



# FEARNHILL SCHOOL



Fearnfile Issue 644 28th January 2025

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# MR SPENCER'S UPDATE

We are always looking to improve the insights that parents have into the daily life of the school. We know that, as parents, you will want to know what is going on in the life of the school. There is always so much happening and we like to celebrate what students are doing.

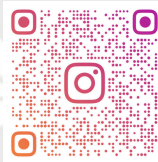
Our social media channels are a great way of keeping up to date. Instagram, Facebook and X are all updated most days. You can follow these accounts by scanning the QR codes on this page, or by clicking on the links.



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



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



[@FearnhillSchool](https://www.x.com/@FearnhillSchool)



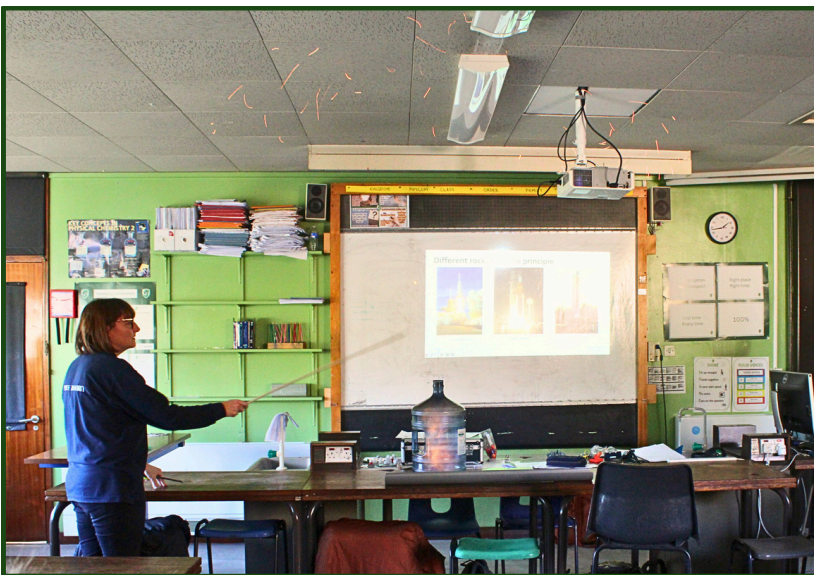
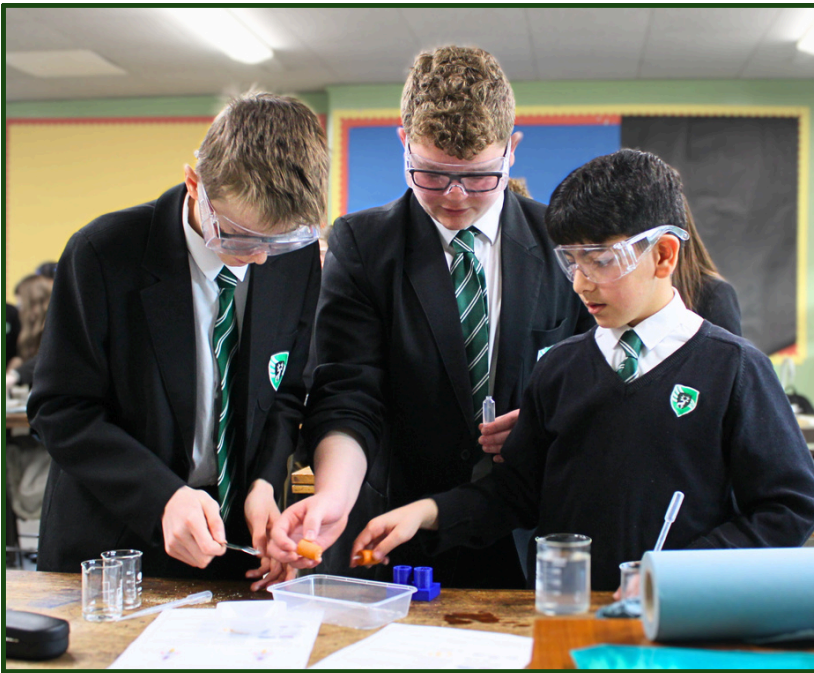
This week we also say goodbye to Hazel Rainbow, our school business manager. Hazel has worked at Fearnhill for over a decade and has seen the school through some difficult times. Hazel is incredibly hardworking and has always been willing to go the extra mile for the school. The role of school business manager largely oversees what happens behind the scenes. However, Hazel's contribution to the school is clear to see. Fearnhill is in a much stronger financial position and the building has undergone significant improvements during her time. We are very grateful for all that Hazel has done for the school and wish her well in her next steps.

