



# FEARNHILL SCHOOL



## Fearnfile

Issue 623

20 December 2023

## Happy Christmas!

Students and teachers alike will be delighted to reach the end of term today. School expects a lot of students - we want them to work hard every day, both on their academic subjects, and on becoming a better person. It is tiring, and at the end of a long term everyone is ready for a break. As the Christmas holidays begin I have shared with students three ways to make the most of the break.

### Rest

You cannot enjoy rest unless you have worked hard to earn it. As the students go home from school today, they know they have earned their rest this Christmas. I have encouraged them to make sure they get plenty of sleep, plenty of exercise and plenty of time with friends and family in the real world. At a time when young people's mental health is spoken about so often, sleep, exercise and healthy relationships help students to retain a positive outlook.

### Peace

Christmas is the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. In the Bible, Jesus is referred to as the Prince of Peace and Christians believe that true peace is only found in him. At Fearnhill, we are a diverse community with a wide range of faiths and world views. Whatever our personal beliefs I am sure we can agree that peace is worth striving for. I have encouraged students to search for peace in their lives; it is better than any gift they might unwrap this Christmas. And I have encouraged students to promote peace in their friendships and families because it brings happiness to others and to themselves.

### Gratitude

The strange thing about gratitude, is that the more we learn to say thank you, the more we find we have to be thankful for. Being grateful is good for us. We said thank you and goodbye to Mrs Ahmed and Mrs Bennett, who both leave us at the end of this term. We greatly appreciate all they have brought to our school community.

### Headteacher Awards

On the subject of gratitude I want to single out four students who have embodied the attributes of the Fearnhill Student. These young people are a credit to the school and to their families and I was pleased to give them a Headteacher's Award in our whole school assembly today:

Franek 13ABN - displaying confidence

Emily 9N - displaying resilience

Toby 9H - displaying kindness

Henry 8G - displaying self-awareness

Finally, I would like to thank you as parents, carers and family members of our students. We are constantly thankful for your support of the school as we work to help every young person become the best version of themselves. On behalf of all the staff at Fearnhill School, I would like to wish you all a wonderful Christmas break and a peaceful and prosperous 2024.

*Tim Spencer, Headteacher*

***Students return on Friday 5 January 2024 (week 1)***

***Week beginning 8/1 WEEK 2***

***Week beginning 15/12 WEEK 1***

# Christmas Greetings from our Governors

We would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Governors of Fearnhill School to wish all our parents, carers and students a joyful Christmas and a happy new year.

This term has been, as usual, a long and intense one. It is the term in which Year 7 students begin to understand what being a secondary school student is like. It is also the term when Year 10 and 12 students start their new examination courses while Year 11 and 13 students begin to prepare for the examinations that will come at the end of the school year. Year 11 students will have completed their mock GCSE examinations while we can hope that Year 13 students will use some of their holidays to revise for the A Level mock exams that start in January.

In the meantime, parents and carers are having to learn how to support their children through the challenges of school and the challenges of simply growing up.

However, at Christmas, we can take a break from all of this for at least a short time and focus more on our families and friends. Christmas is after all, a time of year when we all can practise one of the features of The Fearnhill Student and that is being kind. Christmas, at its best, is a time for thinking of other people and of giving presents to those we love and care for.

May we also take this opportunity to ask parents and carers to think about becoming one of the Governors of Fearnhill School? We do have some vacancies for Parent Governors and if you are interested please contact the Headteacher at school or contact me directly by email.

Once again, on behalf of the Governors we wish you a happy and relaxed Christmas holiday.

