



FEARNHILL SCHOOL



Fearnfile Issue 645 11th February 2025

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MR SPENCER'S UPDATE

As we approach half term there is lots going on in the life of the school. On Saturday all students taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award went on their practice expedition. This week we have the school production of Oliver running for three nights. When we come back from half term, students in Y8 & 9 will be going on residential trips to a Scout Camp on the edge of London.

I love it that Fearnhill offers these opportunities to students. We want students to leave with good exam grades and students do get the support and teaching they need to succeed. However, we want to help students develop in many other ways too. Exams do not measure confidence, willingness to take risks or teamwork. But we know that attributes like these are vital for students to thrive throughout their lives both professionally and personally.

If you have a child in Year 8 or 9 and they have not yet signed up for the residential, there is still time. The cost is just £20 because a government grant has covered the £250/student cost of the trip. It is a fantastic chance for students to enjoy being outdoors, take part in activities that are not part of their everyday life and make life-long memories. If you would like your child to go and they are not already booked on email admin@fearnhill.herts.sch.uk.

I will look forward to seeing many of you at the show this week. If you have not bought your tickets yet, there are still some tickets available on School Gateway. Good luck to all students taking part!



Mr Tim Spencer, Headteacher

ATTENDANCE MATTERS



1. Building Academic Success Through Consistent Attendance

Regular school attendance is key to academic success. When students attend school every day, they are consistently exposed to new material, allowing them to build a solid foundation of knowledge. Missed lessons can lead to gaps in understanding, making it harder to keep up with the curriculum. Staying present in class ensures that students stay on track and are better prepared for tests, assignments, and future learning.

Note to parents/guardians: Expected attendance is 97%, meaning students who miss more than a day per half term are likely to underachieve and be at a significant disadvantage to their peers. Please support your child in attending school.

Mr M Phillips, Assistant Headteacher

SCIENCE COMPETITION

On January 30th, 4 Year 8 Students travelled to The Thomas Alleyne Academy in Stevenage to compete in a Science competition run by the Institute of Engineering and Technology. They were challenged to create a prototype within a choice of three categories. As this is an ongoing competition, we aren't able to share the details of what was asked of them or what was created, but needless to say our students worked hard and did an excellent job creating their invention - all of the students were exemplary. They showed excellent team work throughout the challenge and were a joy to spend the day with. Very well done to Damla E, James L, Olivia P, George S.



Mr M Turner, Head of Key Stage 3

PROUD TABLE

Our Proud Table continues to be a huge success! Congratulations to Thomas H in 8G and Lucy K in 9N, who have each won £10 in our weekly draw. Students can bring work they are proud of to the maths block on Friday lunchtimes to receive stamps on their cards, once they have six stamps on their cards they can choose to enter a draw to win £10, £50 or an iPad. This Friday we will be doing our half termly draw for the £50 prize.



KWIK CRICKET



In January we hosted a Kwik Cricket Tournament for local Primary Schools. A selection of our year 10 Sports Leaders for the event and organised the games, umpired and kept score. Six primary schools participated and lots of fun was had by all!

POP UP BOOK EXCHANGE

A huge thank you to everyone who got involved with our book exchange on Thursday.

This was a brilliant community project suggested and run by the school book club members. It was fantastic to see the 'buzz' in the English department as lots of excited students visited at break and lunch; we could hear students be really delighted they could just take books home for free. We love seeing students with new books in their arms, and really hope this will get students talking about and enjoying books and reading.

Thank you so much to families who contributed books, and thanks to all the students who took part in some way.

As a reminder, "Books and biscuits" meets every Thursday break in E3, and everyone is welcome to drop in and share what they've been reading.



Mrs S Phillips, Teacher English

BASKETBALL

Year 9 boys played Barnwell school at Basketball last week, beating them 33-31. Players of the match were Ben P on offense and Jacob M on offense. Special mention to Thomas G whose vital steal helped send the game to overtime, where we then scored the winning points! Well done everyone, an excellent match!



