



# FEARNHILL SCHOOL



## Fearnfile

Issue 622

8 December 2023

## The holidays are coming!

**As the nights draw in and the temperature plummets it can mean only one thing - Christmas is round the corner!**

It's less than two weeks till the end of term, but we know there is no time to waste in supporting students to do their best. Long gone are the days of watching Christmas movies or making decorations in lessons for the last few weeks. We want students' time in school to be purposeful and productive. Year 11 mock exams took place this week and there will be important assessments in all other year groups before the end of term.

### Who would be a teacher?

As we reach the final weeks of the term I want to pay tribute to the amazing work teachers are doing at Fearnhill. The truth is, teaching has become an unpopular job in our society. When I first applied to be a science teacher at a school in Aston 18 years ago, I was interviewed along with 6 other teachers - I didn't get the job! Today, most schools would be lucky to get more than one applicant for a science teacher job. It seems there are three big reasons that teaching has become less popular nationally: pay has gone down, behaviour of students has become worse in most schools and workload for teachers has increased.

### Inspiring teachers

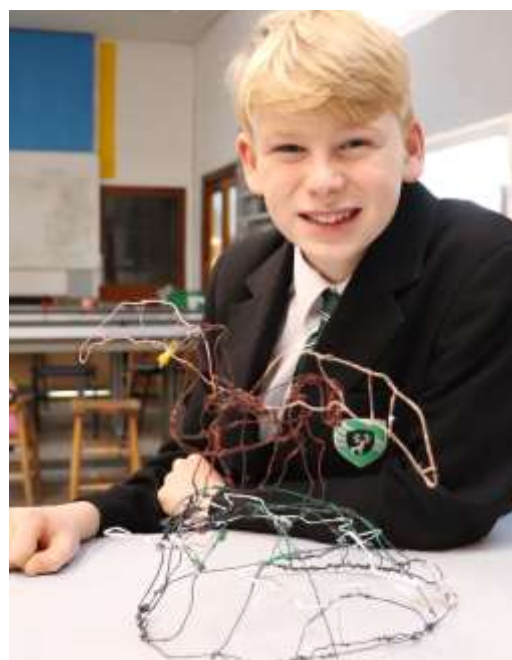
Fearnhill is lucky to have such talented, committed and kind teachers who show remarkable dedication to help students every day. I see teachers support students with excellent lessons, extra-curricular opportunities, pastoral support and after school revision and homework. They do it because they are passionate about the achievement and wellbeing of the students in our care. I could not be more proud to work alongside such inspiring people.

It is very important to me that I provide the best conditions for our teachers so they continue to enjoy work. Without good teachers, pupils at Fearnhill cannot achieve well. No school can take for granted that there will be an endless supply of teachers: we have to look after the ones we have. That is one of the reasons that we place such importance on good behaviour of students. Likewise, we make every effort to reduce unnecessary workload that can make teaching a thankless task.

If you get the chance before Christmas, why not send an email to one of your child's favourite teachers to say thank you. Teachers value positive feedback and this is one way of helping to make Fearnhill a great environment for the best teachers.

### Celebrating student achievements

I am also looking forward to handing out a lot of certificates - awards will go to the many students who show an excellent attitude, make great progress and maintain high attendance. Just as great teachers make the school a better place, I am proud to work in a school where so many students do their best every day. *Tim Spencer, Headteacher*



### Inside you'll find ...

- Christmas Concert
- Art & Design
- Netball Tournament
- Christmas letters to Spain
- Student Awards

**Week beginning 11/12 WEEK 1**

**Week beginning 18/12 WEEK 2**

# Student of the Week 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!

## 13th-17th November

Student of the Week	Phoenix 8P	15 points
Teacher of the Week	Mr Ogedengbe	276 points
Form of the Week	8P	198 points
House of the Week	Pearsall - 624	624 points

## 20th-24th November

Student of the Week	Serbroop 8G	10 points
Teacher of the Week	Miss Bossley	242 points
Form of the Week	8G	135 points
House of the Week	Gorst	375 points

