



FEARNHILL SCHOOL



Careerfile

Issue 23 1st December 2023

Calling all Former Fearnhill Students - we need you!

Did you once walk the Fearnhill corridors, learn in a Fearnhill classroom and wear a Fearnhill uniform? Then I would love for you to get in touch! We need former students to join us to share their career stories to inspire our current students. *Continued on page 2.*



Year 11 GCSE Mock Exams

The GCSE mock exams have started. Students should be putting the skills and advice given to them during PSHE lessons and at the Study Skills & Revision Techniques session that took place on Wednesday 15th November. *See page 2 for revision tips.*

Year 11 6th Form Applications

The 6th Form applications window closes on Friday 8th December! There is still plenty of time for students to apply for a place. Even if you are unsure, please apply so that you keep your options open. If you have any questions, re. applying please see myself or Mr Marlow.

Year 11 16+ Options

All Year 11 students will be working towards making decisions for their future during their PSHE lessons. Those students not wishing to stay on or go to Sixth Form still need to prepare for their next steps as colleges and all learning providers will ask for a personal statement and/or evidence of their achievements and plans when inviting them to interview. A record of achievements will impress the interviewer if kept up-to-date and will also help them prepare for interviews.

Students can (and should) choose more than one course to apply for. Indeed, they should be keeping all their options open at the moment. If they apply for Sixth Form and a college course they can turn the one down that they don't want when they get their results. All of this is explained to them, but...! Students wanting to apply for an apprenticeship **MUST** apply for a college course until an apprenticeship place is secured.

One of the most important points to note is that students need to know their predicted grade/level in their final exam as they need to be realistic when making their choices for next year. They should aim high in the hope that they will do as expected or better in their exams but also have a back-up plan in case things don't work out so well. Please stress the importance of their mocks and that these will be used as their predicted grades when applying for College/6th Form etc.

Year 9 Virtual Options Introduction

This event will take place via Zoom on Tuesday 5th December at 5:30pm. A link will be sent to you prior to the evening. This will take no more than 20 mins and will be a brief introduction to Year 9 students' next steps of their education moving from key stage 3 to 4.

Ms Balchin, Careers & PSHE Lead



Look out every fortnight for new features -
all things career related!

Empowering Positive Change through Careers Education

Alumni Careers Event

I have been inundated with responses regarding this request, it is so lovely to hear what ex-students are doing now as a career and what it has taken to get to where they are.

Don't worry, there is still time to get in touch! It doesn't matter what your journey has been since leaving school, we'd like to represent a wide cross-section of careers that might be available to our students.

If you'd like more information on how you can be involved in our Careers event early next term please email:
admin@fearnhill.herts.sch.uk

I am excited at the prospect of seeing some familiar faces!
Spread the word!

**CALLING ALL
FORMER FEARNHILL
STUDENTS...
WE NEED YOU!**



Miss Balchin, our Head of Careers, would love former students to share their career stories to inspire our students.

It doesn't matter what your journey has been since leaving school - bank manager or basketball player, barista or barrister - come and let our students talk to you about your career path.

If you'd like more information on how you can be involved in our Careers event early next term please email
admin@fearnhill.herts.sch.uk

Year 11 Mock Exams

The Year 11 mock exams start on Monday 4th December and run for 1 week. They are important for a number of reasons. Firstly, they will give teachers, parents and the student themselves an idea of whether the student is on target to achieve predicted grades. Another plus point for mock exams is that it gives a practice run ahead of the final GCSEs. It is really important to practice writing timed answers, so that you get your timing right when it matters.

Mock exams are the nearest students will get in preparation for the real thing. It is also the time to make mistakes and learn from them. As a teacher, I expect someone in my class to read the paper wrong and answer the wrong section, too many questions or not enough – yes really, it happens despite everything teachers say. However, hopefully this means the same mistakes are then not replicated when it really counts in June.

To prepare for mock exams, follow these six tips to GCSE success from the Collins for Parents web page:

1. Plan a revision timetable. This should be done by looking at the week ahead and including the social activities that the young person has. Then the timetable is realistic and workable. Put the timetable in a visible place and stick to it!
2. Use a range of resources to aid revision. I am a big believer in doing past papers and exam questions for revision. Nothing beats doing what you will face in the exam. It is easy to not to push yourself when revising and stick to what you already know. But that doesn't help you improve.
3. Spend time going over your class notes. A good tip: every day, have a notepad ready and when you get home write down what you learnt in each lesson. What can you recall? Also read your notes and if there is something you don't understand, find out or ask your teacher to explain it again.
4. Use specific revision aids for your subject, make sure you know the exam board and get books that support the board you are using.
5. Seek out your teachers, they are experienced and understand the course and its requirements. Use them to the fullest, talk to them about the bits you are struggling with.
6. Finally remember the tortoise and the hare fable, slow and steady will get you to the finishing line. Keep going, keep considering the finishing line and plan on how you are getting there. This is why it is the smart student starts revising for their mocks and then keeps going until June.