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

DUKE OF EDINBURGH 120 MILE CHALLENGE

In March Mr Fox (English), Miss Jennings (Science), Mr Fowler (Humanities) and Miss Mills (Languages) will be participating in the **Duke of Edinburgh Do It 4 Youth 120 Mile Challenge** raising money for the Duke of Edinburgh scheme. The challenge is to walk 120miles in March.....who will be the champion? More information can be found here <https://www.dofe.org/events/do-it-4-youth/>

Miss E Jennings, Teacher Science

VACANCY - COVER SUPERVISOR

Fearnhill School is seeking to appoint a **Cover Supervisor** to join our team covering short term teacher absence. The successful applicant will be required to deliver pre-prepared material to classes and will need to be confident, well organised and should enjoy working with young people.

As a Cover Supervisor, you will have the opportunity to work with diverse groups of students and contribute to their educational development. This position requires strong communication skills, a passion for working with children, and the ability to adapt to different classroom environments. If you are enthusiastic about education and enjoy making a positive impact on young minds, we encourage you to apply.

Please see the [vacancies page on our website](#) for more information.

LIBRARY WINNERS

Congratulations for Mary-Ellen P in 11H, Naledi B in 11H and Olivia P in 8P who won our school library's Christmas Advent Calendar Challenge. Extra congratulations to Olivia, who got all the answers correct! Well done to everyone who entered the competition!

Watch this space for details of our Easter Challenge coming soon.

Mrs R Thurlby, Librarian



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 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

Follow @hertsmusic
Instagram, Facebook, YouTube



HOMEWORK CLUB



Homework
CLUB
IN I3

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 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

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

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



Hitchin Town LGBTQ+ SUPPORTERS CLUB



Diversity, Inclusivity, Equality

Katiespride3@gmail.com

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



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: LETCHWORTH 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 letchworthrugby@hotmail.com or Admin on 07741276516



FYP FOREVER YOUNG PEOPLE

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



AITC ACTIVE IN THE COMMUNITY

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](#).

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



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 or visit our website to see all course information: www.familiesinfocus.co.uk

www.familiesinfocus.co.uk

TALKING ASD & ADHD WORKSHOP: THE TEENAGE YEARS



Workshops are FREE to parents and carers living in Hertfordshire of children aged 2-25yrs with suspected or diagnosed Autistic Spectrum Disorder and/or Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder.



**Tuesday
4th March 2025
7.30-9.15pm**

We will help you to learn about:

- Teenage brain development and how it affects a child with ASD/ADHD.
- Reducing conflict by learning how to respond effectively to difficult situations.
- Strengthening your parent/child relationship.
- Helping your children develop a network of support.
- How to agree appropriate boundaries and teach risk assessment.
- Adapting our parenting approach to help our teens become independent adults.

An online parent workshop delivered to your home via Zoom.

FREE for parents and carers living or with a child in school in Hertfordshire

Booking essential via Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/talking-asd-adhd-the-teenage-years-715-for-parents-carers-in-herts-registration-1064332389672>



Or contact Supporting Links **QUOTING REFERENCE SL715**

01442 300185

info@supportinglinks.co.uk
www.supportinglinks.co.uk



'I found the 'teenage brain' fascinating. Lots of penny dropping moments!'



Information you share with us is used to process your booking. This will be held securely and only shared in accordance with our GDPR Policy.