## 27th November -1st December

Student of the Week	Phoenix 8P	13 points
Teacher of the Week	Mr Ogedengbe	275 points
Form of the Week	8P	137 points
House of the Week	Pearsall -	474 points

# Performing Arts Student Awards

## November

Mia	7P	KS3	PE	Great ATL, kindness and commitment to extra-curricular clubs.
Anaise	11G	KS4	PE	Great ATL & attainment in GCSE theory lessons/assessments.
Tommy	7G	KS3	Art	Enthusiastic in every lesson through answering & asking questions & always wanting to improve!
Harriet	8H	KS3	Art	Thinking outside the box & creating inspiring artworks.
Ryle	7G	KS3	Music	Really engaged & working hard in lessons.
Mitchell	11H	KS4	Music	Taking part in everything & being really proactive in teaching himself instruments.

## December

Derya	9H	KS3	PE	Hard work, commitment & positivity in every dance lesson!
Cheryl	10G	KS4	PE	Positivity in & confidence to contribute to every dance lesson.
Molly-Rose	8H	KS3	Art	Creative & a natural talent. Always completing tasks at a high quality & never giving up.
Ha	11P	KS4	Art	Amazing work ethic! Star student with amazing talent. Puts so much hard work into sketchbook proactively wanting to do well. Kind & polite.

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/) <https://www.facebook.com/FearnhillSch/>

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

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



# Music

**Students - and staff! - are working hard to prepare for our annual Christmas Concert to be held next Wednesday, 13th December.**

This promises to be an exciting evening, with students performing their favourite Christmas songs, winter music and dramatic sketches. There might even be a sneak peek from our upcoming musical 'Back to the 80s'. Fearnhill staff choir will also be performing!

Refreshments will be available during the interval with all proceeds going towards next term's school musical.

Tickets cost £5 for adults and £3 for under 18s and concessions. This year we are also offering a group save ticket at £14 for two adults and two under 18s. Tickets must be bought in advance and are only available via Schoolgateway.

**On Saturday 25th November, Fearnhill school Choir were invited to sing at the Love Letchworth Christmas Light event.**

We had 30 students from the choir give up time on a very cold Saturday to sing for the crowds at Letchworth. The students were amazing, singing a number of Christmas hits and Ben and Mitchell performed a duet - well done boys. We were joined by one of our feeder schools, Wilbury Junior School, who have come into Fearnhill to have some joint rehearsals and learn a bit more about singing at secondary school.

A great, but cold time was had by all and we are very proud of our students singing on stage in a public forum. Thank you to Mr. Marlow for organising this opportunity.





## Art& Design

Year 8 Art and Design students have spent this term working on a series of detailed 3D animal models. Using two gauges of wire, the students have been exploring form and learning how to work with different materials.



## School Council



The School Council continued their work on the Uniform Review this week, preparing their proposal regarding school uniform before being presented to Mr Spencer and the School Governors in the new year. Carrying out this review has been an opportunity for students to use their voice to shape the school and to demonstrate leadership in presenting it to governors.

However, ultimate responsibility for school uniform remains with Mr Spencer and the school governors. Our students will have to be persuasive and realistic if they want their proposals to be accepted.

Council members nominated team leaders to take responsibility for finalising the written proposals and the presentation. The nominated Team Leaders are: Jenson, Laura, Tom, Scarlett, Kacey and Alfie Rollins. Thank you to everyone who took part in discussions with their form representatives to help inform the proposals that are being taken forward.



# Spanish

Y10 Spanish students have been working together on a project making Christmas cards, with a small letter to introduce themselves in Spanish with their name, age, city where they live and about their family.

They are also talking about the activities they like to do in their free time, and introducing some questions.

The letters are on their way to Spain, they are going to IES Sierra Almirajara, it is a secondary school in a beautiful village on the coast, in the city of Malaga (where I am coming from).

Hopefully the Spanish students will get those letters and answer them. **Ms Moreno-Heredia**



# Library

Christmas has arrived at the Fearnhill Library! Thank you to students who contributed handmade book-themed decorations - and a big thank you to Mrs Thurlby who has once again produced some amazing woollen crafted scenes.



