



FEARNHILL SCHOOL



Fearnfile

Issue 624

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Too many detentions

I read a news story a few years ago about a town in Wales that decided to stop issuing parking tickets. The idea was that if you ask everyone to park responsibly, drivers will do so and there will be no need for tickets. Traffic wardens are famously unpopular after all - presumably the person responsible for bringing in the 'no parking ticket' policy was not a fan of them either. The policy was short-lived and you can imagine the result. Cars were parked illegally everywhere and life for local residents became a nightmare.

Sanctions are necessary

In truth, any civilised society needs to have clear consequences for poor behaviour. Schools are no different. I have occasionally heard of schools that decide to ditch sanctions and the results are entirely predictable. Removing sanctions make schools much less safe.

Teachers do not like setting detentions

Whilst we know sanctions are necessary, there is no teacher who enjoys giving out detentions. It is undoubtedly one of the more tedious aspects of the job and every teacher is happier on a day when there has been no need to set a detention. However, as teachers we know that not setting detentions for poor behaviour is a recipe for disaster.

Too many detentions

As school leaders we have been reflecting on the number of detentions that are issued and have concluded that too many students are being sanctioned for relatively minor offences. We have therefore made a temporary change to our approach to issuing detentions. Students will only get a detention if they receive three or more behaviour points in a day and students will always receive a sanction within 24 hours of poor behaviour.

A fresh start every day

When detentions are issued for relatively small indiscretions, more students build up a backlog of sanctions and the incentive to behave well on any given day is diminished. So whilst the number of detentions will reduce, the immediacy of the sanction will improve. Parents will still receive details of all behaviour points that are issued. As school leaders we believe this is a fairer system that ensures every student has a fresh start every day. We will evaluate the impact on behaviour over this term before deciding whether to adopt this policy for the long term.

As a result, I hope we see fewer sanctions issued by teachers and better behaviour from students, which would be a good outcome all round!

Tim Spencer, Headteacher



Inside you'll find ...

- Year 7 London Trip
- Library Update
- Sixth Former's Film Experience
- Year 9 Assessments
- Spring Sports Clubs
- Science Club

Week beginning 22/1 WEEK 2

Week beginning 29/1 WEEK 1

Science Club

Students in Science Club have been enjoying a hands-on approach to investigation, working with various chemicals and solutions to discover their secret properties - who knew that lemon juice could act as invisible ink?

Science Club is open to all ages and is just one of a large variety of extra curricular clubs available to students. All students should sign up to at least one club per week and can find out further information via their tutor.



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

Sixth Form Film Experience

Fearnhill sixth former Lisa Alaba spent an 'amazing' day in London experiencing what a career in film is like.

Lisa, who hopes to study Film and Television Production at university, travelled to the up market Soho Hotel to meet Warner Bros professionals just prior to the launch of the new Wonka blockbuster.

Alongside around 40 other film students and young professionals, Lisa attended a variety of talks and interviews with three of the film's producers and a costume designer.

Lisa, who is studying A level Art, English Literature and Media Studies, said: "I spoke to producers of the Wonka film and a costume designer. They were all enthusiastic about their jobs and very helpful when answering my questions. They gave me a new outlook into the industry."

Accompanied by Highfield student Sammy Stewart, Lisa said that the experience has made her even more enthusiastic about a career in film. She said: "For a while I wanted to be a director but as I learn more about film, the more roles I'm interested in. Ultimately, I aim to have creative control in many films I'm part of, whether that be in cinematography, production or editing.

"It was such a cool experience and showed us how accessible a career in film really is. We did some networking for the first time and spoke to producers of the Wonka film to get further insights into the industry.

"We learnt a lot about film production, costume design and sound design - the day was amazing! It made me even more excited for my future in film and I can't wait to do more events like this."



Year 9 Assessment Week

On Monday 29th January, all Year 9 students will start their assessment week. Subject teachers will set an assessment that incorporates learning from across Key Stage 3. The assessment will take place in the classroom and teachers have saved relevant revision materials and a list of revision topics on the Google classroom.

For the next two weeks, there will be no English, Maths or Science homework to give students time to revise for their subject assessments. The Maths department will be running their assessment later in the term upon completion of their topic; dates will be shared nearer the time. In form time, students will be shown some useful revision strategies and will have time to put a revision timetable together for the next 2 weeks.

These assessments will not be used for setting, but will be a useful indication of current progress at Key Stage 3.

More importantly, they will serve as an excellent practice for Key Stage 4 mocks and GCSE exams. This will be Year 9 students' first opportunity to learn essential revision strategies ahead of their Key Stage 4 exams and the assessment week will offer them the chance to use these strategies and build their confidence with independent revision. Teachers and form tutors will support the Year 9s with preparing for these exams and, where possible, the Inclusion Department will offer support to individuals during the assessments.