Year 11 Study Skills Day - Student Feedback

"More time in form time doing actual exam questions. ithrive could just have links to it on the google classroom for students who need it." Grace 11G

"I liked the 5:5:2:2 method because it helps me to remember the key info on my own instead of just copying it into my book." Lilly-May 11G

"Teachers told us how to revise and beat the stress." Jasroop 11G

"I liked just trying the new methods." Ronnie 11P

"The 5,5,2,2 session went really well and I think it works for me." Bella 11N

"I enjoyed the dual coding." Kyras-Jayd 11N

"It would be good to have more of these days." Cameron 11N

"I would like to learn more revision styles." Oliver 11H

"It is good to know about how to not stress." Robert 11N

"More time in the workshops would be better." Taylor 11N

"I would have liked more stress relief stuff." Carrick 11N

"It could improve with more revision options." Charlie 11N

"I would like more period 6 sessions." Lewis 11P

"The 5,5,2,2 is the best session in my opinion because it seems the most useful I believe I genuinely learnt the most during the session." Callum 11P

"I liked the 2:2:5:5 session because it seems like an actually really useful technique for revising." Amy 11P

"The new methods were interesting to learn about!" Colette 11P

"It would have been useful to go over past papers." Joshua 11P

"The dual coding was a good session, I enjoyed it, thank you." Jayden 11P

"I enjoyed the beat the stress session as it was highly useful to me." Sophie 11P

"What I thought helped me the most was the 5.5.2.2 method." Emily 11G

"It helped me try different revision methods." Tianna 11G

"They gave actual actionable steps instead of only stating the importance of revision. It would be good to offer revision resources, dual coding, knowledge organizers on the day for each student." Ahmed 11H

"It would help if we did this earlier, so teach it earlier and then do a refresher of it later on." Thomas 11G

Important dates for your diary

Year 11 MFL Speaking Mocks

Thursday 30th November

Year 11 art students coursework day

Friday 1st December

Year 9 Virtual Options Intro - Virtual

Tuesday 5th December

Year 11 6th Form Applications

deadline - Friday 8th December

Services for Young People

The Young People's Awards events take place every year during National Youth Work Week. They are an opportunity to recognise and celebrate the achievements of some of the young people who have been supported by Services for Young People (SfYP) over the previous academic year. The events highlight the positive impact that SfYP Youth Workers and Advisers have in enabling young people to overcome barriers and fulfil their potential.

This includes young people with special educational needs and disabilities, those who are not in employment, education or training, young people who are in care, and members of the LGBT+ community struggling with their confidence or emotional wellbeing.

**Services for
Young People**

Hero Slinn, Director of Inclusion & Skills at Hertfordshire County Council said:

"A sincere thank you to all the Youth Workers and Advisers in Services for Young People! Your hard work and dedication have not gone unnoticed, and it is truly a cause for celebration as each award-winning young person is a testament to the positive impact of your efforts. Your commitment to the wellbeing and development of young people is inspiring, and the recognition of their achievements reflects the invaluable support and guidance you provide."

The North Herts ceremony took place on 7th November. Awards were given out by the Exec Director of Children's Services for HCC Jo Fisher who said: *"Delighted we can celebrate young people's achievements this evening, recognising all they have accomplished with the support of our nationally qualified Advisers and Youth Workers. The award categories mirror the work we complete across Children's Services and represent the vision and values we hold for our young people in Hertfordshire: to Be Healthy, Be Safe, Be Ambitious, Be Resilient, Be Independent, Be Happy and Be Included."*

One young person was delighted to receive an award and said: *"Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be myself"*.

Cllr Caroline Clapper, Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning said: *"I was humbled and honoured to attend to celebrate the achievements of all the young people... who have shown perseverance this year and have worked with our Youth Workers and Advisers to make amazing progress and develop the skills and confidence they need as they move towards adulthood."*

Well done to all the well-deserved nominees & winners!

Special Mention - November II

Anna 11H is another great example of students making the most of the opportunities presented to them and as a result gaining so much more from it than they ever thought possible is another great example of students making the most of the opportunities presented to them and as a result gaining so much more from it than they ever thought possible.

"On 5th November I attended a Entrepreneurship InvestIn Workshop, where I was given the opportunity to take part in a Dragons Den competition with people my age. As a group we were given a topic that we had to create a business from. Sustainability was the topic we received, which I found quite difficult to create a business plan out of, however, with all the support from everyone around me, we not only made a good business on sustainability, I also learned great communication skills and gained more confidence throughout the whole experience. I would recommend the InvestIn workshops to anyone who would like a real insight to what a typical day would be like for the career path you would like to go down in the future."