***Mr Tim Spencer, Headteacher***



# SPACE CENTRE WORKSHOP

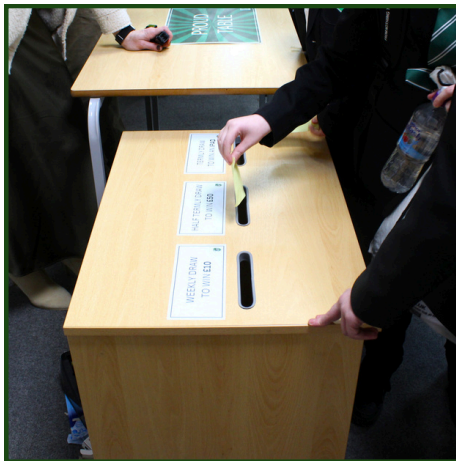
We were very excited earlier this term to welcome Ms Smith from the National Space Academy to conduct workshops with some of our year 9 and 10 students. Students were treated to a morning of exciting experiments, learning how ethanol is used to fuel space rockets, creating their own mini rockets using hydrogen peroxide as fuel, making balloon hovercrafts and learning about momentum by colliding their hovercrafts into each other. They also had the chance to hold a piece of the moon! Lots of fun was had by all and we would like to thank Ms Smith and the National Space Academy for such an enjoyable and informative day.



*Ms Carroll, 2nd in Science*



# PROUD TABLE



Our Proud Table, which was introduced at the start of this term, has been a huge success so far! Students have been bringing work to the Proud Table on Friday lunchtimes to receive stamps on their Proud Table Card. When they get 6 stamps on the card, they can choose to enter it into the draw to win either £10 (awarded weekly), £50 (awarding half termly), or an iPad (awarded termly). They are also given entries to the draw for 6 weeks of completed homework, 100% attendance and merit points. We have been so pleased to see the students' wonderful work. Congratulations to Joseph in 8G and Rex in 7G who have each won £10 in Friday's weekly draw.



## SCHOOL PLAY

The Performing Arts team are pleased to announce the dates and information for this year's school production of *Oliver!* The show will take place on Tuesday 11th, Wednesday 12th and Thursday 13th February at 7pm.

*Oliver!* is based on the novel *Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens. Set in Victorian England, the show tells the story of an orphan boy who is thrown out of the workhouse for uttering the line, "Please sir, I want some more". After being sold to heartless undertakers, he runs away to London to seek his fortune. With famous tunes such as *Consider Yourself*, *Oom Pah Pah* and *Food Glorious Food*, you will be sure to enjoy our rendition of this iconic musical.

We were inundated with talented auditions this year and so we have dual cast the show for the first time in many years. This means we have given some of the lead roles to two students and they will perform them on different nights, giving more opportunities for performers. So make sure you come to as many shows as possible to see the different casts in action!

Tickets are available now on School Gateway. Adult tickets are £9, Concessions are £6 and a family ticket (2 adults and 2 concessions) is £28. Tickets are only available online (not on the door) and have been known to sell out so be sure to get yours ASAP!

***Ms H Landsman, Lead Teacher Music***



# ENGLISH REVISION

The below revision courses may be of interest to students. The courses are run by HFL and are offered in English, Maths and Science. These online workshops are tailored to build confidence, reinforce knowledge, and equip students with proven exam strategies. Each workshop is carefully crafted to enhance students' skills, motivation, and readiness for the GCSEs this summer. Students who book can access a full recording to revisit or catch up on any missed sessions. For more information, or to book, please [visit HFL's website](#).

## 2025 AQA GCSE ENGLISH LITERATURE REMOTE REVISION MASTERCLASSES.



**SUPPORT YOUR CHILD'S REVISION WITH OUR SUBJECT EXPERTS**  
Designed to motivate and challenge students in an engaging and focused learning environment, our remote revision masterclasses will help boost students' skills and confidence.