We will be talking to the students about revising little and often. A small amount of revision each day is better than revising large chunks once a week. Homework club (3pm - 4pm Monday to Thursday) will be available for Year 9 students who would like a place to revise where Mrs Cottenden is available to help. If students would prefer a quiet, independent study area, the library is available after school until 4pm.

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/>

London Trip



London Trip

Year 7 students enjoyed a whirlwind trip to London to see the sights and enjoy an afternoon at the theatre.

Over 100 Fearnhill students travelled by train to London where they spent the morning on a walking tour visiting such sights as St Paul's Cathedral, the National Theatre, Southbank, Big Ben, Horse Guards Parade, St James' Park and Buckingham Palace. Following a tube journey to Wimbledon, the students then enjoyed a matinee performance of *The Snow Queen* at the Polka Theatre.

Mr Michael Turner, head of KS3, said: "We wanted to make some great memories for our students and in the process grow their confidence and understanding of themselves and their capital city.

"We covered a lot of steps and saw a lot of sights but I think staff and students alike would agree that the day was a great success.

"Well done to Year 7 for great behaviour and many thanks to staff who accompanied them."



Library

The North Hert's School Libraries Group' Book Awards are coming up in March, there is a short list of three books for keystage 3 and three books for keystage 4, if you are interested in taking part please see Mrs T in the 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!)

Mrs Thurlby, Library & Literacy Assistant



Catering

In Catering this half term we are looking at 3 core, high level skills:

- Presentation
- Jointing a chicken
- Art of poaching

An easy introduction to 2 of those 3 skills is a sweetcorn fritter with an oozy poached egg. Many of the class aced it in lessons! **Mrs Fullard**



Vision 2024

A celebration of artists

from Letchworth

Garden City's collective

Sixth Form classes.

Year 12: The Highfield School, Fearnhill School,
St Christopher School and St. Francis' College.

25th January - 3rd February 2024

Broadway Gallery, Letchworth



PE SPORTS CLUBS/PRACTICES

Spring Term 2024



	Netball	Basketball	Rugby	Football	Badminton/ Table Tennis	Other
Mon	Year 7&8 SSN		Year 8&9 Girls MTR	Year 8&9 SMY Year 10-13 AWS		
Tues			Year 7&8 GMD		All Years 1:25-1:55pm SSN	KS3 Dance 1:25-1:55pm JMN
Weds	Year 9-13 SSN	Year 8&9 OSD		Year 7 Boys SMY Year 7&8 Girls MTR		Student Choice 1:25-1:55pm SMY
Thurs		Year 7 OSD				Year 11 Intervention • Practical 1:25-1:55pm OSD • Theory 3:00-3:50pm SSN
Fri		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

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.




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
-  **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
-  www.healthforteens.co.uk/hertfordshire
-  **School nursing duty number**
0300 123 7572
9am - 5pm Monday to Friday (excluding bank holidays)

HOMEWORK CLUB

MONDAY-THURSDAY
INCLUSION 3-4 PM
YEARS 7-11

homework@fearnhill.herts.sch.uk

Neurodiversity Support Hub

For Parents, Carers and Professionals

We can offer support, signposting and guidance about a whole range of things including but not limited to:

- Understanding ADHD/Autism
- Distressed Behaviours
 - Anxiety
 - School

The phones are answered by our team of parents and carers of neurodivergent children and young people



01727 833963

supporthub@add-vance.org

Open Monday-Friday
9 AM - 1PM

Here to support, reach out for a listening ear

We Can't:

- Give updates/ fast track places on waiting lists
- Recommend specific private assessors









At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit nationalonlinecollege.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Children & Young People Need to Know about

FREE VS HATE SPEECH

Everyone in the UK has the right of "freedom of expression". That's the right to voice your opinions and share information and ideas with others. It's not the right to say whatever you want without regard for others' feelings and values. We all have a responsibility to use this right properly: being respectful and inclusive to those around us, rather than making offensive and threatening remarks. That's called 'hate speech' and knowing the difference is incredibly important.

Free speech is a person's legal right to share information, opinions and ideas without fear of retaliation, censorship or legal consequences. This freedom of expression is recognised in international human rights legislation, and here's what it does for us in our day-to-day lives ...

The Human Rights Act 1988 states that everyone has the right to express themselves freely – even if their views are unpopular and might offend others.

Freedom of expression encourages listening to others and allowing opposing views to be heard. It's important to respect someone's opinion, even if we disagree with it. Free speech lets us engage in meaningful discussions with people who feel differently.

Any concept could potentially offend someone. Galileo's theories were incredibly offensive to many at the time, while not everyone agrees with Darwin, even today. A frequent exchange of ideas is vitally important for a healthy society.

Free speech allows us to engage people we disagree with in a debate. The ability to challenge others' views is healthy – while having ours challenged helps us learn how to deal with criticism and think deeply about what we say and believe.

Freedom of expression includes the right not to do something, like not standing up for – or singing – the national anthem. Even though some people would find that offensive, it isn't illegal. By law, nobody can force you to say anything you don't want to.

