



FEARNHILL  
SCHOOL



*Growing Excellence Every Day*

**A Guide for New  
Year 7  
Parents/Carers  
2024-2025**

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Our School  
Our Future

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# Welcome to Year 7

We are delighted that you have chosen Fearnhill for your child's secondary education.

We recognise that the transition from primary to secondary school is a vital step in a child's education. It can be a challenging time for students and parents/carers. We do our utmost to ensure that the experience is an enjoyable one.

The Year 7 team has liaised with all of the primary feeder schools and spoken with the Year 6 students collectively. We have enjoyed getting to know about you through these visits and the transition forms that were completed online.

We hope that students enjoyed meeting myself and Mrs Sobotie during our school visits, more key staff will be introduced before they start in September. We strongly encourage you to get in touch if you have any concerns or questions whatsoever during this last transition stage.

We achieve greater success and make better progress when students, staff and parents/carers work together in close partnership.

We hope you will always feel welcome at Fearnhill School and I look forward to working with you throughout the years ahead.

Mr Turner  
Head of Key Stage 3

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# Attendance

School is the best environment for the vast majority of students to learn in. Being surrounded by teachers and friends in school helps keep children safe, and supports them to reach their potential. Being in school is important to a child's academic achievement, wellbeing, and wider development. There is evidence to suggest that regular school attendance is a key mechanism to support children and young people's educational, economic and social outcomes. Schools can facilitate positive peer relationships, which is a contributes to better mental health and wellbeing.

Attendance and good punctuality at school is crucial to prepare young people for successful transition to adulthood and support their longer term economic and social participation in society. There is also evidence that the students with the highest attendance throughout their time in school gain the best GCSE and A level results. For example, in 2019 among students with no missed sessions over KS4, 83.7% achieved grades 9 to 4 in English and maths compared to 35.6% of students who were persistently absent.

To put this into perspective:

	<b>Max days off per half term</b>	<b>Equivalent %</b>
Acceptable attendance	1	100% - 97%
At risk of persistent absenteeism	3	90% - 96%
Persistently absent	3.5	Less than 89%

Please note there are 190 school days in an academic year.

In short, if a child is missing lessons this can be devastating for their development and future.

A few key points

- If your child is struggling to attend school, please contact the school as soon as possible and our pastoral team will work with you to resolve the issues.
- Fearnhill School expects students to attend school every day and for the full day.
- If a child is absent for any reason, please inform the school before 8:30am.
- Where absence notifications are not received, the school will contact parents on the same day to a) inform them that we are aware their child is not in school and b) ask for them to contact the school to provide reason for absence. This is also an important safeguarding measure.
- Medical appointments should, where possible, be made outside of school hours. Where this is not possible, a written request for leave of absence should be made well in advance and not on the day of the actual appointment, except in cases of emergency. Students should attend school either side of an appointment.
- As per DfE (Department of Education) regulations, it is the school and not the parents/carers who can authorise an absence. Notification does not, of itself, oblige the school to accept the reasons provided as a valid reason for absence. The school follow the DfE's guidance on what constitutes an authorised absence.
- Permission for leave of absence during term time, for holidays or similar activities will not be granted. Permission for leave will only be considered for wholly exceptional or unavoidable circumstances.
- Attendance at Fearnhill is monitored and analysed closely and regularly by our Attendance Team. If attendance falls below 96% parents/carers should be aware that the school will follow the attendance procedures as directed by the local authority. Please see our attendance policy for details.

The school aims to work with you to ensure excellent attendance and punctuality for the short term and long term benefit of your child(ren).

# School Uniform Years 7-11

Uniform is worn throughout Years 7 to 11. We are aware of the high cost of uniform and have attempted to make the requirements as simple and practical as possible. We ask parents to ensure students take pride in their personal appearance. All uniform must be clearly named.

Fearnhill blazer\*

Fearnhill jumper\* (optional)

White button neck shirt (long or short sleeved)

Fearnhill tie (green)\*

Fearnhill skirt\* or black trousers

Socks - black, grey or white

Tights - black or natural

Black leather / leather look shoes

We work closely with the uniform providers - The Uniform Monkeys



\* These items must only be purchased from the above uniform provider

\* Trousers must be a polyester/polyester mix, they must NOT be denim, cotton or wool. Trousers must NOT be skin tight, skinny fit or have a split in the trouser leg. No additions to the trousers such as decorated belts, buckles, lacing or labels are allowed.

\* Shoes must be leather/leather look and you must be able to polish them. NO trainers, canvas shoes, plimsolls or boots are allowed.

\* Uniform can be ordered via [www.theuniformmonkeys.co.uk](http://www.theuniformmonkeys.co.uk)

\* The Uniform Monkeys have a shop located in Letchworth town centre and also offer online ordering with free delivery and a personal local service for fittings and exchanges.

## Summer Uniform

In the summer term, once the headteacher gives permission, students are permitted to wear plain white polo shirts (without ties) instead of the white button neck shirt.

