

It's showtime!

This week many Fearnhill students will be involved in the school production of 'Back to the 80s'. Performances take place on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday starting at 7pm. If you have not yet booked your tickets yet, you can do so through your Schoolgateway account or contact the school office (admin@fearnhill.herts.sch.uk).

A broad education

Events such as school shows are so important in the life of a school. Of course exams matter, but at Fearnhill we want education to be much more than just helping students to gain qualifications. School shows are fantastic opportunities for students to develop skills that will help them throughout their life. For some, it is the experience of performing in front of an audience that is so important in many walks of life. For others, it is the discipline of working in a team and meeting a deadline, for example, when helping on stage design. The deadline of opening night focuses the minds of students and teaches them to be prepared and reliable for the sake of their peers. The lessons students learn as part of a production will be vital to them throughout their lives.

Memorable experiences

We also care that school is memorable for students in its own right. Often school can be thought of as a stepping stone to further education and employment, but that misses the point: students attend secondary school for 5 or 7 years. It is important that they enjoy their time now, have the chance to live in the present and make memories that will last a lifetime. School shows are one way that we help students to make the most of their schooling and enjoy their education.

Other opportunities

We continue to search for more ways to add breadth to students' experience of school. I am delighted to see

preparations for Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) expeditions are well underway. A significant number of students are signed up to the programme and will benefit hugely from their involvement. I am meeting with the school council tomorrow to discuss uniform and listen to students' thoughts on how they would like uniform to change. I also hope to be able to share more details on the return of residential trips in the coming days for students in Y10 initially, and all students eventually.

The Fearnhill Student

It is our ambition as a school that every student who leaves Fearnhill is kind, confident, resilient and self-aware. These traits are more valuable than good grades (although they do help students to achieve academically too). School shows, DofE, school council and trips all contribute greatly to the life of the school. As always, I am very grateful to staff involved in these projects. They give up many hours of their own time to improve the school experience for students. The results are always worth it as we watch our students grow through these experiences. I know I am looking forward to seeing the culmination of many students' efforts this week as they take us, 'Back to the 80s!'

Tim Spencer, Headteacher

Week beginning 19/2 HALF TERM



Inside you'll find ...

- Year 7 London Trip
- Library Update
- Sixth Former's Film Experience
- Year 9 Assessments

Week beginning 26/2 WEEK 2

Student of the Week

22nd-26th Jan

Student of the Week	Samuel P 8G	18 points
Form of the Week	8G	294 points
House of the Week	Gorst	789 points
Teacher of the Week	Miss Bossley	249 points
29th Jan-2nd Feb		
Student of the Week	Eliana N 7H	18 points
Form of the Week	7H	227 points
House of the Week	Gorst	740 points
Teacher of the Week	Mrs Lee	400 points
5th-9th Feb		
Student of the Week	Thomas H 7G & Laura S 7N	18 points
Form of the Week	7P	249 points
House of the Week	Gorst	706 points
Teacher of the Week	Mrs Armstrong	221 points

Vacancies

Are you looking for flexible, part time work? We are looking for responsible and reliable people to join our support team on a term time only basis:

Invigilators Cleaners

fearnhill.herts.sch.uk/staff-vacancies/

School Production

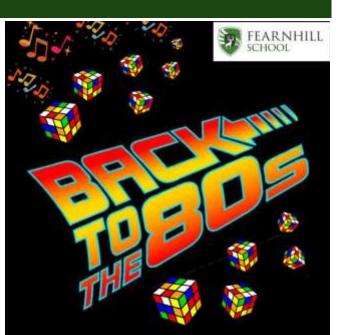
We're counting down the days to our annual school production - and what a show it promises to be!

Back to the 80s is a show set in the era that gave the world The Rubik's Cube, MTV and The Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. In the style of movies such as Back To The Future, Ferris Bueller's Day Off and The Karate Kid, Back To The 80's is a nostalgic romp through the greatest hits of the decade.

The musical tells the story of the senior class of William Ocean High School as remembered through the eyes of now 30-something Corey Palmer. 17-year-old Corey is madly in love with his next-door neighbour, Tiffany Houston, one of the coolest girls in the school. However, she is too busy mooning over Michael Feldman, the hottest guy around. Michael and his friends are athletic and good-looking - the kind of guys that Corey and his two best friends dream of being. Throw in a Star Wars dream sequence, high-energy dance routines, twenty cans of hairspray, a live band, as well as some of the most popular songs ever written, the result is a show not to be missed!

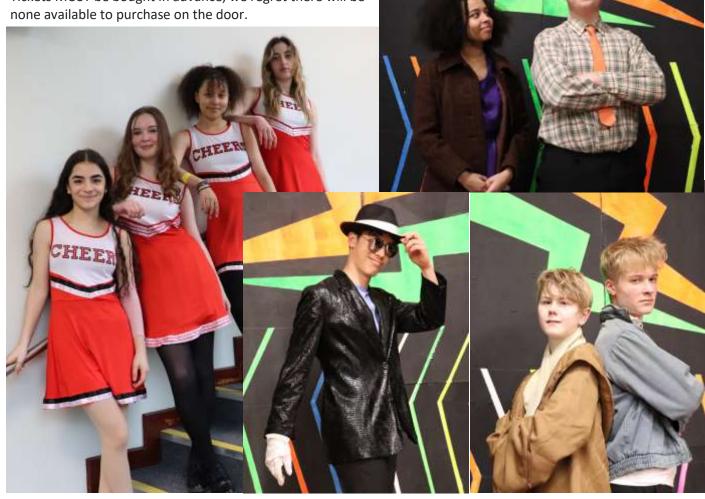
Performances will take place on Tuesday 13th, Wednesday 14th and Thursday 15th February. Doors will open at 6:45pm for a 7pm start and there will be refreshments for sale during the interval. Tickets are Adult £8 and Child/Concession £5 and are only available to buy from Schoolgateway.

Tickets MUST be bought in advance, we regret there will be



13, 14 & 15 FEBRUARY 2024

7.00 PM | FEARNHILL SCHOOL TICKETS MUST BE BOUGHT IN ADVANCE THROUGH SCHOOLGATEWAY £8 ADULTS £5 CONCESSIONS



DofE Award

The last two weeks of Duke of Edinburgh have seen our students put their map reading skills to the test.

On Thursday 1st February the students were given a map of the local area (around Fearnhill School), a list of 8 six figure coordinates and 8 descriptions of 'things to find'. Working in their chosen expedition groups, the students

went around the area noting the answers to what they found at each location.

Reward points were given to two groups: 'The Orchids' and 'The Ninja Turtles' for gaining the most correct answers and finishing first. As always Mr Fox and I were immensely proud of our students' behaviour in their neighbourhood.

Thursday the 8th February's session saw the students take time out to update their edofe apps and take stock of their achievements so far.

The last Thursday before half term will see the students learning about the countryside code and preparing for their first hike - date on this to follow very soon.

Mr Fowler and Mr Fox



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 9





Year 10

Year 11

Library



... with Mr Cordwell, 2nd in Humanities

Did you enjoy reading as a child? What were your favourite books?

Do you read for pleasure now? What do you like to read? Do you have a favourite genre/author? I loved reading as a child. I would stay up late to read in bed and get completely lost in the stories. I had a collection of my favourite books on my bookshelf and would read them over and over. I had the Harry Potter series, Phillip Pullman's Dark Materials and his Light Materials, Arthur C. Clarke's Space Odyssey series (although, now I look back on it, I'm not sure I actually understood them!). Later on I discovered Terry Pratchett's Discworld and spent years reading them all. Every single book would make me laugh out loud. I think his books had a big impact on who I became. I really, really love the Carpet People, and based my English GCSE Creative Writing coursework on my own adaptation of that story (I got 100%!).

I always have a book or two on the go. Usually I have one I read for fun and one History book I read to make me a better History teacher. At the moment I am reading Tom Holland's Dominion which is a History of Western thought and explores where a lot of our current mainstream culture and philosophy comes from, so this book is both fun and useful for work!

My favourite genre is Historical Fiction. This is where the author will create their own main character and set them within a historical period or event. Bernard Cornwell is the master of this and his Uhtred of Bebbanburgh series massively influenced the topics I studied at university. Lately, Christian Cameron's 'Killer of Men' has taken top spot for my favourite series in this genre. It follows Arimnestos of Plataea during the Greco-Persian wars of the 4th Century BC, featuring the battles of Marathon and Thermopylae. But my favourite entry in the series sees Arimnestos and his friends take a break from war and have adventures on the Mediterranean sea as merchant traders.

How long would you say you About half an hour a night. spend reading for pleasure each week?

Do you read any teen/young
adult books? Would you
recommend them to our stu-
dents?Yes!
KS3:
Terry Pratchett: The Carpet People, Diggers, Truckers, and Wings
KS4:
Steven Pressfield: Gates of Fire
Christian Company Killen of Man

Christian Cameron: Killer of Men Bernard Cornwell: Azincourt, The Last Kingdom

Wow - Mrs T has excelled herself this week with her display of crocheted goodies for Chinese New Year!



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!)

Uniform Expectations

After half term we will be tightening up our expectations regarding uniform. This letter clarifies what the expectations are and why they are important.

Why uniform matters

A common question that gets asked about uniform is, 'how does it affect my learning?' I think there are four main reasons why we believe wearing uniform correctly matters:

1. Uniform is fair because it does not make students or their parents feel pressure to buy expensive clothing (such as Nike trainers) just to fit in.

2. Uniform is fair because it shows that we treat everyone equally and that the expectations are the same for all students.

3. Students who do not believe uniform expectations apply to them typically do not believe that other school expectations apply either and it leads to poor behaviour.

4. Students who do not pay attention to uniform expectations typically achieve less well. Anyone who has worked in secondary schools for any length of time will know this to be true.

What next?

On Monday 26th February we will be re-establishing uniform standards with students. This is because too many students are not currently meeting expectations regarding uniform in one way or another.

Where students are missing an item of uniform (e.g. correct shoes or tie), this needs to be corrected before Monday 26th February. After that date students will be offered the correct uniform to borrow (where this is possible) or they will be removed from lessons or sent home to correct the issue. Students will not attend lessons without the correct uniform.

Our expectations

Where students are not following uniform expectations in some other way (e.g. nose studs or acrylic nails) they will need to correct the issue before they attend lessons. Where students refuse to wear the correct uniform for any reason, this will be treated as defiance according to the school behaviour policy.

There are other uniform expectations that are much easier to fix, for example, having an untucked shirt or rolling skirts up too short. Students will be asked to correct these issues and receive a behaviour point where they deliberately do not follow these expectations. Three or more behaviour points for any reason in one day results in a detention.

Exceptions

At lunch and break time students will obviously not get behaviour points because they are running around outdoors and their shirts have come untucked, or because they are playing football outdoors wearing trainers. However, the uniform expectations for students in the school building do not change from the beginning to the end of the school day.

If you have any queries regarding the school uniform please email admin@fearnhill.herts.sch.uk

Catering

Yr10 have jointed a chicken and used 1 of the chicken breasts to complete an oriental miso broth. Many hadn't talked about aromats before, heard of miso or poached chicken so these are a triumph. *Mrs Fullard*



www.fearnhill.herts.sch.uk

PRE

We had the pleasure of welcoming the Revd Liz Guest into school to talk to our year 10 and 11 GCSE RE students about what it is like to be a priest in the Church of England and how various services are carried out.

Rev Liz talked to us about the difference in the church calendar and how different times are symbolised by different colours.

She allowed us to try on her robes and showed us what robes were used for which services. She talked us through a communion service where we all got to try communion wafers and look at how the different parts of God are talked about in the service. We then moved onto baptism and the students were very excited to have their teddies baptised as a demonstration of how a baptism would be carried out.

The students were, as ever, polite and engaged with the activities and we would like to thank Rev Liz for coming to us and helping with our GCSE studies. *Mrs Chilton*







Hot waffle sale

£1 for plain warm sugar waffle 50p of toppings of your choice

Topping options

- Fruit (bananas)
- Sauces (toffee/ chocolate/ strawberry)
- Vanilla ice cream
- Sprinkles
- Squirty cream
- Chocolate shavings

Friday 16th Feb - 1:30pm

CASH ONLY

Sport

Years 9 & 10 Netball Fixture

We played against Highfield and Priory schools – each team played each school twice. Fearnhill won one match 4-2 which we were really happy with as we put a lot of effort in.

Player of the Match: Niamh A

Teams: Y9 - Niamh M, Summer B, Defne E, Abigail M, Carmen S. Y10 - Tegan D, Niamh A, Jess S, Ellody S

Primary Liaison events

Well done to the Year 10 Sports Leaders who have been involved in a series of liaison events with local primary and infant schools:

Luke B, Taylor H, Kiontae H, Charlie M, Cheryl O, Thomas P, Alfie P, Maisie S, Lucy J, Ryan E, Louie G, Dylan G, James B, Charlie C, George J, Dilith W, Gracie B.



Sport



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



External Opportunities



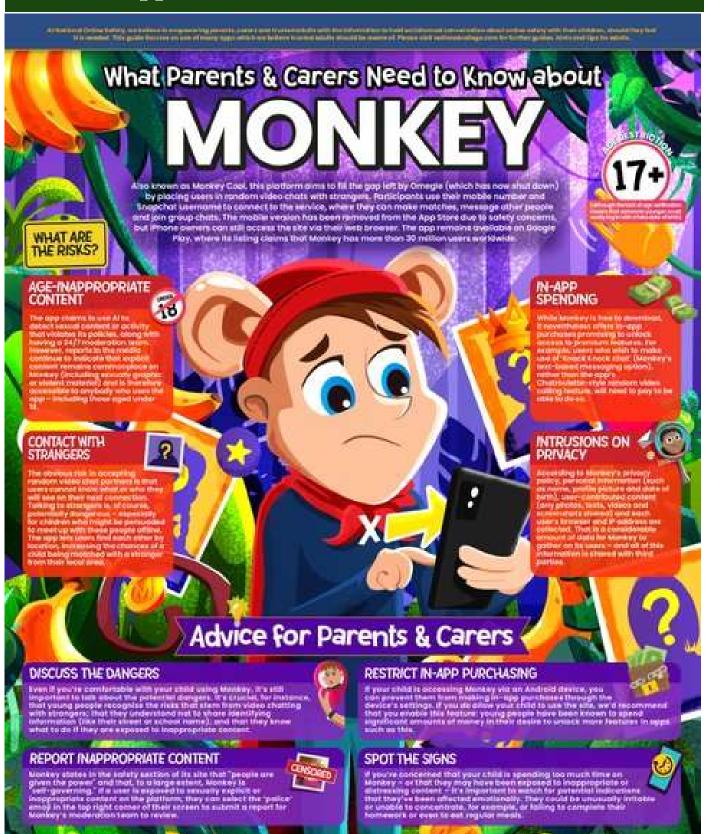
All ages and abilities welcome

Tennis Coaching Holiday Camps Individual Coaching

www.uplaytennis.co.uk



Student Support



Meet Our Expert

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#WakeUpWednesday

Student Support



HPCI AIS Parent Carer Webinar

Wednesday 13th March 2024 - 10.00am-12.30pm



External Opportunities



Calendar

Spring Term 2024

Back to the 80s - school musical	13^{th} , 14^{th} & 15^{th} February
Half Term	19 th – 23 rd February 2024
Year 8 Reports issued	28th February
Year 10 parents evening	5 th March
Year 9 reports issued	7th March
Alumni careers event	8th March
Year 13 mock exams	11-15th March
Year 11 mock exams	11 - 22nd March
Year 7 reports issued	14th March
Sixth Form Geography trip	21st March
Year 12 parents' evening @ Highfield	21st March
Year 9 options afternoon	27th March
End of Term (early closure)	Thursday 28 th March 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
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

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.









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