Free speech is a powerful tool for change, justice and reform. Many modern UK rights – such as women being allowed to vote, decent working conditions or same-sex marriage – couldn't have been achieved without it.

Hate speech refers to any communication – like talking, texting or posting online – that negatively targets a group or an individual because they are perceived to be different in some way. Demonising and dehumanising statements, threats, identity-based insults, offensive name-calling and slurs would all count as hate speech. Here are some common forms it takes...

Targeting people or groups because of a protected characteristic – like race, gender identity, sexuality, nationality, religion or a disability – and verbally abusing them with slurs and name-calling. The Equality Act 2010 has more information on this.

Content that dehumanises people based on the same characteristics: referring to them as if they were animals, objects or other non-human entities, for example. Separating the target from other human beings is usually an attempt to justify the speaker's bigotry.

Calling for violence or hatred against certain people or groups and justifying and glorifying those actions. Suggesting that a certain group should be removed from society could be seen as a call to arms, for example – potentially putting people from that group in danger.

Claiming that specific types of people are physically, mentally or morally inferior (or even that they are criminals) to encourage others to view them in the same way. This kind of thinking is always incorrect – but can be incredibly harmful to the group in question.

Spreading damaging misinformation about a person or group that the speaker views as "different" – essentially, trying to turn others against them by lying. Someone might claim that a recent tragedy is the fault of this entire group, when this is simply not possible.

Promoting the segregation of certain groups, or discrimination against them, because of who they are. This has been illegal in the UK for a long time – but some people still try to promote the exclusion of others, which can cause a huge amount of distress.

Meet Our Expert

The Global Equality Collective is an online community for homes, schools and businesses, a collective of hundreds of subject matter experts in diversity, equality and inclusion, and the organisation behind the CEO app, the world's first app for diversity, equality and inclusion.

GLOBAL
EQUALITY
COLLECTIVE

The
National
College

NOS National
Online
Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

Source: <https://www.equalitycollective.com/uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/ceofactbook.pdf>
<https://www.washington.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/schedule117-2019-04-13-01.pdf>
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External Opportunities

GET INVOLVED AT FINDRUGBY.COM 

**CHALLENGE YOURSELF
TRY SOMETHING
NEW THIS YEAR**

WARWICK

Allianz  **INNER WARRIOR**

**JOIN OUR INNER WARRIOR CAMP ON
SUNDAY 28 JANUARY 12-1.30PM**

Whether you are a woman and girl aged 11+ to be part of this global rugby movement, no matter your age, fitness level, or experience, this is your chance to get active, try something new, make friends and to discover the thrill of rugby in a supportive, judgement-free zone. We can't wait to see you there!

If you have any questions or to register your interest email us on leitchworth@innerwarrior.co.uk or find us on Facebook search **Leitchworth RUFC - Ladies Ladies**






**FREE TASTER
JUNIOR TENNIS**

Join the uPlay Tennis team for a FREE fun and energetic session. For children Ages 5+. Give your child the freedom to truly explore the game of tennis and build on basics from the ground up.

SCAN ME



SCAN the QR code to book onto a FREE TRIAL

SESSION DETAILS:

-  Any junior session
-  **ACE TENNIS CLUB**
Hitchin Girls' School
Highbury Road,
Hitchin,
SG4 9RS

CONTACT DETAILS:

-  07305687853
-  sharna@uplaysports.co.uk

FOR MORE INFO:

-  <https://uplaytennis.classforkids.io/ern/149>





All ages and abilities welcome

**Tennis Coaching
Holiday Camps
Individual Coaching**

www.uplaytennis.co.uk   

@uplaysportsuk



January 27 @ 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Winter Photography Workshop

Triangle Community Garden Triangle Community Garden, Hitchin, Herts, United Kingdom

Want to get more from your camera? Capture and create those breathtaking seasonal moments? We will explore how to make your camera work for you to create the images you want. We'll use the plants and landscape in and around the Triangle Community Garden to experiment with different tips and techniques.



Calendar

Spring Term 2024

Year 11 Parents Evening	23 rd January
Year 9 Assessments	29 th January - 2 nd February
Back to the 80s - school musical	13 th , 14 th & 15 th February
Half Term	Monday 19 th – Friday 23 rd February 2024
Return to school	Monday 26 th February 2024
Year 10 Parents Evening	Tuesday 5 th March
End of Term (early closure)	Thursday 28 th March 2024
Good Friday	Friday 29 th March 2024
Easter Monday	Monday 1 st April 2024

Summer Term 2024

Summer term begins for students	Monday 15 th April 2024
May Bank Holiday	Monday 6 th May 2024
Half Term	Monday 27 th – Friday 31 st May 2024
Return to school	Monday 3 rd June 2024
Inset Day	Monday 1 st July 2024
End of Term for students	Tuesday 23 rd July 2024

See our website for details of 2024/25 term dates

Contact Us

01462 621200 admin@fearnhill.herts.sch.uk

www.fearnhill.herts.sch.uk

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