## Uniform Standards

- **Fearnhill Skirt** - The tartan skirt is compulsory for all students that choose to wear a skirt. Skirts must be regulation length to the knee. Students may of course wear appropriate school trousers if they wish to do so.
- **Trousers** must be a polyester/polyester mix, they must NOT be denim, cotton or wool. Trousers must NOT be skin tight, skinny fit or have a split in the trouser leg. No additions to the trousers such as decorated belts, buckles, lacing or labels.
- **Shoes** must be leather/leather look and you must be able to polish them. NO trainers, canvas shoes, plimsolls or boots.
- **Hair** should be tidy, of sensible length and safe for school type activities. No haircuts shorter than a Grade 2. No unusual colouring, dyeing or highlighting. No tramlines, designs, or extreme hairstyles.
- **Make-up and nails** - Make up should be minimal and discreet. No false eyelashes or acrylic nails.
- **Jewellery** - No jewellery is permitted other than one stud earring per ear, or that of religious significance. All jewellery must be removed for PE lessons on safety grounds.
- **Tattoos and piercings** - We do not permit facial or body piercings, ear expanders or tattoos of any kind (this includes temporary and permanent tattoos).
- **Labelling** - All items of clothing MUST be clearly marked with the student name, so that lost property can be quickly returned to owners.

## PE Kit Years 7-11

Items	Compulsory	Additional Optional
Fearnhill polo shirt1 (fitted or unisex) and/or Fearnhill reversible outdoor top 2*	✓	
Fearnhill PE shorts 2* or plain black tracksuit bottoms	✓	
Fearnhill hooded sweatshirt 1 * (may need to remove for contact sport)		✓
Outdoor trainers	✓	
Football boots (studded, moulded only)	✓	
Gum shield	✓	
Shin pads	✓	
Black base Layer		✓

- \* 1 These items carry the Fearnhill logo and must be bought from The Uniform Monkeys
- \* 2 These items are in the Fearnhill colours and must be bought from The Uniform Monkeys
- \* Black socks are compulsory for Year 7, all other year groups may continue to wear green socks until they need to be replaced, when black socks should be purchased.

ALL KIT MUST BE CLEARLY NAMED

It is recommended that kit is embroidered with initials

# School Gateway - Payments Online

School Gateway is used for paying for school lunches, trips etc.

Please note this system will change in the near future. All information will be communicated in due course.

To use this payment method you will need to take the following steps:

1. Please ensure the school has an accurate record of your email address and mobile phone number. School Gateway will use these details to create your account. You will receive notification from the school when you can register for a School Gateway account.
2. Once you have received this notification, search for "School Gateway" in the Apple App Store / Google Play or on your phone go to [www.schoolgateway.com/apple](http://www.schoolgateway.com/apple) (Apple) or [www.schoolgateway.com/android](http://www.schoolgateway.com/android) (Android). If you are asked, say yes to "Allow Push Notifications".
3. When you launch School Gateway for the first time, please select 'New User' and enter the email address and mobile telephone number you have registered with the school. You will then be sent a PIN code.
4. Enter your PIN code and the app will be activated for you. As soon as you have got the system set up, all of the text messages we send you will appear in the app; you will receive notifications/alerts as normal.

To make payments:-

5. Log into the School Gateway App using your pin (can be reset if number forgotten) and a list of accounts will appear, select the child for whom you wish to make a payment and follow the on screen instructions. Payments can be made by either debit/credit card or direct debits can be set up.

You will also be able to pay for trips online and when you receive emails about planned trips, the details for making payments online will be included in the information. If when you log into your account, you do not see the activity you wish to pay for, please contact the finance office.

Please do not hesitate to contact the finance office if you require any further information:

[admin@fearnhill.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@fearnhill.herts.sch.uk)

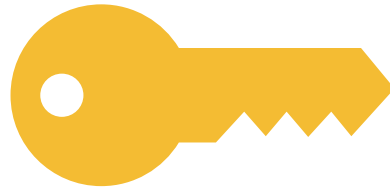
# Lockers

In September, you will be able to hire a locker.  
Payment (at start of term):

Online via Schoolgateway payment system

£5 key deposit

£5 hire (access to the locker for 5 years)



Keys will be issued within the first 3 weeks of term.