**Nye Hathway Chair of Governors** [nye.hathway10@fearnhill.herts.sch.uk](mailto:nye.hathway10@fearnhill.herts.sch.uk)

**Mary Penny Vice Chair of Governors**



**Are you in education to make a real difference to young people's lives? Fearnhill is the place for you!**

**We are expanding and have a number of staff vacancies for Teaching Staff, Support Staff and Administrators.**

**Please see our website for details:**  
[fearnhill.herts.sch.uk/staff-vacancies/](https://fearnhill.herts.sch.uk/staff-vacancies/)



**FEARNHILL SCHOOL**

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/>

# Christmas Concert



**What a night! The atmosphere was buzzing and the tinsel was ready. The annual Fearnfile Christmas Concert was upon us. After a busy term and a very busy day of rehearsals the time to perform had come. The students were amazing and made the Performing Art department proud. It has been lovely to see them grow in confidence and ability throughout this process and students who we never imagined would get on stage did so last night and smashed it.**

From carols, to sketches and dances and an introduction to our school play 'Back to the 80's', there was something for everyone, including the newly formed staff choir who were just as nervous as the students.

We would like to say thank you to everyone who took part and supported us in this process - your help and encouragement has meant a lot to both staff and students.

Music, Drama and Dance wish all our parents a very restful Christmas before the next event on the 14, 15 and 16th February. Lookout for tickets in the new year. Ms Chilton, Ms Martin, Mr Marlow & Mr Sheridan

***More photographs on pages 4&5.***

## Student of the Week

**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!**

### **4th - 8th Dec ember**

Student of the Week	Eliana 7H	16 points
Teacher of the Week	Miss Bossley	326 points
Form of the Week	7G	213 points
House of the Week	Gorst	489 points

### **11th - 18th Dec ember**

Student of the Week	Osama 8H	
Teacher of the Week	Mr Ogedengbe	213 points
Form of the Week	8H	116 points
House of the Week	Neville	398 points



# Christmas Concert





# Christmas Concert





# Year 7 Art Trip

Year 7 students thoroughly enjoyed a trip into town to the Broadway Gallery to take part in an art workshop based on the gallery's current exhibition 'Letchworth and Landscapes'.

Students looked at work by local artists and then took part in a workshop, based on an original drawing of Letchworth before its development into a Garden City.

Thank you to staff at the Broadway Gallery for facilitating the trip.



# Festive Food



Such was the demand for our Christmas lunches that we had to hold them over two days at the beginning of this week. Students across the school enjoyed a delicious turkey dinner with all the trimmings and a choice of seasonal sweet treats for dessert.

Meanwhile, in Food Technology lessons, students have been putting the final touches to their chocolate yule logs.



# 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



## Prizewinners - Autumn Term





# Prizewinners - Autumn Term

Subject	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9		Year 10		Year 11
English 1	Dash J	Thomas B	Lola-Rose P		Sacshi K		Peter B
English 2	Olivia P	Scarlett J	Zach W		Ethan S		Ravjeer K
Maths 1	Olivia P	Lucy K	Luke P		Faith S		Riley M
Maths 2	Huxley H	Serbroop K	Toby L		Clara M		Terry M
Science 1	Hannah D	Thomas D	Em P		Mary-Ellen P		Kenzie G
Science 2		Ross M					Mitchell M
Spanish	Mia E	Lyra S	Derya E		Dilith W-A		Anaise C
French	Eliana N	Orla J	Demi A		Junaya B		Grace W
History	Dash J	Faith T	Derya E		Anton M		Grace W
Geography	Brooke H	Thomas B	Toby L		Beau B		Matthew J
PRE	Dash J	Thomas B	Tilly-Rose P		Testimony A		Kyrah-Jayd T
Design & Tech/3D Design/Food	Dash J	Mason L	Lilah P		Kyla C		Anna C
Art	Eliana N	Jessica B	Imogen F		Clara M		Ha Ta
Food/Hospitality & Catering					Namra P		Mitchell M
PE	James K	Dylan L	Summer B		George J		Callum P
Sport					N/A		Terry M
Music	James L	Oliver G	Hala K		Heather M		Riley M
Drama	Phoebe M	Ben P	Ella B		Oscar R		Amy P
Business					Taylor H		Maisha A
Child Development					Eden H		Lilly May J
Computer Science	Damla E	Rory C	Alexei W & Charlie L				Logan S
Media Studies					Xhenero S		Ben K
Dance	Elana N	Ronnie M	Derya E		Cheryl O		Ayla S
Award for being...	Kind	Confident	Self-aware		Resilient		
7G	Annie-Mae M	Tommy B	Michelle D-E		Wael A		
7H	Alesha B-S	Martin A	Alfie R		Frankie H		
7N	Ainhua VA	Nathan H	Laura S		Jared N-D		
7P	Mia E	James L	Cerys G		Jayden H		
8G	Aariah C	Isaac O	Oliver G		Amber P		
8H	Braeden M	Osama KA	Orla J		Tori J		
8N	Mason H	Daniel M	Faye W		Isla G		
8P	Phoenix H	Thomas B	Logan P		Tiaami-Rose		
9G	Lilith C	Derya E	Skye T		Lilly H		
9H	Lucy W	Summer B	Jeorjana A		Oliver W		
9N	Camelia S	Mya L	Luke P		Emily B-P		
9P							
10G	Erin J	George J	Luke L-D		Michelle K		
10H	Testimony A	Ryan S	Clara M		Rosie T		
10N							
10P	Luke B	Antoni M	Faith S		Ella D		
11G							
11H	Riley M	Mitchell M	Anna C		Ahmed H		
11N	Emily B	Jaya M	Oliver K		Luke D		
11P	Colette M	Raiveer K	Ha Ta		Samuel F		

