



# FEARNHILL SCHOOL



Fearnfile Issue 640 11th November 2024

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## VACANCIES

We are currently looking for an **Attendance Improvement Officer** to join our friendly team at Fearnhill School in Letchworth Garden City. Candidates must have good communication skills, a commitment to providing excellent support, experience with supporting children and families, as well as good IT skills and the ability to use various software applications. Experience of using Arbor would be an advantage but not essential. For more details or to apply, please see the **'Staff Vacancies' page on our website**. Application closing date is Friday 15th November at 12.00.

Are you looking to make a real difference to young people's lives? Fearnhill is the place for you. We have the following staff vacancy:

### **Attendance Improvement Officer**

30 hours per week term time plus 5 inset days

Visit our website for details:

[fearnhill.herts.sch.uk/staff-vacancies](https://fearnhill.herts.sch.uk/staff-vacancies)



## INTERNET ISSUES

Last week was pretty frustrating for many of us at Fearnhill. A change of Management Information System was always going to be complicated. There are many overlapping processes that involve student data working in sync: card payments for the canteen, timetables, rewards & sanctions, registers, safeguarding records, assessment information, medical information and SEND records to name just a few. Often the data exists on various software platforms that must be able to transfer data seamlessly and securely.



It was always going to be a busy week for many of our operational staff whether they work in IT, student data, finance, administration or the pastoral team.

This task was made much more challenging when the fibre optic cable that provides the school's internet connection snapped on Tuesday night somewhere along Icknield Way. It took some time for Virgin Media to diagnose the problem, but they have now replaced the damaged cable and we have the internet working again.

This has set us back with our re-implementation of Edulink, but you should receive access shortly.

I am very grateful to our amazing operational staff who have been doing so much work to ensure that the new management information system makes school life more straightforward in the long run and who also helped us to cope with the various challenges we faced without any internet for three days.

Thank you for your patience with these challenges last week. Here's to a less eventful week to come.

***Mr Tim Spencer, Headteacher***

# REMEMBRANCE

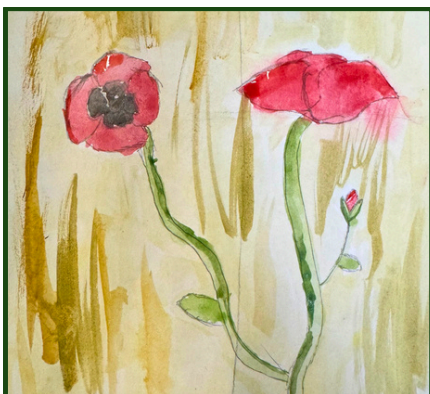
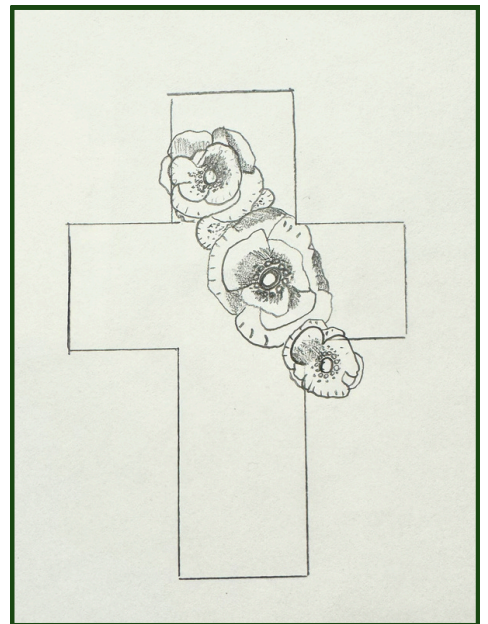
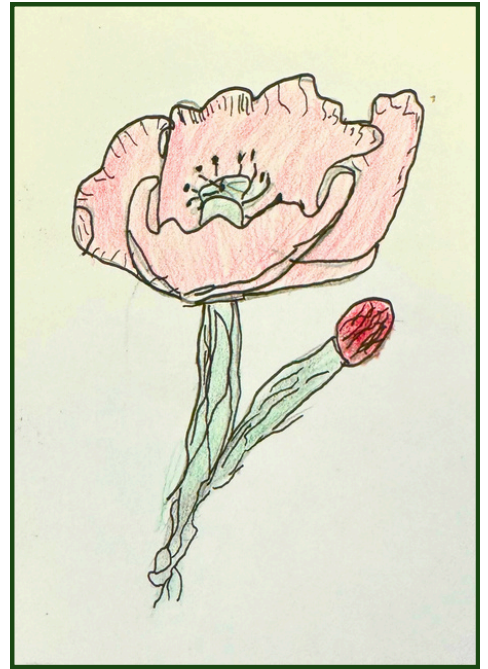
Today all students and staff turned out to remember those we lost during wars. After a speech by Mr Cordwell, and the last post, we observed two minutes silence. Students who are army cadets and sea cadets took part in a parade, having worked so hard to ensure that they looked smart and marched correctly. We were very privileged to have Royston Army Cadet DC Colour McDevitt with us. This year we had a banner from Royston Cadets and laid a Poppy Wreath in the school entrance. This was special moment in our school day and I am incredibly proud of every student who took part.



