



# FEARNHILL SCHOOL



## Fearnfile

Issue 627

1 March 2024

### Feedback

**If anyone is serious about improving their performance in any area of life they need feedback. Without feedback from others our attempts to improve will always be limited.**

#### Giving Feedback

As teachers we use feedback with students all the time. We deliberately create opportunities to give students feedback throughout every lesson and throughout the day. Because feedback can feel critical, we try to give feedback in a 'low stakes' way. For example, rather than doing a formal test with a score that is read out to the class, we use more frequent self-marked quizzes. Students then know how they have performed, understand what the correct answers are and do not need to share their score with anyone.

#### Receiving Feedback

If, as teachers and as a school, we are going to give feedback regularly we also have to be willing to receive it. It is my hope that we will consistently seek out feedback and listen to it, even if it is not what we were hoping to hear.

#### Good news

This week we received feedback in an external review of our safeguarding processes, commissioned by Hertfordshire County Council. Their review was extremely positive and identified very few recommendations for improving our approach towards keeping children safe at Fearnhill. We have also had good news regarding admissions. Today is allocation day for Year 6 students, we now know that all spaces in Year 7 at Fearnhill have been allocated. This is good news and is the first time in over a decade that Fearnhill is oversubscribed. It is a reflection of the significant improvements the school has made over many years.

#### Your feedback matters

We want to hear your feedback as parents and carers, and we need to know how students feel about Fearnhill too. We will be conducting a parent survey and a student survey in the next two weeks so that we can learn more about how our community feels about the school. You will receive a separate letter with a link to the parent view survey. We would love to know your thoughts.

#### Goodbye

Finally, we say thank you and goodbye to two valued members of staff this week. Jacqui Simmonds, my PA, is retiring after 16 years at Fearnhill. Jacqui has been a tremendously valued and much loved member of staff and we wish her well in her retirement. Ann Lynn, who has responsibility for the school website and also produces Fearnfile is leaving to take up a role at St Catherine's College, University of Cambridge. We are grateful for everything Ann has done in this role and wish her every success in her new role.

*Tim Spencer, Headteacher*



#### Inside you'll find ...

- Back to the Eighties photo spread
- Drama Q&A
- Criminology Talk
- Maths award Winners

**Week beginning 4/3 WEEK 1**

**Week beginning 11/3 WEEK 2**

## Student of the Week

### 12 - 16 Feb

Student of the Week	Defne 9P & Niamh 9P	14 points
Form of the Week	7P	209 points
House of the Week	Pearsall	581 points
Teacher of the Week	Miss Straughn Head of PE	256 points

### 29th Jan-2nd Feb

Student of the Week	Ella-Grace 8H	16 points
Form of the Week	8G	191 points
House of the Week	Gorst	513 points
Teacher of the Week	Mrs Lattimer, 2nd in Maths	219 points

## Fundraising



Students agreed that they had waffley good fun at a lunchtime fundraising event - hot waffles with cream, ice cream and a variety of fruit and syrup toppings, all produced by staff and students in the Catering department.

Assistant Head Mr Phillips (left) was especially pleased with his!



## Sixth Form Elections

Student elections took place this week for Fearnhill Head Students with candidates (right) speaking at a hustings event for senior students and staff.

The candidates - Tia, Rebekah, Neave, Lily, Charlie, Gabriel and Harry - each had just 90 seconds to make their pitch for one of 5 positions available. Voting slips were completed by staff and students in years 10-13.

Results will be announced next week.



## Drama Q&A

**RADA graduate, Ben Lynn, visited Fearnhill to take part in a two hour interview with three Performing Arts students to discuss the industry. His answers greatly contributed to our research for Unit 2 of Performing Arts, centred around the skills of a live performer.**

We were able to discuss the path he took to break into the industry, discussing his time at RADA, the impact COVID had on his experience, the main focus on voice and movement, and the different techniques the course had to offer. This included mimicking an animal in the recreation of a zoo, as well as "awakening the diaphragm" by lying on the floor and making sounds like a baby for hours on end. He also told us about his 3rd year at RADA, where students actively protested to "decolonize the curriculum." Ben also talked about the alternatives to drama school, with youth theatres, casting websites like Spotlight, and his acting union, Equity.

Ben also spoke about his life experiences in the industry. A few to note were when the WGA strikes in America impacted the industry, resulting in him having to move back home, his relationship with his agency Gardner Herry.

There was also the time he was asked to be fully scanned so that production companies could use his likeness without his permission (before the strikes). We heard about his time performing Shakespeare and other plays whilst also having to maintain COVID social distancing.