These popular remote Saturday revision sessions return for the fourth year.

Our online masterclasses are led by highly experienced subject specialists and will focus on:

- supporting your child to feel 'exam ready'
- providing students with tried and tested exam strategies and revision techniques
- sharing high quality responses and model answers to support their learning
- directly responding to any text/exam related questions that students may have.

Each session lasts two hours and students will be able to interact using a private question function with the subject teachers delivering the session.

All workshops will be recorded and can be accessed via the link in the confirmation email so students who have booked a place, but missed part or all of a session, can catch up later.

To find out more and to book places, click on or scan the QR code. Or contact our Events Team with any queries at [training@hfleducation.org](mailto:training@hfleducation.org) or call 01438 544477. Places may be booked directly by parents/carers or by schools on their students' behalf.

**£20**  
per student  
per 2-hour session  
(including VAT)

REVISION TEXT	2025 SATURDAY SESSION DATES/TIMES		BOOK NOW
Macbeth	1st February	9.30-11.30am	Click or scan this QR code to book. 
Romeo and Juliet	1st February	1.30-3.30pm	
A Christmas Carol	8th February	9.30-11.30am	
An Inspector Calls	1st March	9.30-11.30am	
Power and Conflict Poetry	8th March	9.30-11.30am	
Love and Relationships Poetry	8th March	1.30-3.30pm	
Unseen Poetry	15th March	9.30-11.30am	

For more information regarding these masterclasses, please contact: [training@hfleducation.org](mailto:training@hfleducation.org) or call 01438 544477.

 **HFL Education**

01438 544 464  
[hfleducation.org](http://hfleducation.org)



Ms Kat Burr, Head of English



# LETCHWORTH COMIC-CON INAUGURAL MEETING

On the 14th of January, I had the pleasure of taking four students to Letchworth Library, to meet with some representatives of Letchworth's shops as a culmination of several weeks of focus groups and meetings as they wish to begin an annual Letchworth Garden City Comic-Con.

The students met with peers from St. Christopher's School, as well as The Enemy Of Boredom Academy, and passionately discussed their various fandoms and decide what should be included within a potential Comic-Con (tentatively scheduled for late June of this year).

In so doing, they formed the Letchworth Garden City Comic Con Committee, and volunteered for different tasks which will help bring various video game, movie, TV show and internet fandoms an inclusive place to meet, mingle, and share their hobbies.

We look forward to seeing how this evolves over the coming months.