*Ms L Chilton, Subject Lead PRE*

# ART - REMEMBRANCE DAY

Year 8 were given the freedom to draw an art piece for remembrance day. We are so impressed with these wonderful pieces.



Ms R Bosley, Teacher Art

# SIXTH FORM RESIDENTIAL GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP

On the 4th November all of the A-Level Geography students clambered aboard the school minibus and headed off to Flatford Mill for a 3 day residential field trip. After a successful stop off at Stansted services for Burger King or KFC we arrived at Flatford Mill. Flatford Mill, is a beautiful mill that was once home to John Constable, the famous artist. We were met in the recreational room by our two tutors Sam and Irene and were taken through the itinerary for the duration of our stay.

That afternoon the students walked into a 'tranquil' Essex village of Dedham and completed some rural studies - this included some modern geography that considers a place's mood and feelings. That evening we were treated to a tasty lasagne and chocolate pudding before having some free time.

Tuesday saw everyone up and eating a cooked breakfast by 8am. That morning the students investigated the module of water and the impact of interception on river flow and how the surface may impact infiltration. The afternoon was spent outside investigating and measuring the carbon unit and the carbon capture abilities of various trees on the Field Studies Council's site. The evening session saw the students try to remain focused as we discussed and studied statistics and how to help prove the significance of their field work. Tuesday evening we ate chicken noodles and cheesecake followed by hot chocolate and marshmallows around the fire. Sadly too many of the Year12 and 13 students were not brave enough to join in the sing song around the campfire!

Wednesday morning began at 8am with another cooked breakfast - the students then went back into the classroom to complete their work on water and carbon. They finished with a mindful walk through the idyllic Dedham Valley countryside completing a 'rural bingo'. At 12pm we jumped back on the school minibus and everyone returned to Fearnhill for 2.30pm.

A massive thank you to the tutors who were excellent during the field studies and the students who were incredibly well behaved and focused throughout the 3 days.

Check out the next page for some snaps of our students enjoying the trip....

*Mr N Fowler, Head of Humanities*

# SIXTH FORM RESIDENTIAL GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP (...cont.)



*Mr N Fowler, Head of Humanities*

## PLAYING RUGBY FOR ENGLAND

We're all very proud of Ryan E in year 11, who plays rugby for Letchworth under 16s. He represented England Army Cadets Rugby, playing against other Army Cadet National Teams.

Ryan joined the Army Cadets in 2021 and started playing rugby for them in 2022. That same year Ryan was selected for the County Army Cadets rugby squad that went on to win the Regional Finals in 2023.

In 2024 Ryan was selected to play for England Army Cadets and earlier this month played against Ireland, Wales and Scotland Cadets, winning 3 matches and drawing 2.



*Article and photo: Letchworth Rugby Club*

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH - DRAMA

For Black History Month, our year 10 drama class engaged with the play *Small Island* by Andrea Levy. This powerful narrative explores the intertwined lives of Jamaican immigrants and post-war Britain, highlighting themes of identity, race, and belonging.

We discussed character motivations and the bravery it took to emigrate and start a life in a new country, and the historical context of the Empire Windrush.