## Prizewinners - Autumn Term



Congratulations to students who submitted poems in our Black History Month poetry competition. Winners were selected by Mrs Nunneley:

Eliana 7H, Damla 7H, Lulu 7N (photographed left)

Lyra 8P, Serbroop 8G

Willow 9G

Ha Ta 11P

Gabriel 12LCH



# Maths



**Congratulations to all our students who took part in the UKMT Senior Maths challenge.**

We were delighted to present certificates to the following students in Years 11-13:

Logan 11H (silver) , Riley 11H (silver), Rhys 11N (bronze)

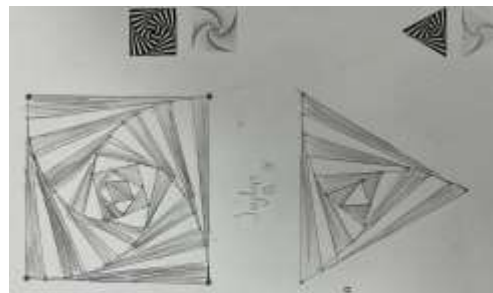
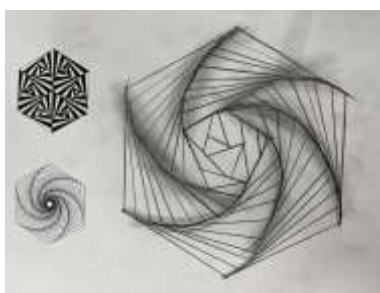
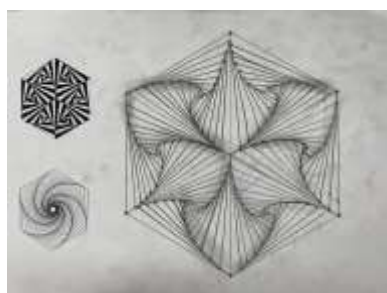
Layla 12LCH (silver), Tia 12NFR (bronze)

Franek 13ABN (silver), Lewis 13ABN (bronze), Tabitha 13ABN (bronze)

## **Curves of Pursuit and GCHQ Christmas Challenge**

At the end of term, students in Maths learnt how to draw curves of pursuit. They investigated the patterns formed when one point moves towards another moving point and how this can vary. It is also a great way to practice their measuring and drawing skills. Some beautiful pieces of art have been created, not possible without the maths behind them!