*Mr B Fox, 2nd in English*



## CRIMINOLOGY



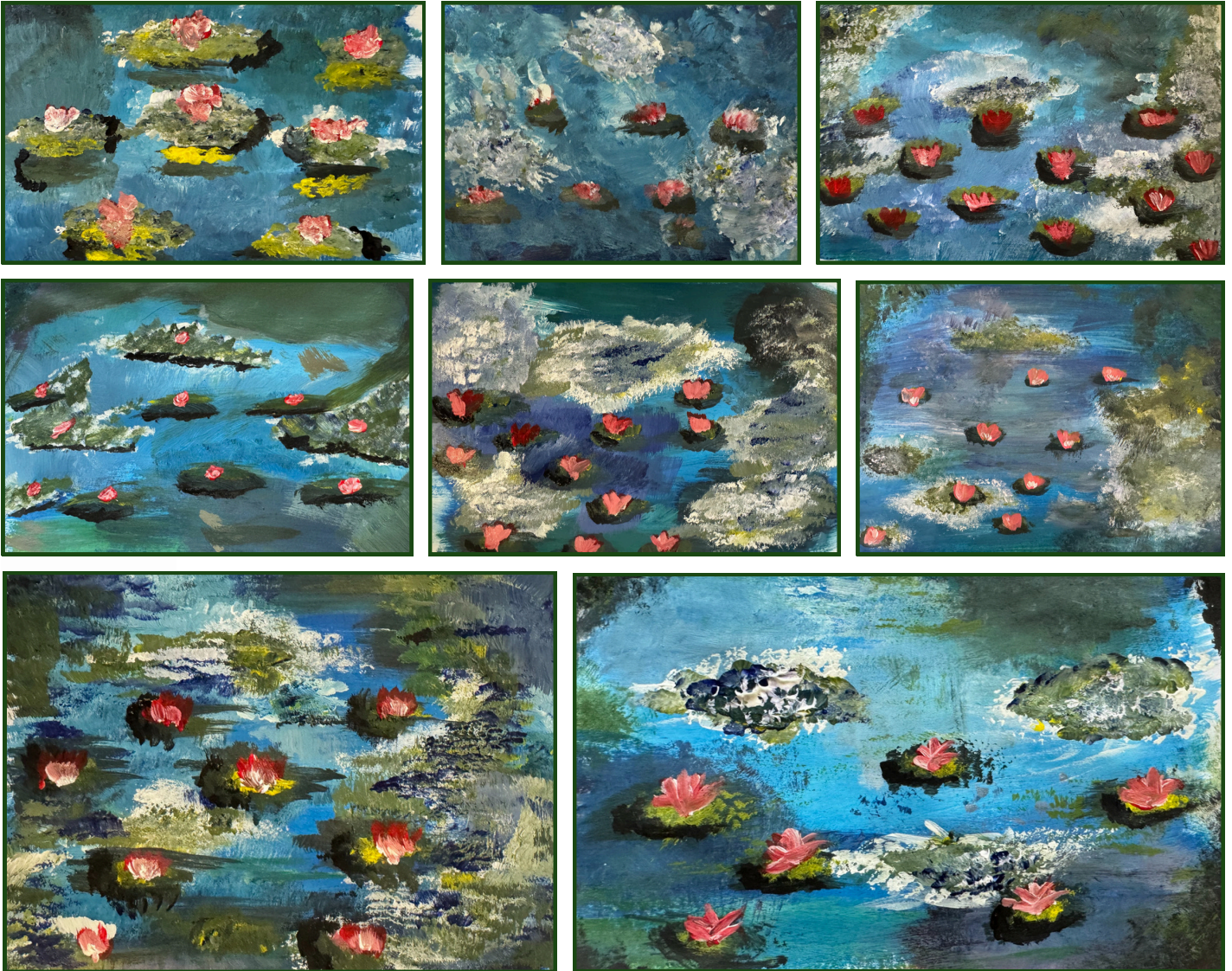
Nicola Coleman from the University of Hertfordshire joined us today to talk about Criminology. Students heard about a wide range of things such as the social construction of crime, powers of police and the Police and Criminal Evidence Act, rights of suspects and collection of evidence. In addition to this Nicola informed students of different degree and career options available through the University.

*Mx A Bettinson, Teacher Psychology & Criminology*



## YEAR 8 ART

Year 8s are using their impressionist skills to create a 'waterlily' artwork in the style of Claude Monet. This is the first time they have worked in this way where they have layered colours on top of each other to create some lovely textures.



*Ms R Bossley. Teacher Art*

## OLD NEWSPAPERS

The Art & Design Department are running low on their supplies of old newspapers. If you have any you could bring in we would be very grateful! They are also always looking for sweet tubs and takeaway containers. Thank you in advance for anything you are able to bring in!





# ALUMNI EVENT

Just a reminder for any former students who would like to sign up for our Alumni Event, which takes place all day on Friday 7 March. It doesn't matter how long ago you were here, or what your career is, all former students are invited to come and share their career journey with our current students. You won't be asked to stand up and talk to a crowded room, just sit at a table while students visit you and ask questions. We love this throwback pic to last year's event, which was a huge success, with alumni sharing their stories and advice with students from across the school that helped them work towards finding their own career path. If you are interested in joining in, please email [admin@fearnhill.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@fearnhill.herts.sch.uk) by Monday 3rd February.



**CALLING ALL FORMER  
FEARNHILL STUDENTS...  
WE NEED YOU!**



Ms Balchin, our Head of Careers, would love former students to share their career stories to inspire our current students.

It doesn't matter what your journey has been since leaving school - bank manager or basketball player, barista or barrister - come and let our students talk to you about your career path.