Ben told us that he values community more than financial aspects of the job, and that he personally prefers to perform on stage rather than on screen, making for a much more lively performance, especially during tours.

Ben was a joy to speak to and has certainly helped us gain an insight into the industry. I greatly appreciated his time.

*Harry Fitts Y12*



## Careers Event

With Careers Week approaching, we sent out a plea across social media to see if any of our former Fearnhill students would like to come back and offer some insights into the career paths they've taken since leaving school.

Wow - what a response we got! Almost 40 Fearnhill alumni have agreed to come along to our special Careers Event next week on Friday 8th March. Our current students will be given the chance to mingle with their older counterparts and discuss careers such as professional musician, motor engineer, chef, paediatric doctor, carer, insurance broker, vet, fundraising lead, illustrator, plasterer, doctoral researcher, fingerprint specialist ... and so many more!

Thank you to everyone who responded. We are sorry we weren't able to accommodate everyone ... but there's always next year!



# Criminology

**We were lucky enough to have Dr Nicola Colman spend a morning with our current and prospective criminology students .**

Nicola explained what the University of Hertfordshire has to offer criminology students in terms of their degree schemes, for example they are launching a new degree appropriate for those planning to join the police, say as a detective. She also described the excellent facilities they have at University of Hertfordshire - including a mock courtroom.

Nicola also talked to our students about how broad criminology is as a subject, and that as well as developing valuable skills it is exciting in the areas it examines, such as how laws come to be created, different types of crimes, patterns of offending, experiences of victims, roles and processes within the criminal justice system, such as probation officers and solicitors, as well as prison and alternative methods of dealing with offending behaviour.

The students really valued the opportunity to gain an insight into this area of study, as well as the local provision for studying and the possibilities that a criminology degree can open up.

I was proud of our year 11 students, who behaved impeccably, showed a huge amount of respect and interest in Nicola's talk and engaged well throughout. I was especially pleased when she commented to me on how well behaved, attentive, and polite our year 11 students were compared to many other schools she has given talks at!

I can't wait to see those year 11 students in criminology with me next year and hope to take them to the University of Hertfordshire for an activity based 'hands on' day in the Criminology department. *Mx Bettison*



## Year 11 Leavers Hoodie

To mark the end of Key Stage 4, we offer every student in Year 11 the opportunity to purchase a 2024 'leavers' hoodie. This is a wonderful keepsake to celebrate their time at the school. These can be purchased directly from Fizz Hoodies online for £27.

There is a choice of 86 different colours and an option of adult sizes. Each hoodie will have the Fearnhill Logo and School name stitched to the left breast and a '24' with every student's name printed inside on the back (as seen below). The name printed will be the one we have on the school register. There is also the option for your child to add a nickname to their purchase for an additional £4.

Orders should be placed by Thursday 25th April via:

Website Link: <https://shop.fizz-group.co.uk>

Unique ID: 25433YR11

The school will not be ordering any spare Hoodies, so if your child decides to purchase one after the deadline, unfortunately it will be too late! So please don't miss out.

Orders will be delivered directly to school for students to collect after the Year 11 Leavers Assembly. We will advise when this will be in due course. *Mrs Martin*



# Maths Awards

January saw this year's UK Mathematics Trust Intermediate Maths Challenge (UKMT IMT). This is a nationwide competition where thousands of students in years 10 and 11 use their maths reasoning skills to solve problems. This year we had good results, particularly for the following:

In year ten, Michelle earned a silver certificate and bronze was awarded to Dylan, Juhi, Antoni, Finley, Mason and Lucy.

In year 11, Gold certificates, earned only by students with scores in the top 10%, were awarded to Rhys and Riley.

Silver certificates were awarded to Peter and Jaya with bronze awards going to Matthew, Luke, Nahlya, Daniel, Daniel, Sian, Colette, Charlie, Emily, Amy, Logan, Taylor.

Participation awards were given to Ryan, Anna, Anaise, Chloe, Ahmed, Rajveer, Charlie, Ta ha, William and Chiara.

An extra special congratulations goes to Riley (above) who, in addition to his gold certificate, scored highly enough to be entered into the next level competition, known as the "Pink Kangaroo". *Mr Hipperson*



A massive well done to James, Yury, Damla, Eliana and Michelle in Year 7 who took part in heat one of the Hertfordshire for Learning Year 7 Team Challenge.

There were two general mathematics rounds, a memory round and an estimation round. The team scored a very respectable 134 points, doing especially well in the memory round getting 43 points.