Empowering Positive Change through Careers Education

Apprenticeship Interview Tips

There are fewer things more stressful than an interview (driving test and moving house probably trump it), but there's no need to worry about it, if you follow these simple steps and prepare, prepare, prepare.

You only get one opportunity to make a good first impression, so you need to be well prepared for the apprenticeship interview.

1. Do your homework

Fail to plan, and you plan to fail. You are certain to be asked specific questions about the company, so make sure you've done your homework. You can find useful information on their company website, look for details about the company culture, their mission and values. You could also speak to someone who already works there, or even try Googling the company and see what comes up. Also take a look at the latest developments in the industry so you can converse with confidence.

3. Know what to expect on the day

Interviews can be more complicated than they first appear, depending on the employer. Some still do them one on one, on a single day, and then make their decision. Others prefer two interviews; the first to whittle down applicants from a long list, the second to make their final decision. Some employers even meet their applicants all at once, to see how you would react in a group setting. Find out what the format of the interview will be when the employer first gets in touch. Knowing ahead of time will make it easier for you to prepare.

5. Look smart

Appearances shouldn't matter, but the plain fact is that you are often judged before you've even uttered a word. Make sure your shoes are clean, your clothes fit correctly and that your accessories are subtle. Dressing one level above the job you're applying for shows a desire to succeed. Don't be afraid to seek a second opinion about your outfit choice from a friend or relative.

7. Keep calm

Good preparation is the key to staying in control. Getting a good night's sleep before the interview will help you feel fresh and motivated. You're going to be nervous, accept this and move on. Shake the hands of everyone present when you arrive, and keep it natural. No one maintains eye contact all of the time, so just meet their gaze when they're speaking, and when you are. Speak clearly, smile and remember that your interviewers are just normal people. If it helps, ask for a glass of water. Remember the three Cs: Cool, calm and confident!

9. Watch your language

Keep things professional, no matter how comfortable the interviewer makes you feel. Be aware of any inappropriate slang words or references to age, race, religion, politics, or sexual orientation - these topics could send you out the door very quickly. Also, telling the interviewer more than they need to know could be a fatal mistake, so try not to ramble. Preparing your answers in advance will help you with this. Your attitude plays an important role, so try not to be over-confident as there is a fine balance between confidence, professionalism and modesty.

2. Plan your route

Where are you going for the interview? Is it the employer's headquarters? Figure out how you will get there on the day, so that you don't have to worry about getting lost. It might even be a good idea to visit the location ahead of your interview if it's not too far away, to time how long it'll take you to get there. On the day you should allow extra time for any unexpected delays and get everything you need to take with you ready the night before.

4. Prepare your answers

Although there is no set format that every job interview will follow, there are some questions that you can almost guarantee will be asked. You should prepare answers to questions about your personal strengths and weaknesses, as well as being able to explain why you would be the best person for the job and why you want to work for them. You can't predict what questions you'll be asked, but you can guess and plan general answers that can be narrowed down on the day. The less you have to improvise, the better, so practice potential questions and likely answers on your own or with a parent or teacher and always have examples ready to support your answers.

6. Things to bring with you

You may need to bring a portfolio of work, a passport to prove you have the right to work in this country, or your CV. Check and make sure it's out and to-hand the day before, so you won't forget it.

8. Listen

From the very beginning of the interview, your interviewer is giving you information, either directly or indirectly. If you are not hearing it, you are missing a major opportunity. Good communication skills include listening and letting the person know you heard what was said. Observe your interviewer, and match that style and pace.

10. Show interest

You should always have some questions for your interviewer to demonstrate your interest in the position. Prepare a minimum of five questions, some which will give you more information about the job and some that delve deeper into the culture and goals of the company. Good examples of questions could include: What are the main responsibilities of the position? What can I expect from you in terms of development and support? Do you offer a pension? Do you organise socials for the staff? Try to avoid questions about pay and benefits if you can.

For more information on the interview process, take a look at our section on apprenticeship applications.

<https://apprenticeshipguide.co.uk/how-do-you-prepare-for-an-apprenticeship-interview/>

Key Word/Phrase of the Fortnight

TO FIRE OR TO SACK
SOMEBODY



TO DISMISS SOMEONE FROM A JOB,
OFTEN BECAUSE THEY'RE NOT
GOOD AT THEIR JOB OR HAVE
BEHAVED VERY BADLY.

Obscure / Obsolete Job Titles



VHS Repairman

VHS repairmen visited customers' homes to inspect and fix malfunctioning VHS players. They also repaired machines customers brought into their shops. As VHS tapes became less common, this position disappeared. Today's equivalent might be a handyperson or a television repair person.