Using drama strategies like still images, thought tracking, improvisation and physical theatre we developed our understanding of the struggles faced by the characters, exploring relationships, living conditions, and some of the attitudes of the time.

*Mr M Sheridan, Head of Drama*



# YEAR 7 GEOGRAPHY EXCURSION

Friday the 8th November saw Year 7 take a moment out of their busy schooling life and consider their surroundings. What us geographers like to call space and place. Fearnhill School has paired up with the Letchworth Heritage Foundation to complete a piece of artwork investigating students' local place.

To do this the year 7 students retraced their walk to and from school. Those students who could not walk home and back again within the hour lesson were given different locations within the town of Letchworth to walk to. During the walk students had to take time to stop and listen and use their senses to really identify with their place and journeys they do very often.

Students had a lovely time connecting with their local area and completing notes on the way. The next steps are to complete a map of their respective journeys and the two art teachers that joined us on Friday morning will come in again to school and transfer the maps onto textiles. These textile maps will then be joined together and placed on display in the Broadway Gallery in The Arcade on Leys Avenue. There will be a celebration evening on 26th November to show the students work. More details regarding the Gallery evening will follow.

Many thanks go to Hannah (our resident artist) and Chantelle from The Letchworth Heritage Foundation.



*Mr N Fowler, Head of Humanities*



## SENIOR FOOTBALL VS ST CHRIS

There were great performances all round in the senior football match against St Chris last week. Fearnhill won 3-1, with goals for Dan, Horatio and Luke. A comment was made that Dans goal was the best goal seen on that pitch! Well done to everyone who played!



*Mr M Turner, Teacher PE & Head of Key Stage 3*

## YEAR 8 FOOTBALL

Fearnhill year 8 boys played with great spirit and heart against Nobel last Monday and were in the game right until the end. They were very unlucky to concede only one chance in the whole game and Nobel managed to capitalise and score from it, so we didn't get the win this time. Man of the match was Joe R, with strong performances from many of the team and special mentions to Dash J, Alfie C and Carson B.

*Mr S Manley, Teacher PE*



# 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*



## READ A BOOK YOU WOULD RECOMMEND?

HELP THE LIBRARY BY CREATING A MINI DISPLAY TO ADVERTISE IT TO OTHER STUDENTS

SPEAK TO MRS THURLBY FOR MORE INFORMATION



## THE BIG BOOK RETURN CHALLENGE



## PARENTS WE NEED YOUR HELP!

PLEASE HAVE A LOOK AROUND AT HOME FOR MISSING LIBRARY BOOKS



# MUSIC LESSONS

Please see the below information regarding music lessons that are provided by Hertfordshire Music Service at Fearnhill. Visit their website at [www.hertsmusicservice.org.uk](http://www.hertsmusicservice.org.uk) for more information.



**Hertfordshire Music Service**

Start your musical journey today →

Making Music Improving Lives

Registration now open for music lessons

### Instrumental and vocal lessons

- ▶ Music lessons are available during the school day at hundreds of schools in Hertfordshire.
- ▶ We also provide lessons in the afternoon, evening and on the weekends at our 12 music centres across the county.
- ▶ We offer various lesson types and durations. Please visit our website for more information.
- ▶ Financial support is available to pupils receiving certain benefits, to help with the cost of lessons.
- ▶ As your child progresses on their musical journey, they will be invited to join ensembles or music groups that perform regularly.



Scan me

01438 844851  
[hertsmusicservice.org.uk](http://hertsmusicservice.org.uk)