Great mathematical thinking and amazing teamwork all round. *Miss Lattimer*



# 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/](http://fearnhill.herts.sch.uk/staff-vacancies/)





# Back to the 80's

What an amazing week we all had before half term with the Back to the 80's production. It was a long and tiring week but so rewarding for all of us involved in the experience. From dress rehearsals to performing to 120 junior school children we made sure that everything was ready to go for our first evening performance.

And what a success they were! All of our performances were well attended and the audience interaction gave the students a real buzz - especially when people started clapping along to the tunes they knew.

The set was fantastic, and the car was outstanding, thank you Mr. Rainbow and Ms. Bennett.

We are exceptionally impressed with the hardwork and dedication that was shown by all students over the time we were rehearsing and performing.

*Mrs Chilton, Mr Sheridan & Mr Marlow*





## Back to the 80's





## Back to the 80's





# Cadets

Our local army cadet students were invited to the local fire station and police station where they found out about the vital role that these services play in our daily lives. They were allowed to try out hoses and put on riot gear to see what this entailed.

We are also very proud of Ryan E for passing his Bronze DofE award and Clara M for receiving her 2 star first aid award.



# 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 Miss Christie, acting Head of English



*Did you enjoy reading as a child?*

Yes!

*What were your favourite books?*

Yep, all of them always. Dick King-Smith and Roald Dahl, How to Train Your Dragon, Keys to the Kingdom Series, Garth Nix, The Bartimaeus Trilogy etc etc

*Do you read for pleasure now?*

I do, but I've moved a little over to audiobooks due to time. I'm eclectic. Favourite authors include Ken Follett, Ian M Banks, Tolkien, Markus Zusak, Philippa Gregory, Susanna Gregory, Stephen King, Austen, Dickens

*What do you like to read?*

*Do you have a favourite genre/author?*

*How long would you say you spend reading for pleasure each week?*

If we include audiobooks - maybe 8-10 hours?

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

Yes indeedy! How to Train Your Dragon series, Artemis Fowl, Phillip Pullman - more but I can't think!

*Is there any thing else you would like to share with us about reading?*

Audiobooks have changed my life so much for the better.

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*





# Duke of Edinburgh Award

**The last day of February 2024 - 29th Feb (Day of the Leap Year) the Duke of Edinburgh students were learning basic first aid.**

The fabulous Mr Shepherd led the training with his amazing student assistants from ACF - Ryan, Clara and Em.

The students were brilliant throughout the training and all walked away knowing much more about basic first aid. Mr Shepherd broke the session into three parts: 1. Recovery position, 2. Slings, 3. Bleeds and Bandages. As you will see from the photos the students managed to recreate the necessary aid really well and fun was had. The students are another step closer in their preparation for their final 30 km expedition walk and camp.

Once again a massive thank you to Mr Shepherd for his time and efforts. A reminder to all Duke of Edinburgh students - KEEP LOGGING YOUR WEEKLY HOURLY SESSIONS. Congratulations to Lucy W, the first student to be signed off on one of her activities.

*Mr Fowler & Mr Fox*



## Spanish

**Y10 Spanish students were delighted to receive a package recently - containing replies to the letters and Christmas cards they made and sent to students in Sierra de Almirajara senior school in Nerja, Malaga.**

They received cards and letters with answers of their questions, photos of the town of Nerja and some sweets! Our students were very excited and happy to get a reply! *Mrs Moreno-Heredia*



# Sport

The Year 7 football team earned a hard fought victory over King James Academy on Wednesday Feb 28 by a scoreline of 4-2.

Having dominated possession in the first half, Fearnhill were very unlucky to trail 2-0 at half time having been caught twice on the break. A second half played in cold wet conditions saw a tremendous, spirited comeback from our lads to run out deserved winners by a scoreline of 4-2. Special mention goes to the goal scorers Jacob B, Ronnie M, Harvey H and Alfie C but also Carson B who was a stalwart in defence. *Mr Manley*



## PE SPORTS CLUBS/PRACTICES Spring Term 2024



	Netball	Basketball	Rugby	Football	Badminton/ Table Tennis	Other
<b>Mon</b>	Year 7&8 SSN		Year 8&9 Girls MTR	Year 8&9 SMY Year 10-13 AWS		
<b>Tues</b>			Year 7&8 GMD		All Years 1:25-1:55pm SSN	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 11 Intervention • Practical 1:25-1:55pm OSD • Theory 3:00-3:50pm 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