Apprenticeship FAQs

Instruct and inspire to keep the nation on the fast track to fitness with sport and fitness apprenticeships

Sport is about more than just teams and competition - it's all forms of physical activity that improve physical fitness and mental wellbeing. Sport can even help people form social relationships. Millions of people enjoy sports at community leisure centres, private health clubs, outward bound centres, and after-school clubs - and all of these need keen and motivated staff to make sure things run smoothly and safely, as well as to instruct, inspire, and keep an eye on people. Sport and fitness covers all aspects of sport and recreation, from professional sport to exercise instruction - including work in leisure centres, gyms, swimming pools, stadiums, and private sports clubs, as well as a range of outdoor activities.

Any questions [contact us](#)

[Sport & Fitness Apprenticeships](#)



**Sport and fitness
apprenticeships**

Empowering Positive Change through Careers Education

Rate My Apprenticeship

RateMyApprenticeship has hosted Apprenticeship Accelerator, a FREE virtual event giving all students an exclusive look at apprenticeships. A recording of the event is available to watch online for the next 12 months.

The event isn't just for students! We encourage you (and parents) to come along to find out more about apprenticeships and the employers who offer them.

We've created this nifty guide to give you an overview of the event and all the employers joining us. There's tons of info in there about the event, the employers in attendance and why students should do an apprenticeship.



[Register for FREE](#)

[Download Event Guide](#)

Medic Mentor

Real Students. Real Journeys. Honest Reviews.

Pursuing your dream of becoming a doctor may feel overwhelming, but remember that countless successful doctors have faced similar challenges and doubts. Believe in yourself and your abilities, focusing on your strengths and passion for medicine. Medic Mentor and its community of supportive students and mentors are here to guide you. Embrace the journey, knowing that success comes from resilience and learning from setbacks. Trust in your intelligence, drive, and passion, taking it one step at a time and seeking support when needed. Never lose sight of your dreams, for you have what it takes to achieve them.

The Medic Mentor website has numerous videos of med students sharing their journey. David is at the University of Edinburgh in their 3rd Year. Click [here](#) for David's story.



Jobs + Careers

JOBS+CAREERS

Built on the heritage of publishing indispensable job seeking and career building advice for over 13 years, *Jobs & Careers* is the ultimate recruitment and training guide boasting to active job seekers with expert advice on how to succeed in getting that job and taking the next step on the career ladder. *Jobs & Careers* advise the most self-motivated, career-minded and proactive job seekers across the country through in-depth coverage and advice for: school leavers, students, graduates, the unemployed, those leaving the army, those going back to work, single parents, people facing redundancy, temps, contractors, part time workers, those looking to leave their job and change careers.



Empowering Positive Change through Careers Education

External Opportunities

Students are advised to check their school email accounts weekly, if not daily!

Careers information and opportunities are sent regularly and we wouldn't want them to miss the deadlines.

These are copied to parents/carers as well for reference.

A few of these opportunities are listed here.

Insight to Lloyds Banking Group

Yrs 9-13

- Tuesday 5th December 5-6pm
- Business, Finance, Accounting, Data Analytics, Technology, Risk, and HR
- [Apply here](#)

RAF Engineering Insight Event

- Tuesday 5th December, 5-6:30pm
- Engineering and STEM
- [Apply here](#)

Lincolnshire Training Hub - free event

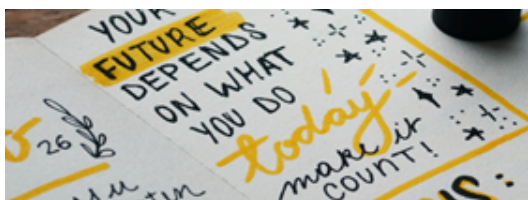
presentation, held by medical students, designed for Year 9–12 students decide if 'Medicine', or becoming a doctor, is for them. also helpful for those seeking info about the Medicine Application Process – inc. parents and teachers.


sign-up [here](#) to receive log in details.


The evening will include:

- How do I know medicine is right for me?
- The Application Process
- The Medical Degree / Life as a Medic
- Foundation Years (Post Degree)

The discussion will be led by Student Ambassadors, are all in varying stages of medical degrees.



**SPEAKERS**
for schools



FULLY FUNDED
Taster Session
▼
Women making their mark in the Army

In this session your students will:

- Have the chance to find out how women make a difference in the Army
- Hear real insights into a typical day as a women in the Army
- Ask questions to the panel and grow their knowledge of the Army
- Improve skills through a live, unique and interactive session



SIGN UP...
Discovery Workshop
23rd January, 11:00am-12:00pm
Apply by 5th January
Age: 16-19