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*





# Christmas Lunch

*roast turkey or vegetarian option*

*with all trimmings, dessert & drink*

**Years 7, 8 and 6th Form Monday 18th December**

**Years 9, 10 & 11 Tuesday 19th December.**

**£3.70**

**This must be pre-booked and paid for in advance via  
Schoolgateway by Wednesday 13th December.**

**Please note that no other food will be  
available at lunchtime on these days.**

# Criminology

**Criminology was introduced to the school in September and is proving an exciting choice.**

The Sixth Form students are coming to the end of Unit One and have their first assessment in February.

A large part of the assessment involves planning and designing a campaign for change, and to help students undertake this they have learned about many campaigns, such as the campaign to create a law on 'upskirting' and campaigns to raise awareness around honour killing. They have also learned how to design campaign materials, how to finance campaigns through fundraising and how to ensure they can cover the cost of campaign materials or events, and even make a profit to keep the campaign running.

The students are currently planning and designing their practice campaigns, and they have chosen some important and interesting foci. Chenai is developing a campaign to increase awareness around the issue of knife crime, as well as campaigning for strategies such as knife surrender bins to be available in all towns and cities. Chris is developing a campaign to raise awareness around intimate partner violence and encourage witnesses of this crime to report it, whilst Amira is designing a campaign to change the laws around sex workers so that they are legally protected from physical harm and have access to free health checks.