Follow @hertsmusic



# HOMEWORK CLUB



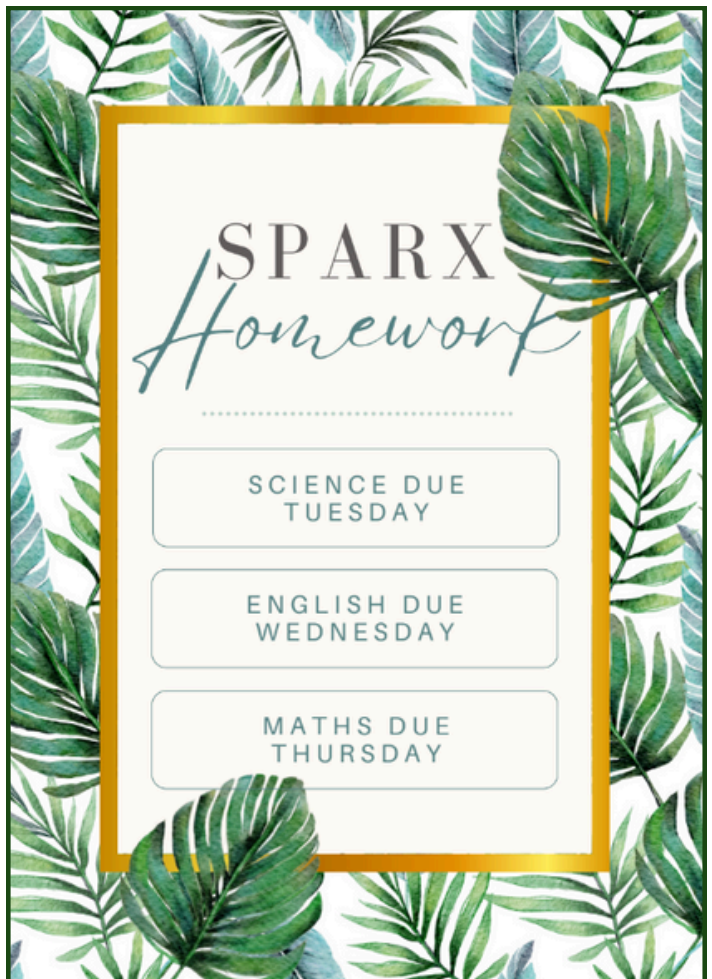
*Homework*  
**CLUB**  
IN 13

MONDAY- FRIDAY  
LUNCHTIMES

1.25- 1.55PM

MONDAY- THURSDAY  
AFTERSCHOOL

3.00- 4.00PM



**SPARX**  
*Homework*

SCIENCE DUE  
TUESDAY

ENGLISH DUE  
WEDNESDAY

MATHS DUE  
THURSDAY

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

## Autumn Term 2024

Monday 11th November	Year 11 Mock Exams Start
Wednesday 8th November	Year 8 Reports Issued
Tuesday 19th November	Year 8 Parents' Evening (Times TBC)
Wednesday 20th November	Year 9 Reports Issued
Wednesday 27th November	Year 10 Reports Issued
Wednesday 27th November	Sixth Form Opening Evening
Friday 29th November	Occasional Day (school closed)
Monday 2nd December	Disaggregated (school closed)
Thursday 12th December	Year 13 Parents' Evening (Times TBC)
Tuesday 17th December	Year 11 Mock Results and Reports Issued
Friday 20th December	Term ends

## Spring Term 2025

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

## Summer Term 2025

Tuesday 22nd April	Terms starts
Monday 26th – Friday 30th May	Half term
Friday 4th July	INSET DAY - School closed to students
Wednesday 23rd July	End of Term

# CONTACT US

**Phone:** 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)

**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



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



[@Fearnhill\\_School](https://www.instagram.com/@Fearnhill_School)



[@FearnhillSchool](https://www.twitter.com/@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-herts-dspl-1-weekly-a-roundup-of-training-information-and-events-in-our-area-15.html>



## The Herts Parent Carer Involvement 2024 Survey is open until 3<sup>rd</sup> November

[www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/HPCISurvey2024](http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/HPCISurvey2024)

We want to hear from Hertfordshire parent carers of children and young people (age 0-25) with any Special Educational Need and/or Disability. Your child doesn't need to have a diagnosis or EHCP for you to take part.

**Share your thoughts and make a difference**



[www.surveymonkey.com/r/HPCISurvey2024](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HPCISurvey2024)

# EXTERNAL INFORMATION



For information on how the Uniform Bank can support you with second hand uniform, and for news of their forthcoming events, please visit their [Facebook page](#).

Learn about ADHD and autism on your phone!

If you are 14 or above, live in Hertfordshire and:

- Have ADHD (or think you do)
- Are autistic (or think you are)
- Or both

You can now access the Cogs app for free!