If you'd like more information on how you can be involved in our Careers Event on Friday 7th March 2025, please email:  
[admin@fearnhill.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@fearnhill.herts.sch.uk)

*Ms L Balchin, Careers Lead*

# SINGING

Last night Year 12 students Amy P and Nahlya K-M competed in the rotary singing competition in Hitchin. They both sang their 8 minute recitals beautifully, Amy giving her first ever solo performance to a full audience and judges! Nahlya came third place of 11 singers in North Herts! Congratulations to both students for their wonderful performances.

*Ms H Landsman, Lead Teacher Music*



# POETRY COMPETITION

Attention Year 10s. As part of the Poet Laureate's ten year library tour, our year 10 students have been invited to enter a poetry competition to win a ticket to his poetry reading at Letchworth Library on Tuesday 4th March. Fearnhill has been chosen as the school partnered with Letchworth Library for the event so this is a great chance to show off our super poetry talents. Please see the attached poster or contact Ms Burr for more information.



**POETRY COMPETITION Year 10**

Win a ticket to see **Simon Armitage** on Tuesday 4th March, 2pm

**Deadline: 14th February**

**How to submit your poem**

Complete the Google form, which will be available via your Google classroom

**WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW**

- Win 1 of 8 spaces to see the Poet Laureate at Letchworth Library
- Have your poem displayed in Letchworth Library
- Judged by staff, Letchworth Library Manager and a member of Poetry ID
- Your poem should be inspired by Reading, Libraries, Letchworth or Creativity

**Plus...**

If you choose to write a poem of 100 words, it can be submitted to Herts Libraries' poetry festival competition from 15 March - 21 June

For more information, contact [kat.burr10@fearnhill.herts.sch.uk](mailto:kat.burr10@fearnhill.herts.sch.uk)

**FEARNHILL SCHOOL** Hertfordshire



**Your poem could be about...**

- Letchworth places
- Personal memories of Letchworth
- Letchworth history
- Reading and your reading experience
- What inspires you
- How you express your creativity
- Personal memories of libraries
- Your favourite stories
- How you find joy in reading



**LAUREATE'S LIBRARY TOUR**

Library@theGrange, Blackpool  
Letchworth Library  
Morrison Hospital Library, Swansea  
L to M Libraries  
March 3-11, 2025  
Free live poetry in-library

The Linen Hall, Belfast

**SIMON ARMITAGE**

Ticket details at [simonarmitage.com](http://simonarmitage.com) and each library. Free, but booking essential.  
Kindly supported by the T.S. Eliot Foundation, Mark Pigott KBE, and Faber & Faber.

Ms Kat Burr, Head of English



# EXTRA CURRICULAR CLUBS

**FEARNHILL SCHOOL** Extracurricular Activities Spring Term 2025

DAY	CLUB	YEAR GROUP	WHEN	WHERE
MONDAY	Badminton/Tennis	All	Lunch	PE
	Basketball	7	After School	PE
	Choir	All	Lunch	MU1
	Football	9 & 10	After School	PE
	Homework	All	Lunch & After School	I3
	Period 6 Study Skills	Year 11	After School	Canteen
	Students' Own	All	After School	Library
TUESDAY	Basketball	7	Lunch Wk B	PE
	Dance	7-9	Lunch	PE
	Feminist	12 & 13	Lunch	H5
	Homework	All	Lunch & After School	I3
	School Production	All	Lunch	Hall
	Students' Own	All	After School	Library
	Wind Band	All	Lunch	Music
WEDNESDAY	Basketball	8 & 9	After School	PE
	Football	7 & 8	After School	PE
	Homework	All	Lunch & After School	I3
	Period 6 Study Skills	Year 11	After School	Canteen
	Science	All	Lunch Wk B	S10
	Students' Own	All	After School	Library

GROWING EXCELLENCE EVERY DAY

**FEARNHILL SCHOOL** Extracurricular Activities Spring Term 2025

DAY	CLUB	YEAR GROUP	WHEN	WHERE
THURSDAY	Books & Biscuits	All	Break	E3
	Duke of Edinburgh	9, 10 & 11	After School	E1
	GCSE PE Intervention	10 & 11	Lunch	PE
	History	All	Lunch	H2
	Homework	All	Lunch & After School	I3
	Lego	All	Lunch	Inclusion
	Maths	All	After School	M2
	Netball	All	After School	PE
	Period 6 Study Skills	Year 11	After School	Canteen
	School Production	All	After School	Hall
Students' Own	All	After School	Library	
FRIDAY	Basketball	8 & 9	After School	PE
	Christian Union	All	Lunch	H2
	Homework	All	Lunch	I3
	Logic	All	Lunch	M2