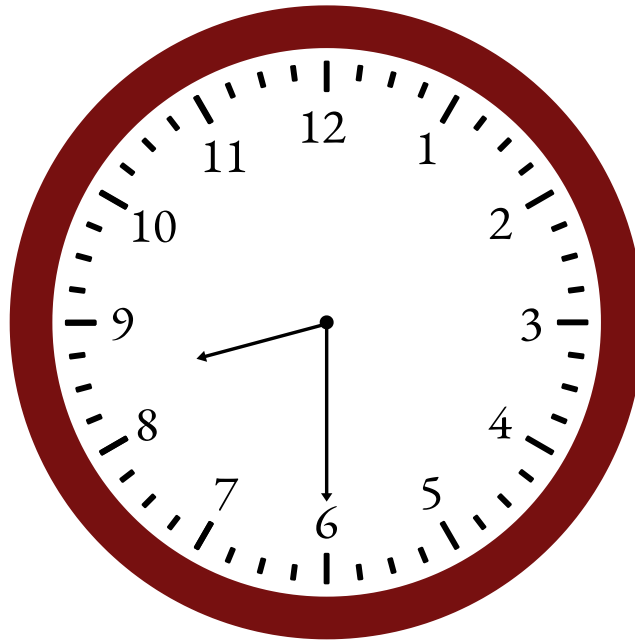




## Term Dates - 2024-2025

<b>Autumn Term 2024</b>	Inset Days	Monday 2nd & Tuesday 3rd September 2024
	Autumn Term starts Yrs 7 & 12 only	Wednesday 4th September 2024
	School opens for all year groups	Thursday 5th September 2024
	Half Term	Monday 28th October - Friday 1st November 2024
	Return to school	Monday 4th November 2024
	Occasional Day Inset Day (disaggregated)	Friday 29th November 2024 Monday 2nd December 2024
	End of Term (early close)	Friday 20th December 2024
<b>Spring Term 2025</b>	Inset day	Monday 6th January 2025
	Spring Term begins	Tuesday 7th January 2025
	Half Term	Monday 17th-Friday 21st February 2025
	Return to school	Monday 24th February 2025
	End of Term (early close)	Friday 4th April 2025
<b>Summer Term 2025</b>	Summer Term begins	Tuesday 22nd April 2025
	May Bank Holiday	Monday 5th May 2025
	Half Term	Monday 26th - Friday 30th May 2025
	Return to school	Monday 2nd June 2025
	Inset Day	Friday 4th July 2025
	End of Term (early close)	Wednesday 23rd July 2025

# Timings of the School Day



Monday - Friday	
8:30 - 8:55	Registration
8:55 - 9:55	Period 1
9:55 - 10:55	Period 2
10:55 - 11:15	BREAK
11:15 - 12:15	Period 3
12:15 - 1:15	Period 4
1:15 - 2:00	LUNCH
2:00 - 3:00	Period 5

## Summer Reading Challenge

This summer we are challenging our students to read for a combined 10,000 minutes.

Students can read anything they choose, a book, newspaper or the subtitles and then log how long they read for using track my read. Instructions for track my read will be given out on transition day and your child is also welcome to borrow a book from our library for the summer if they need some reading material. This will be due for return or renewal during the first week back at school.

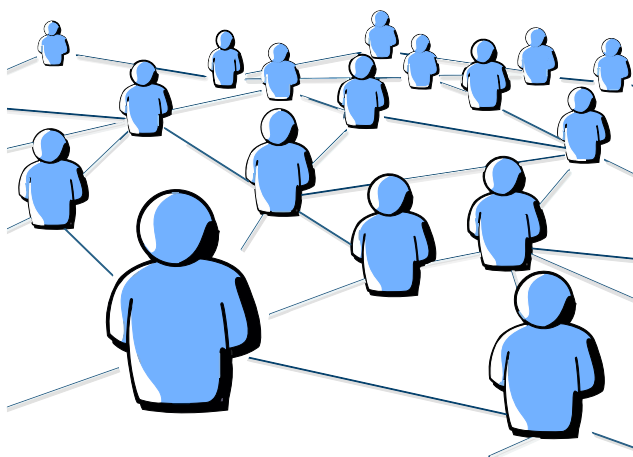
If students would prefer to be read to, then they can also log time spent listening to an audio book or to someone else reading.



# School Communication

We try to ensure that communication between the school and parents/carers is as prompt and effective as possible. The school uses an email service allowing us to send letters and messages direct to parents/carers by email using Schoolcomms. Over the summer holiday, we will register all parents/carers using the email addresses provided on the data collection sheet. If you do not have access to the internet or email, please be assured that we will continue to communicate with you by paper or other appropriate means.

Other means of communications that we use are the school website and our fortnightly newsletters 'Fearfile' & 'Careerfile'.



## Contact Details

Fearnhill School  
Icknield Way  
Letchworth Garden City  
Herts  
SG6 4BA

Tel No: 01462 621200

email: [admin@fearnhill.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@fearnhill.herts.sch.uk)

website: [www.fearnhill.herts.sch.uk](http://www.fearnhill.herts.sch.uk)

Facebook: follow us [@fearnhill.sch](https://www.facebook.com/fearnhill.sch)

Instagram: follow us [@fearnhill\\_school](https://www.instagram.com/fearnhill_school)

Twitter: follow us [@fearnhill.school](https://twitter.com/fearnhill.school)

School Office opening times  
8:00am - 4:30pm Monday to Thursday  
8:00am - 4:00pm Friday  
(except in holiday periods)

An answerphone service is available at all other times