Funded by UK Government

STEP 2 SKILLS
PREPARE FOR SUCCESS IN HERTS

Learn something new in February

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Preparing for Maths KS2/SATs 2.5 hours FREE Online 3rd Feb. 10am-12.30pm	Numeracy for ESOL learners 2.5 hours FREE Online 18th Feb. 10am-12.30pm	Numeracy Skills for ESOL Learners 2.5 hours FREE Online 5th Feb. 9.30am-12pm	Smart Living with AI 4.5 hours £10 Online 13th Feb. 10am-2.30pm	Public Speaking & Presentation Skills 4.5 hours £10 Online 7th Feb. 10am-2.30pm
Developing Numeracy Skills 2.5 hours FREE Online 10th Feb. 12.30-3pm	Amigurumi Crochet 5 weeks £25 Online Starts 25th Feb. 9.45-11.45am	AI in the Workplace 4.5 hours £10 Online 5th Feb. 10am-2.30pm	AI in the Workplace 4.5 hours £10 Online 20th Feb. 10am-2.30pm	Boost Your Confidence - Taster 2 hours £5 Online 14th Feb. 9.45-11.45am
Supporting Your Child with the 11+ Exam 2.5 hours FREE Watford 17th Feb. 10am-12.30pm	Amigurumi Crochet 5 weeks £25 Bishop's Stortford Starts 24th Feb. 12.45-2.45pm	Introduction to MS PowerPoint 4.5 hours £10 Stevenage 12th Feb. 10am-2.30pm	Introduction to Digital Marketing 5 weeks £25 Online Starts 27th Feb. 10am-12pm	Digital Photography 5 weeks £25 Online Starts 28th Feb. 10am-12pm
Amigurumi Crochet 5 weeks £25 Bishop's Stortford Starts 24th Feb. 12.45-2.45pm	Introduction to Team Leading 5 weeks £25 Online Starts 24th Feb. 10am-12pm	Revision Strategies & Exam Techniques 2.5 hours FREE Online 19th Feb. 9.30am-12pm	Introduction to Sewing for Intermediates 5 weeks £25 Stevenage Starts 27th Feb. 9.45-11.45am	Introduction to Working in Schools 5 weeks £25 Online Starts 28th Feb. 10am-12pm
Preparing for Maths KS2/SATs 2.5 hours FREE Online 24th Feb. 10am-12.30pm	Amigurumi Crochet 5 weeks £25 Stevenage Starts 26th Feb. 10am-12pm	Grow Your Mind 5 weeks £25 Online Starts 26th Feb. 9.30-11.30am	Setting Up Your Own Business 5 weeks £25 Online Starts 27th Feb. 9.45-11.45am	Key Face to Face Online Accredited
Improving your Skills in MS Word 5 weeks £25 Stevenage Starts 26th Feb. 12.45-2.45pm	Improving your Skills in MS Excel 5 weeks £25 Stevenage Starts 26th Feb. 10am-12pm	Improving your Skills in MS Word 5 weeks £25 Stevenage Starts 26th Feb. 12.45-2.45pm	Boost Your Confidence 5 weeks £25 Online Starts 27th Feb. 10am-12pm	Improving your Skills in MS PowerPoint 5 weeks £25 Online Starts 27th Feb. 1-3pm
Gain a recognised qualification We offer accredited English and maths courses at various times on various days and locations across the county or online. Visit our website to find out more...	Public Speaking & Presentation Skills 5 weeks £25 Online Starts 26th Feb. 9.45-11.45am	Public Speaking & Presentation Skills 5 weeks £25 Online Starts 26th Feb. 9.45-11.45am	Setting Up Your Own Business 5 weeks £25 Online Starts 27th Feb. 9.45-11.45am	Boost Your Confidence 5 weeks £25 Online Starts 27th Feb. 10am-12pm

Book your place at: step2skills.org.uk/courses | Social media: @step2skills | 01992 556194

Information for Parents



Did you know that pharmacies can now offer clinical appointments with medication available if required for four clinical conditions particularly relevant to school age children?



- ✓ Earache (children aged 1-17)
- ✓ Sore throat (over 5s)
- ✓ Infected insect bites (over 1s)
- ✓ Impetigo (over 1s)

Think 'Pharmacy First'

GP practices are busy and it can be difficult to get a same-day GP appointment. When your child is off sick from school with any of the above conditions, by going straight to your local pharmacy you can have a consultation with a trained clinical professional and receive advice and even medication if it is needed, meaning they could be on the road to recovery and back at school as soon as possible.



For more information speak with your local community pharmacy.

To find your nearest pharmacy see:
<https://www.nhs.uk/service-search/pharmacy/find-a-pharmacy>
Or scan the QR code:

