



FEARNHILL SCHOOL



Fearnfile

Issue 626

12 February 2024

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



Inside you'll find ...

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

Week beginning 19/2 HALF TERM

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 none available to purchase on the door.



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 7



Year 8



Year 9



Year 10



Year 11



... with Mr Cordwell, 2nd in Humanities

Did you enjoy reading as a child?

What were your favourite books?

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%!).

Do you read for pleasure now?

*What do you like to read?
Do you have a favourite genre/author?*

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 spend reading for pleasure each week?

About half an hour a night.

Do you read any teen/young adult books? Would you recommend them to our students?

Yes!

KS3:

Terry Pratchett: The Carpet People, Diggers, Truckers, and Wings

KS4:

Steven Pressfield: Gates of Fire

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**



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

CASH ONLY

Topping options

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



Friday 16th Feb - 1:30pm - T1

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.



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

REMEMBER STUDENTS SHOULD HAVE A BOTTLE
OF WATER WITH THEM EVERY DAY IN ORDER
TO STAY HYDRATED. THESE CAN THEN BE
FILLED AT BREAK OR LUNCHTIMES IF
REQUIRED.



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.

A black speech bubble with a white border is centered on a background of green and blue arrows pointing in various directions. The text inside the speech bubble is white. The text 'HOMEWORK CLUB' is at the top, followed by 'MONDAY-THURSDAY INCLUSION 3-4 PM' and 'YEARS 7-11'. At the bottom, there is a purple box containing the email address 'homework@fearnhill.herts.sch.uk'.

External Opportunities

A blue silhouette of a tennis player in a dynamic pose is on the left. The background is dark blue. The 'uPlay Tennis' logo is in the center, with 'uPlay' in white and 'Tennis' in green. Below the logo, the text 'All ages and abilities welcome' is written in white. Further down, 'Tennis Coaching', 'Holiday Camps', and 'Individual Coaching' are listed in white. At the bottom, the website 'www.uplaytennis.co.uk' is written in white. In the bottom right corner, there are social media icons for Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook, along with the handle '@uplaysportsuk'.

A National Online Safety, an initiative in partnership with the UK government, is a free service to help parents and carers understand online safety risks to their children, including how to protect them. This guide has been created by National Online Safety, an initiative in partnership with the UK government, to help parents and carers understand online safety risks to their children, including how to protect them. This guide has been created by National Online Safety, an initiative in partnership with the UK government, to help parents and carers understand online safety risks to their children, including how to protect them.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about MONKEY

Also known as Monkey Cool, this platform aims to fill the gap left by Omegle (which has now shut down) by placing users in random video chats with strangers. Participants use their mobile number and Snapchat username to connect to the service, where they can make matches, message other people and join group chats. The mobile version has been removed from the App Store due to safety concerns, but iPhone owners can still access the site via their web browser. The app remains available on Google Play, where its listing claims that Monkey has more than 30 million users worldwide.

RESTRICTED 17+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

The app claims to use AI to detect sexual content or activity that violates its policies, along with having a 24/7 moderation team. However, reports in the media continue to indicate that explicit content remains commonplace on Monkey (including sexually graphic or violent material) and is therefore accessible to anybody who uses the app – including those aged under 18.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

The obvious risk in accepting random video chat partners is that users cannot know who or what they will see on their next device use. Talking to strangers is, of course, potentially dangerous – especially for children who might be persuaded to meet up with those people online. The app lets users find each other by location, increasing the chance of a child being matched with a stranger from their local area.

IN-APP SPENDING

While Monkey is free to download, it nevertheless offers in-app purchases promising to unlock access to premium features. For example, users who wish to make use of 'Instant Knock Out' (Monkey's text-based messaging option), rather than the app's Chatroulette-style random video calling feature, will need to pay to be able to do so.

INTRUSIONS ON PRIVACY

According to Monkey's privacy policy, personal information (such as name, profile picture and date of birth), user-generated content (any photos, texts, videos and messages shared) and each user's browser and IP address are collected. This is a considerable amount of data for Monkey to gather on its users – and all of this information is shared with third parties.

Advice for Parents & Carers

DISCUSS THE DANGERS

Even if you're comfortable with your child using Monkey, it's still important to talk about the potential dangers. It's crucial, for instance, that young people recognise the risks that stem from video chatting with strangers, that they understand not to share identifying information (like their street or school name), and that they know what to do if they are exposed to inappropriate content.

REPORT INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Monkey states in the safety section of its site that "people are given the power" and that, to a large extent, Monkey is "self-governing." If a user is exposed to sexually explicit or inappropriate content on the platform, they can select the "police" emoji in the top right corner of their screen to submit a report for Monkey's moderation team to review.

RESTRICT IN-APP PURCHASING

If your child is accessing Monkey via an Android device, you can prevent them from making in-app purchases through the device's settings. If you do allow your child to use the app, we'd recommend that you enable this feature: young people have been known to spend significant amounts of money in their desire to unlock more features in apps such as this.

SPOT THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that your child is spending too much time on Monkey – or that they may have been exposed to inappropriate or distressing content – it's important to watch for potential indications that they've been affected emotionally. They could be unusually irritable or unable to concentrate, for example, or failing to complete their homework or even to eat regular meals.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Holliman is an early career academic, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies in schools and has written numerous publications, papers and book chapters. She is also a member of the UK government's National Online Safety Advisory Board.



The National College

NOS National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

@nationalonline_safety

/NationalOnlineSafety

@nationalonline_safety

@national_online_safety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 07.03.2024

Student Support

Herts
Parent
Carer Involvement
www.hertsparentcarers.org.uk

**Find out
about the
'Autism in
Schools'
(AIS) project**

NHS
Hertfordshire Partnership University
HSD Foundation Trust

ISL

Mind
Hertfordshire
Network



Carers
in Hertfordshire



**Hear what
our guest
speakers
can offer
you!**

Hertfordshire
SEND
0-25 years
Hertfordshire's Local Offer

HPCI AIS Parent Carer Webinar

Wednesday 13th March 2024 - 10.00am-12.30pm

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

No
Diagnosis
Required

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

Are you a
Parent, Carer
or
Professional?



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



Hertfordshire
Family Centre
Service

NHS

**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 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



www.healthforteens.co.uk/hertfordshire



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

SEND
0-25 years
Hertfordshire's Local Offer

ADD-vance
The ADHD and Autism Trust

Herts
Parent
Carer Involvement

Hertfordshire

MH
LON

Local Offer
Hertfordshire's Local Offer

NHS

External Opportunities



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01462 510980 | goshinkarateuk.com

The Kāru Centre, 607 Works Road, Letchworth, SG6 1NA



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NOW AVAILABLE FOR BOOKING: £65.00**



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The Kāru Centre, 607 Works Road, Letchworth, SG6 1NA



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



01

03

24

 Watford FC's Vicarage Road Stadium

Dreams United: Stadium Sleep Out

Watford Community vs Homelessness

Swap your bed for a sleeping bag and spend the night in Vicarage Road Stadium overlooking the iconic pitch, to help us raise awareness of homelessness in Watford and the surrounding districts.



Limited spaces available.

For more information and to sign up, visit www.watfordfccsestrust.com/stadium-sleepout/ or scan the QR code.

In partnership with ...







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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