GROWING EXCELLENCE EVERY DAY

# CANTEEN

**HCL** NOURISH · EDUCATE · INSPIRE

## Lunar New Year

**Main**  
Kung Pao Chicken with Pineapple Rice  
**or**  
Black Bean Quorn Noodles (v)

**Dessert**  
Banana Pancake with Toffee Sauce  
**or**  
Ginger Cookie

**Sides**  
Vegetable Spring Roll  
Steamed Broccoli



**30th of January**





@hclcatering
www.hcl.co.uk

\*Menus are subject to change due to supplier stock availability. Food imagery is for visual representation only.

**HCL** NOURISH · EDUCATE · INSPIRE

## Join in the celebration of Lunar New Year

**30th of Jan**



**30th of January**





@hclcatering
www.hcl.co.uk

\*Menus are subject to change due to supplier stock availability. Food imagery is for visual representation only.

## VACANCY - EXAM INVIGILATOR

Fearnhill School is seeking to appoint caring, reliable and enthusiastic people to join our hard working, friendly and committed team of invigilators and student support assistants during Fearnhill's mock and external exams. The main period of work will be mid-May to mid-July and further work in November/December and February/March may follow. Hours are adhoc and can be flexible within the school day. Full training will be provided.

We warmly welcome visitors to our friendly school. Please contact Kerri Bremner, Exams and Data Manager, for further information or to arrange a visit on [kerri.bremner10@fearnhill.herts.sch.uk](mailto:kerri.bremner10@fearnhill.herts.sch.uk).

**Closing date:** Monday 3rd February 2025 12 noon

**Interviews:** Week commencing: 10th February 2025

## 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*



## 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  
Instagram Facebook YouTube

**Hertfordshire Music Service**

# 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

### Spring Term 2025

Monday 27th January	Year 9 Assessment Week Starts
Monday 17th – Friday 21st February	Half term
Wednesday 26th February	Year 9 DTPM Immunisations
Wednesday 26th February	Year 8 and Year 10 reports issued
Wednesday 5th March	Year 9 reports issued
Thursday 6th March	Year 12 parents' evening
Wednesday 12th March	Year 7 reports issued
Tuesday 18th March	Year 10 parents' evening
Tuesday 25th March	Year 7 parents' evening
Thursday 3rd April	Year 11 reports issued
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	Term ends

## 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

Please follow us on social media for more frequent information, updates and news!



[\\_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>

**PITCH UP AND PLAY RUGBY**

LETCWORTH GARDEN CITY RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB EST. 1924

GET INTO RUGBY

Join us! Meet new friends, have fun and learn new skills, no experience necessary and all abilities welcome.

OPEN TO SCHOOL YEAR 10

WHEN: WEDNESDAY'S 6.30-7.30PM

WHERE: LETCWORTH RUGBY CLUB, LEGENDS LANE, BALDOCK ROAD SG6 2EN

**INTERESTED?**

New or experienced players welcome, just turn up or for any questions or further information email us on [letcworthrugby@hotmail.com](mailto:letcworthrugby@hotmail.com) or Admin on 07741276516

A poster for a rugby event. It features a rugby ball with 'GET INTO RUGBY' written on it. The background is a grassy field. Text provides details on when and where to play, and includes a call to action for interested players.

FYP FOREVER YOUNG PEOPLE

**LETCWORTH youth HUB**

STARTING THURSDAY 18TH JULY!

FREE THURSDAY 6-8PM 12-18YRS OLD

GAMES | MULTI-SPORTS | ARTS | TEAMBUILDING

JACKMANS CREAMERY LETCWORTH SG6 2SB

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

AITC THE NATIONAL LOTTERY

A poster for a youth hub. It features a young man holding a soccer ball. The background is a mix of blue and black. Text provides details on the start date, time, and location of the hub, along with contact information and logos for AITC and The National Lottery.

# 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](#).

[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](#).

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