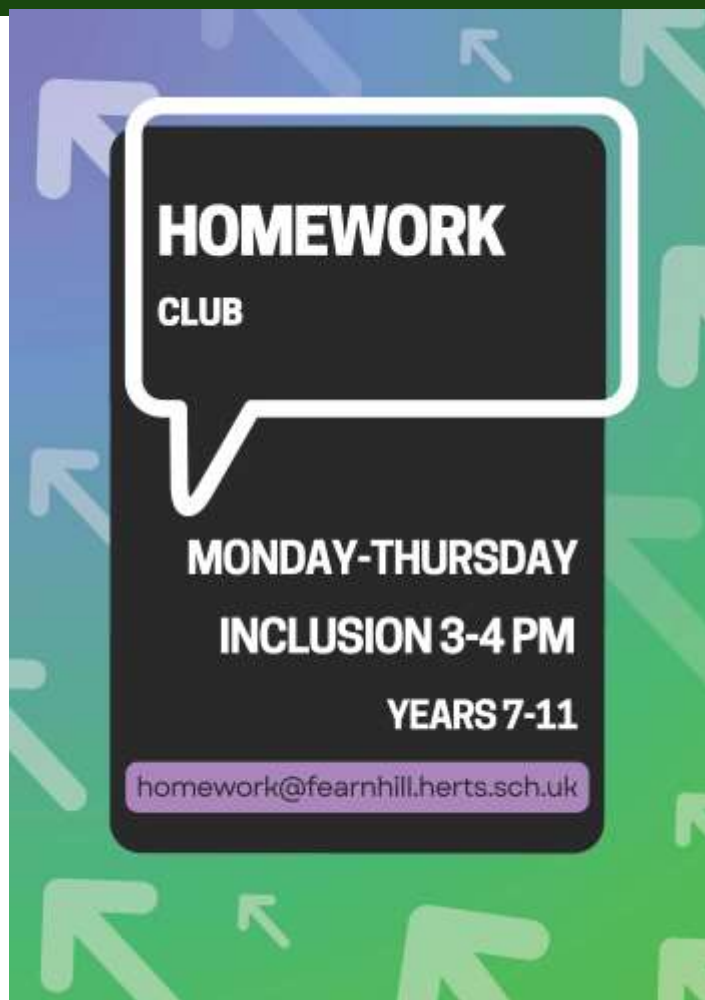


## Student Support



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.



## External Opportunities



**uPlay Tennis**

All ages and abilities welcome

Tennis Coaching  
Holiday Camps  
Individual Coaching

[www.uplaytennis.co.uk](http://www.uplaytennis.co.uk)

@uplaysportsuk



The advertisement for uPlay Tennis features a stylized blue silhouette of a tennis player on the left. The background is dark blue. The text is in white and green. Social media icons for Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook are at the bottom right.

# Student Support



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





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

## HPCI AIS Parent Carer Webinar

### Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> 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

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

No  
Diagnosis  
Required

Are you a  
Parent, Carer  
or  
Professional?



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[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?**

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






### 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 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](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)



# External Opportunities



**GOSHIN KARATE UK**  
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## BECOME PART OF OUR KARATE FAMILY





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- ✓ Improve your physical fitness
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- ✓ Fun, friendly environment
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01462 510980 | [goshinkarateuk.com](http://goshinkarateuk.com)

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



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## WOMEN'S SELF-DEFENCE

DEDICATED SELF-DEFENCE COURSES FOR WOMEN

- ✓ Friendly & Relaxed Environment
- ✓ Learn Basic Self-Defence Techniques
- ✓ Increase Your Personal Safety & Awareness

- ✓ No Membership Required
- ✓ Fully Insured With Goshin Karate UK
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**BEGINNERS COURSES ARE  
NOW AVAILABLE FOR BOOKING: £65.00**



01462 510980 | [goshinkarateuk.com](http://goshinkarateuk.com)

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](http://www.parkrun.org.uk/nortoncommon-juniors)





### eBaTT – SHEFFORD TABLE TENNIS CLUB

**ADDRESS:** Shefford Sports Club, Hitchin Road, Shefford, SG17 5JD

SESSIONS ARE ALL LED BY OUR eBaTT HEAD COACH **HAYDEN GRUBB**

**WHAT WE OFFER:**

**MONDAYS:** Children Junior & Adult Open Play Sessions

**WEDNESDAY:** Children & Junior Coaching Sessions

**THURSDAY:** Children & Junior Coaching Sessions

✉ Email: [ebattshefford@gmail.com](mailto:ebattshefford@gmail.com)

☎ Phone: 07866 616 574

or book your spot online by visiting  
[www.ebatt.co.uk/ebatt-shefford](http://www.ebatt.co.uk/ebatt-shefford)

# Calendar

## Spring Term 2024

Year 10 parents evening	5 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> March 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
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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