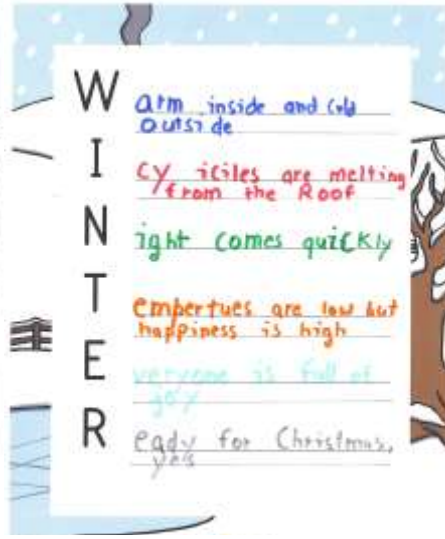
A selection of Year 10 and 11 students took part in the GCHQ Christmas Challenge! Students solved a variety of Christmas puzzles and brainteasers, to uncover the hidden message. Great teamwork and resilience was displayed by all involved. If you would also like a go at the puzzle, it is available here to download: <https://www.gchq.gov.uk/news/schoolsxmaschallenge2023>.



# EAL Poetry



These amazing acrostic poems on the topic of winter were written by students with English as an additional language (EAL). Some chose to then translate their poems into their home languages of Panjabi, Urdu, Arabic and Spanish. For some students, it was the first time they had written poetry in English and they tried hard to use a range of vocabulary, imagery and poetic techniques. We are immensely proud of our talented multilingual students and are keeping our fingers crossed that they get the white Christmas they are hoping for!





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](https://nationalonlinecollege.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

## 12 Top Tips for Children and Young People to Enjoy a TECH-FREE CHRISTMAS

The Christmas holidays are tailor made for families to enjoy relaxed quality time in each other's company – but with distractions like pinging phone notifications, the lure of games consoles and online Boxing Day sales, that can be more difficult than it sounds. Staying off our phones, laptops and tablets, however, can really help us to appreciate the things that genuinely matter at this special time of year. Follow our 12 top tips for a tech-free festive season ... Yule be glad you did! Merry Christmas!

### CHRISTMAS CRAFTING

Get out the paper, glue and scissors and have a go at hand-making cards or gift tags. You could also create your own decorations to add a uniquely personal touch to the Christmas tree.

### NATURE QUEST

Try a scavenger hunt in the garden or your local park. Challenge yourself and your family to find natural treasures that are symbolic of this time of year – like holly or pinecones, say.

### CAROL KARAOKE

Sing your hearts out with a Christmas carol karaoke night. Pick out your favourite tunes and enjoy a musical celebration with family and friends.

### WANDER DOWN MEMORY LANE

How about making a scrapbook filled with your favourite memories from Christmases gone by? Unleash your creativity while you enjoy reliving those magical holiday moments.

### TRY REFLECTIVE JOURNALLING

Get down your thoughts, feelings and reflections on the holiday in a notebook or diary – you could also list some of your main goals for the new year.

### WRAP IT UP

Take time to get inventive with some luxurious gift wrapping. Break out the wrapping paper, ribbons and bows to make parcelling up those presents into a creative adventure.

### WALK IN A WINTER WONDERLAND

Delight in the great outdoors with some gentle walks over the holiday. The family can all wrap up warm as you add to your step count and savour the crisp winter air together.

### BE A SEASONAL CHEF

Get the whole family working together in the kitchen for some Christmas cooking. Choose a recipe and whip up a festive feast that all of you can enjoy.

### ENJOY A CHRISTMAS STORY

Christmas is a perfect time for sparking stories. Get cosy and lose yourself in a brilliant book, from Dickens to Dr Seuss or a more modern favourite by Chris van Allsburg or Tom Fletcher.

### SNOWY SCULPTURES

If we're fortunate enough to get a white Christmas this year, make the most of the opportunity by having a family snowman-building competition!

### GAMES NIGHT GALA

Dive into some old-school fun with a tech-free games night. Classic board games and card games have stood the test of time for a reason!

### GOODWILL TO ALL

You and your family could spend a day volunteering – perhaps at a food bank or helping a local charity. After all, kindness and thinking of others are part of what Christmas is all about.

