

# FEARNHILL SCHOOL

## Fearnfile Issue 636 10th September 2024

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## **MR SPENCER'S UPDATE**

I hope you and your family had a relaxing and enjoyable summer holiday. It has been great to be able to welcome so many students - both new and returning - to Fearnhill in the last week. Students have made a positive and purposeful start to the new school year.

Over the summer holidays we have invested £100,000 in improving school facilities. These improvements allow us to keep children safer and improve the learning experience.

#### Digital displays in classrooms

The quality of the image displayed at the front of the class has an impact on how well students can learn. We have invested in 75" Samsung touch screens for most classrooms. This represents a significant improvement in the learning experience for students and helps teachers to plan more effective learning opportunities for students. Samsung will return to film lessons; they want to use Fearnhill as a showcase school for these state-of-the-art devices.



Continued...

## **MR SPENCER'S UPDATE (...continued)**

#### Fences

We have also installed security gates at the front of the school. This is not about keeping children in, but making it hard for intruders to get in. Sadly, we know that schools do occasionally experience unwanted intruders. We have therefore taken steps to make the school more secure.





#### Toilets

As mundane as it seems, we know that good toilet facilities matter for children to feel safe in school. We have demolished and rebuilt the main toilets which allows for better supervision. I am very grateful to our site manager, Paul Rainbow, who has overseen this project.

#### Students in lessons, working hard

Our key message to students at the start of the year is that we want them to take responsibility. It is our job to help students, but for each student to become the person they want to be, they must take responsibility. To do this they need to be in lessons and working hard. Good school attendance is essential for academic and social flourishing. Students who make an effort to produce their best work each day leave school with more opportunities and higher self-esteem.

#### Your help

We want each student to feel safe and enjoy school. We want them to learn and feel well supported by the adults working in the school. We know that your help is vital in making this happen. As a staff body we look forward to working with you this year to help every child thrive.

#### Mr Tim Spencer, Headteacher

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW STUDENTS

A very warm welcome to the Fearnhill Family to our new students in Year 7, Year 12 and across the school. We want to share a few words from some of our Head of Key Stage 3 and our Head of Sixth Form.

"It's been been lovely seeing the students we met in year 6 joining us in year 7 and settling in so well. We look forward to supporting you through your Fearnhill Journey." **Mr Turner, Head of Key Stage 3** 

"Year 12 is a exciting year to push yourself academically and to grow as a person. I can't wait to guide you all through it." **Mr Marlow, Director of Post 16 Study** 

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW STAFF

We are pleased to offer a big Fearnhill welcome the following staff members, who have now joined our teaching team:

Mrs E Busolini - Maths Teacher Ms K Burr - Head of English Ms D Carroll - 2nd in Science Mr T Jenkins - Head of Year 7 & Teacher of History Miss J Mills - Spanish Teacher Mr J Woosey - Head of Science

## STUDENT OF THE WEEK

#### 4-6 September

Student of the Week Form of the Week House of the Week Teacher of the Week

Iyla C, 8P137P18Pearsall38Miss Cheeseman, Geography Teacher26

13 points 186 points 386 points 260 points

## **UNIVERSITY EVENT FOR YEAR 13 STUDENTS**

Unifrog are kicking off this academic year with a virtual fair to inspire and motivate students who are considering the university route!



Unifrog UK UNIVERSITY FAIR 16 October, 4-6:30pm



Students can meet up to 40 universities in two hours - including University of Bristol, Bangor University, University of Exeter, University of Durham, and University of Aberdeen.

This is a great opportunity to motivate students who are starting to write their Personal Statements. We'll have live sessions and admissions experts on hand to give them practical tips on how to stand out. For those who aren't sure where or what to study, the sessions and interactive booths could inspire them to start exploring and put their minds at ease if they have any concerns about university life.

Teachers, advisors, parents, and caregivers are all welcome to join in: > <u>Sign up and share the fair</u> (16 Oct, 4–6:30pm)

## **STAFF VACANCIES**

#### **Inclusion Leader and Cover Supervisor**

Would you like to join our friendly team and make a real difference in young people's lives?

We are currently recruiting for an Inclusion Leader and a Cover Superviser. For more information and to apply, please <u>visit our</u> <u>website</u>.

The closing dates for applicants are 12.00pm on Friday 13th September 2024 (Inclusion Leader) and Wednesday 18th September (Cover Superviser). Are you looking to make a real difference to young people's lives? Fearnhill is the place for you. We have the following staff vacancies:

Inclusion Leader Cover Supervisor



## **CONGRATULATIONS (FIRST AID)**

Big congratulations to Ryan E and Clara M in year 11 for passing their first aid at work course over the summer holidays. This is a recognised qualification and the start of their UCAS point journey.



