b>Supporting Adolescents with Self-Esteem</b> A workshop focused on adolescents improving their self-esteem and what parents can do to support.	Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> November 6pm
<b>Supporting your Child's Self-Esteem</b> A workshop focused on parents/carers supporting their child to improve their self-esteem.	Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> October 10am Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> December 10am
<b>Supporting with Sleep Difficulties</b> A workshop supporting children and adolescents with managing their sleep difficulties and how parents/carers can help.	Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October 6pm Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> December 6pm
<b>Supporting your Child's Resilience</b> A workshop focused on parents/carers supporting their child to improve their resilience.	Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> October 10am Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> December 6pm
<b>Developing your Child's Emotional Literacy</b> A workshop focused on parents supporting their child with developing emotional literacy.	Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> November at 10am
<b>General Emotional Wellbeing and Regulation Tips for Parents</b> A workshop focused on parents supporting their child's general emotional wellbeing and emotional regulation.	Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> November 6pm
<b>School Transitions</b> A workshop supporting children and adolescents with managing school transitions.	

To access the recorded **Emotionally Based School Avoidance Webinar** please visit: <https://www.hct.nhs.uk/our-services-and-referral-information/our-services-a-z/childrens-wellbeing-practitioners-service/>

## Thought of the Month *November*

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



## External Opportunities



Hertfordshire  
Family Centre  
Service



**Want to know more about the  
Public Health School Nursing  
team in Hertfordshire?**

**Check out our platforms:**



<https://www.hertsfamilycentres.org/info-and-advice/parents-and-mums-to-be/school-nurses.aspx#>  
[www.hct.nhs.uk/our-services/school-nursing](http://www.hct.nhs.uk/our-services/school-nursing)



**07480 635 050**  
Confidential text message service ran by the school nursing team for 11-19 year olds. Text in any health and wellbeing concerns



@hct\_schoolnursing  
@teenhealth.hct



@HCT\_SchoolNurse



🔍 Hct SchoolNursing



[www.healthforkids.co.uk/hertfordshire](http://www.healthforkids.co.uk/hertfordshire)



[www.healthforteens.co.uk/hertfordshire](http://www.healthforteens.co.uk/hertfordshire)



**School nursing duty number**  
**0300 123 7572**  
9am – 5pm Monday to Friday  
(excluding bank holidays)



**Norton Common junior parkrun**

A free weekly timed 2km timed run for 4-14 year olds

9.00am every Sunday

Norton Common, Letchworth – meet on the tarmac path in the middle of the park towards Icknield Way

w3w ///toys.sudden.dwell

Register and more info at  
[www.parkrun.org.uk/nortoncommon-juniors](http://www.parkrun.org.uk/nortoncommon-juniors)





# Calendar

## Autumn Term 2023

Inset Day (disaggregated)  
Occasional Day

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2023  
Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2023

End of Term (early closure)

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2023

## Spring Term 2024

Inset day for staff

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Spring Term begins for staff and students

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Half Term

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> – Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2024

Return to school

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2024

End of Term (early closure)

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Good Friday

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Easter Monday

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024

## Summer Term 2024

Summer term begins for students

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024

May Bank Holiday

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Half Term

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024

Return to school

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2024

Inset Day

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024

End of Term for students

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2024

# Contact Us

01462 621200

[admin@fearnhill.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@fearnhill.herts.sch.uk)

Fearnhill School

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.**

# Follow Us



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fearnhillsch](https://www.instagram.com/fearnhillsch)



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