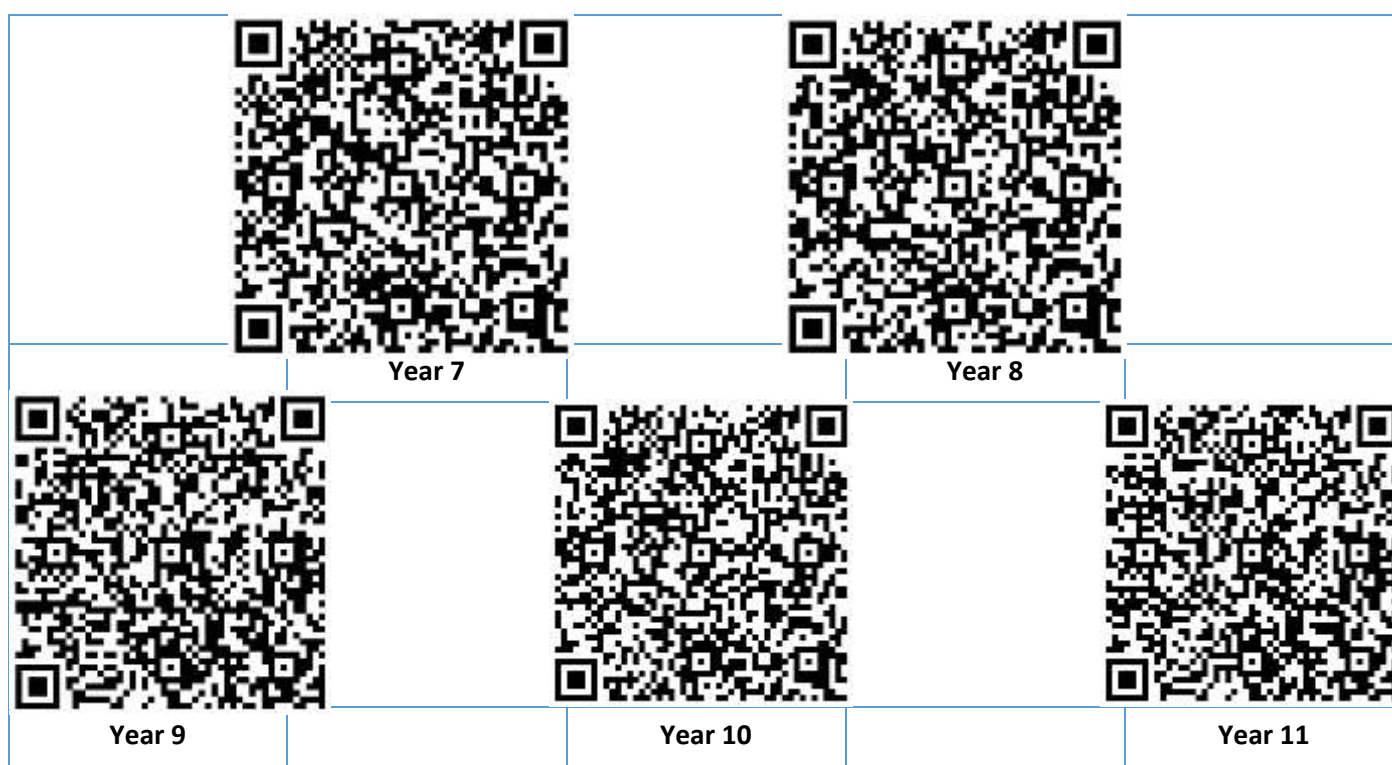


# Knowledge Organisers

**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:





The year 7 netball team played Highfield in their first tournament representing the school. Great effort by the team!

Player of the Match - Phoebe M

Y7 Squad - Phoebe M, Eliana N (C) , Michelle D, Lulu C, Mia E, Damla E and Laura S.



## District X-Country 2023

Fearnhill sent an eager team of cross country runners to compete in this year's North Herts District Cross Country in Stevenage. Fearnhill competed against eleven other schools in an event that is one of the more difficult competitions of the year, with many club runners competing for their schools across the district.

It was a very positive afternoon for students to display their talent in this discipline. Every student who was involved showed great determination and exemplary attitude to the event. They supported their peers throughout the afternoon, contributing to a highly successful experience for all involved.

As always, our competitors from Years 7-11 did themselves and their school extremely proud. There were approximately 50-60 competitors per year group and the Fearnhill top performers of the day were as follows: the Year 7's, in their first cross country event for the school, had some very positive performances and showed a superb attitude to a strong field with Dash J finishing in a very respectable 43rd position. Josh B demonstrated great determination to finish 28th in the Year 8 boys category, for the girls it was yet another strong group for them. In Year 9 the performance quality did not decline either, with the top finisher being Tiana F in 26th place closely followed by Chloe M in 28th place. A very strong run from both girls! The Year 10's had great success also, with hard fought performances by Charlie Cand Gracie B, finishing 17th and 12th respectively in their races. Finally, the Year 11 girl's race proved to be highly competitive with Anaise C fighting her way around the whole course to achieve an amazing 6th position! The Year 11 boys had a strong group to compete with also with a stand out performance by Thomas L coming in at 14th place. This was a fantastic performance by all pupils who attended.

A massive well done to all who took part, representing Fearnhill superbly and giving everything that you had in a brilliant afternoon of highly competitive running.



## PE SPORTS CLUBS/PRACTICES Autumn Term 2 2023



	Netball	Basketball	Rugby	Football	Badminton/ Table Tennis	Other
<b>Mon</b>	Year 7&8 SSN			Year 8&9 SMY	All years MTR	
<b>Tues</b>			Year 7&8 GMD			KS3 Dance 1:25-1:55pm JMN
<b>Weds</b>	Year 9-13 SSN	Year 8&9 OSD		Year 7 Boys SMY Year 7&8 Girls MTR		Student Choice 1:25-1:55pm SMY
<b>Thurs</b>		Year 7 OSD		Year 10-13 AWS		Year 11 Intervention • Practical 1:25-1:55pm OSD • Theory 3:00-4:00pm SSN Year 8/9 Girls Rugby 1:25-1:55pm SSN
<b>Fri</b>		Year 10-13 1:25-1:55pm MTR				

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

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



## Thought for the Month *December*

***Always find opportunities to make someone smile, and to offer random acts of kindness in everyday life.***



## Extra Curricular Activities

### Homework Club



**Years 7-11**

**Monday-Thursday  
in Inclusion with  
Mrs Cottenden**

### 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.

# 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/>



## External Events



**Nappies eating into your budget?**

Pick up a FREE selection of brand new washable nappies and start saving money and the environment.