## CITIZEN'S ADVICE

#### We have received the following update from Citizen's Advice that may be of interest to families:

Kate Beed has recently joined Citizen's Advice leading on project to help families in Letchworth manage their money better. She says 'since the Cost of Living crisis we are all having to watch the pennies and be more careful about the choices we make on a day to day basis. This can be really difficult if you're feeding a growing family; especially when the cold weather hits'.

Kate has lots of tips that can help- from making sure that you're getting all the benefits that you're entitled to, to sharing ways to save energy. By following @citizensadvicenorthherts on Facebook, Instagram or their website you can keep up to date with vital information that might make a difference to your weekly budget. Kate is also happy to give presentations about budgeting, the cost of living, energy tips and scams to groups.

Last year Citizens Advice North Herts assisted 6,717 individuals across North Herts with nearly 15000 issues; ranging from specialist debt support to housing and benefits.

If you're looking for support or advice then you can email Kate on letchworthfinancialhealth@nhdc.org.uk.

Citizens Advice North Herts Letchworth is on Station Road, Letchworth and is open for drop-in Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 9.30 – 4pm and on a Wednesday from 9.30am – 12noon. You can also contact them on 01462 689801.

## citizens advice

## LIBRARY

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





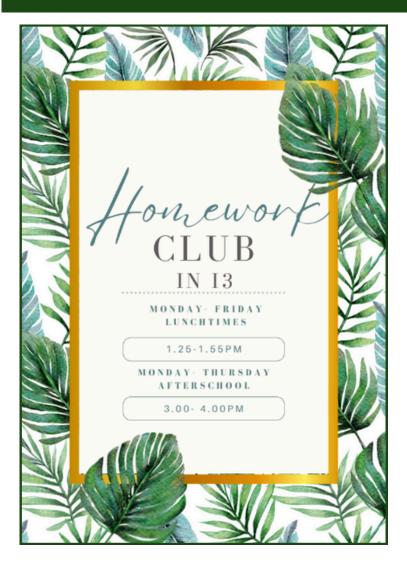


## **MUSIC LESSONS**

Please see the below information regarding music lessons that are provided by Hertfordshire Music Service at Fearnhill. Visit their website at <u>www.hertsmusicservice.org.uk</u> for more information.



## **HOMEWORK CLUB**



Homework club is a supportive and inclusion space for students to complete their homework. It is open to all students every lunch time Monday-Friday 1.25-1.55pm and after school Monday-Thursday 3.00-4.00pm in room I3.



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

#### Autumn Term 2024

Thursday 12th September	Open evening for prospective parents 6.00-8.30pm
Wednesday 25th September	Year 8 HPV Immunisations
Monday 30th September	Years 7, 8 & 9 Flu Vaccinations
Tuesday 1st October	Years 10 & 11 Flu Vaccinations
Monday 28th October – Friday 1st November	Half term
Friday 29th November	Occasional Day (school closed)
Monday 2nd December	Disaggregated (school closed)
Friday 20th December	Term ends

#### Spring Term 2025

Monday 6th January Tuesday 7th January Monday 17th – Friday 21st February Friday 4th April INSET DAY - School closed to students Term starts for students Half term Term ends

## **CONTACT US**

Phone: 01462 621200
Email: admin@fearnhill.herts.sch.uk
Website: www.fearnhill.herts.sch.uk
Address: 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 school office on the email address above.

## **SOCIAL MEDIA**

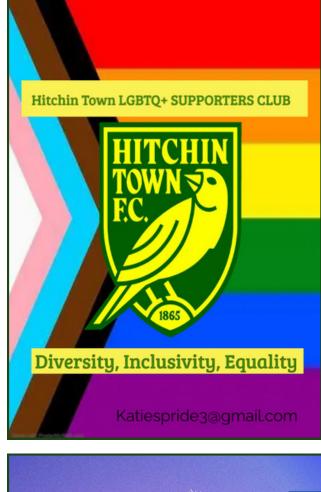
For more frequent information, updates and news, please follow us on social media. Please note our Instagram page has recently changed. Links to our three social channels are below:





@FearnhillSchool

## **EXTERNAL INFORMATION**



#### DSPL (Delivering Special Provision Locally)

DSPL offer a range of useful tools for parents and carers, including:

- The Toolbox courses for young people - understanding my Autism and/or ADHD (ages 7-16)
- Wellbeing Support for Parent Carers
- Coping with school when you are autistic

More information can be found here: https://nhdspl.org.uk/262-north-hertsdspl-1-weekly-a-roundup-of-traininginformation-and-events-in-our-area-15.html