The app helps you understand more about ADHD and autism and how to manage them to your advantage.

To find out more and get your free access, search:

<https://thetoolbox.minder.co.uk/hertfordshire>

Then scroll to the Cogs offer!

[www.thetoolbox.minder.co.uk/hertfordshire](https://www.thetoolbox.minder.co.uk/hertfordshire)



Herts Mental Health, Learning Disability & Autism Health and Care Partnership's monthly newsletter is [available here](#).

**A complete guide to parenting children with Autism & ADHD**

FREE, award-winning course is for parents living in Hertfordshire and parenting children with Autism or ADHD (inclusive of those with a diagnosis or awaiting assessment) aged two to 11 years.

Facilitated by founders, Lesley and Francine, our course will help parents:

- Meet other parents living in similar families and share experiences
- Gain a greater understanding of, 'Why does my child do that?'
- Learn a range of strategies to better manage behaviours that challenge
- Understand children's sensory world
- Increase understanding of children's common sleep issues
- Learn how to support siblings living with a neurodiverse sister/brother
- Communicate effectively to increase children's emotional regulation
- Learn techniques to manage stress, conflict and so much more....

**Tuesday mornings 9.30am to 11.30am**  
or  
**Tuesday evenings 6.30pm to 8.30pm**

**January 7th 14th 21st 28th & February 4th 11th 25th & March 4th 11th**

Email us: [bookings@familiesinfocus.co.uk](mailto:bookings@familiesinfocus.co.uk) or visit our website to see all course information: [www.familiesinfocus.co.uk](http://www.familiesinfocus.co.uk)

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

## MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING

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**1 DAY CHAMPION COURSE  
FOR PARENTS & CARERS OF  
8 TO 18-YEAR-OLDS  
FREE TRAINING  
09:30AM - 16:00PM**



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**WHAT YOU WILL LEARN**

- AN UNDERSTANDING OF COMMON MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES AND HOW THEY CAN AFFECT YOUNG PEOPLE
- ABILITY TO SPOT SIGNS OF MENTAL ILL HEALTH IN YOUNG PEOPLE AND GUIDE THEM TO A PLACE OF SUPPORT
- KNOWLEDGE AND CONFIDENCE TO ADVOCATE FOR MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS
- SKILLS TO SUPPORT POSITIVE WELLBEING

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**COURSE STRUCTURE**

SESSION 1- ABOUT, WHAT IS MENTAL HEALTH AND MENTAL ILL HEALTH, STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION, DEPRESSION AND SUICIDE.

SESSION 2 MENTAL HEALTH CONDITIONS: ANXIETY, SELF-HARM, EATING DISORDERS, PSYCHOSIS, RECOVERY, RESILIENCE

**For further information please contact:**  
[hweicbhv.schoolsmh@nhs.net](mailto:hweicbhv.schoolsmh@nhs.net)





## LETCHWORTH youth HUB

**STARTING THURSDAY 18TH JULY!**

**FREE  
THURSDAY 6-8PM  
12-18YRS OLD**

**GAMES | MULTI-SPORTS |  
ARTS | TEAMBUILDING**

**JACKMANS CREAMERY  
LETCHWORTH  
SG6 2SB**

**FOR MORE INFO CONTACT:  
ADAM.NNOCHIRI@AITC.ORG.UK**




**Mental Health First Aid Training Dates:**  
22nd January 2025 (Dacorum) - [Book here](#)  
26th February 2025 (Bushey) - [Book here](#)





## YPHWS Young People's Health & Wellbeing Survey



In November Hertfordshire County Council and partners are running a **20 minute anonymous online** survey across secondary school aged pupils in the county to help us plan services and support for young people. This is the fifth year of running the survey with more than 16,000 responses recorded last year.

The link to the survey can be found below. The survey will go 'live' at 9am Monday 4th November, and close on Friday 20th December. A reminder will be sent to schools.

For more information please contact [yphws@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:yphws@hertfordshire.gov.uk)



wellbeing  
lifestyle  
mental health  
safety  
education



[www.hertshealththevidence.org/vphws](http://www.hertshealththevidence.org/vphws)