### Meet Our Expert

Minds Ahead design and deliver the UK's only specialist postgraduate mental health qualifications. They also provide training and support to education organisations and local authorities – empowering school leaders and staff with the knowledge and tools to shape their settings into inclusive communities where the mental health of pupils and personnel is prioritised.



The National College

NOS National Online Safety  
#WakeUpWednesday

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£ Cash &  
Donations  
Welcome

24<sup>th</sup> Dec, 5pm till its gone

Bring a bag

Unknown quantities of

Best Before & Use By food dated 24-26 Dec available.

@ St Thomas Church, Bedford Rd.



# Student Support



A big thank you to The Salvation Army and The Letchworth Foodbank for giving us the opportunity to nominate over 30 families of Fearnhill students to receive either presents, food hampers or supermarket vouchers for the Christmas period.

The families were extremely grateful for the support received. Both organisations rely on donations to enable them to support the community and transform lives.



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#>  
[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)

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.

## Thought for the Month *December*



# Inclusion Department

We have had a really busy term and sadly we say goodbye to Fozia Liaqat Ahmed who has been working at Fearnhill as an Inclusion leader for a number of years. Fozia works closely with the Science department and runs intervention sessions on anxiety and resilience and will be missed by all the students. We wish her well in her new role.

## Autism in Schools

We are now in Year 3 of the Hertfordshire Autism in Schools programme and recently attended and presented at the showcase event in Stevenage. We continue to be committed to learning about autism and the ways in which we can support young people.

### "Ambitious about Autism"

The Ambitious Youth Network is an online space for autistic young people, between the ages of 13-25 to be themselves. Find out what the network can offer for your age range.

Every autistic child and young person has the right to be themselves and realise their ambitions. We stand with autistic children, young people and their families to champion rights, campaign for change and create opportunities. We started as one school and have become a movement for change. Our services include providing information and practical support and delivering specialist education and employment programmes.

<https://ambitious-youth-network.ambitiousaboutautism.org.uk/>

## Coffee Morning

Our increasingly popular coffee morning is being held next term on Wednesday 17th January 9-10am. Please come and join us!

## Neurodiversity Hub

We are delighted to be writing to let you know about the launch of The Hertfordshire Neurodiversity Support Hub. Following a pilot phase, we are excited to be able to roll this out across Hertfordshire thanks to funding from both Herts County Council (HCC) and the NHS. The Hub has initially been funded until the end of March 25 and ADD-vance have been commissioned to run the Hub, which is open Monday - Friday 9am-1pm.

The Hub is staffed by experts by experience, they can answer any questions to do with Neurodiversity, however big or small, or just be a listening ear. Please note, no diagnosis is required to access the support and the helpline is open to parents, carers and professionals.

The Hub can be contacted by phone on 01727 833963, with an answerphone facility for out of hours or by email at [supporthub@add-vance.org](mailto:supporthub@add-vance.org)  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SJmmvf\\_LTbU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SJmmvf_LTbU)

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/microsites/local-offer/resources-for-parents-and-professionals/send-documents-and-resources.aspx?searchInput=webinar&page=1&resultsPerPage=10&view=card&categoryfilters=0/1/22/903/1451/1452/2178>

**Ms Cate Brown**

**Head of Inclusion (SENDco)**

**Mental Health Lead**



**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

Are you a Parent, Carer or Professional?

**01727 833963**

[supporthub@add-vance.org](mailto:supporthub@add-vance.org)

Open Monday-Friday  
9 AM - 1 PM

Here to support, reach out for a listening ear

We Can't:

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

Logos: SEND 0-25 years, ADD-vance, Herts Parent Carer Involvement, Hertfordshire, HHL, NHS



# Calendar

## Spring Term 2024

Inset day for staff	Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2024
Spring Term begins for 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  
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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fearnhillsch](https://www.instagram.com/fearnhillsch)



[www.facebook.com/FearnhillSch](https://www.facebook.com/FearnhillSch)