For SG4/5/6 families

Jo from The Cloth Bums CIC nappy library will be giving out washable nappies, supported by Martine and Hester from Close Parent.

Wilbury Community cafe, Wilbury Hall  
10am-12:30pm Sat 9/12/23



**Wilbury Community Christmas Cafe**  
Saturday 9th December  
10am-12:30pm

Wilbury Hall and St Thomas Church Hall  
Bedford Road, Letchworth

Join us on Saturday morning to have a hot drink and a rescued pastry.

Check out our selling stalls. Join in with the fun creative workshop by BEEE Creative.

Christmas Raffle, Tombolas.

And always popular, our Wreath making table!

Keep an eye on the Cafe Facebook page for more details and updates.



MASSAGE | REIKI | NAILS | INDIAN HEAD MASSAGE | READINGS

**Christmas Pamper & Shopping Event**

9TH DECEMBER, 11-4.30PM

**HAMPSON PARK COMMUNITY CENTRE, STEVENAGE**

FAMILY FRIENDLY & ACCEPTING GIFT DONATIONS FOR THOSE LESS FORTUNATE

Who said Christmas shopping had to be stressful?  
Indulge in relaxing treatments AND do all of your shopping in just one day.

Full list of stalls, treatments and info -  
[facebook.com/groups/wellbeingpampersewing](https://facebook.com/groups/wellbeingpampersewing)

50P ENTRY

CAKES & SWEETS | TOILETRIES | GIFTS | FACEPAINTING | CARDS | TOMBOLA



**THE ARENA North Herts' Football Facility**

**XMAS FOOTBALL FUN 2023**

HITCHIN 1ST TEAM PLAYERS & COACHES

21ST DEC, 3RD & 4TH JAN  
8.30AM - 3.30PM EACH DAY

5-14 YEAR OLDS  
BOYS & GIRLS

£22.50 PER DAY / £55 ALL 3  
SAVE WHEN BOOKING ALL 3 DAYS TOGETHER

MOVES TO BE MADE

BOOK ONLINE!

Hitchin Town Community FC, The Arena, Norton Rd, Baldock, SG7 5AU  
01462 720088 info@htcfc.co.uk  
www.northhertsarena.co.uk

# External Opportunities

## Celebration of community stars in North Herts

Do you know someone special in your community who has gone above and beyond and made a real difference in their local community? Someone who has dedicated their life to helping others or recently made a big impact on a person, family or group in the community? Someone who has improved the health and wellbeing of people in North Herts? An eco-warrior or maybe an exceptional young person?

We want to hear from you as we launch North Herts Heroes 2024.

The deadline for nominations is 7 January 2024.

We can only accept nominations for individuals who have benefitted those in the district of North Herts.

If you have any queries please contact [community@north-herts.gov.uk](mailto:community@north-herts.gov.uk)

### Award Categories

#### Young Star award



Do you know a young person who has contributed to their community, inspired others or given back? Someone who has transformed their own life, overcome challenges to reach their goal or positively impacted others' lives? Let's give them the recognition they deserve!

#### Health Award



Has one of your friends shared healthy recipes or started a walking club? Has a PE teacher gone above and beyond their usual role? Does someone spring to mind who has really supported others to get

their mental health back on track? We'd love to celebrate them.

#### Green Award



Has a person made the community a better place to live? Has someone been key in

organising litter picks, gardening projects, tree planting, walking buses or community recycling drives? This award is for them.

#### Caring Award



Do you know someone who has really gone the extra mile over the past year? Maybe

someone has helped do your shopping week in, week out, supported you through a tough time or gone above and beyond for the community. Help us celebrate them.

Submit your nomination using the link [HERE](#)

**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#](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 run 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)



# Calendar

## Autumn Term 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

**See our website for details of 2024/25 term dates**

# Contact Us

01462 621200

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

[www.fearnhill.herts.sch.uk](http://www.fearnhill.herts.sch.uk)

Fearnhill School

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**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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