

# FEARNHILL SCHOOL

# Fearnfile Issue 651 10th June 2025

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### **MR SPENCER'S UPDATE**

#### **Students Making a Difference**

At Fearnhill, we believe that students should have a voice. While it's true that adults run the school, that doesn't mean students can't speak up and help make things better. In fact, when students have good ideas, we want to hear them—and support them.

#### **Raising Money, Raising Smiles**

One brilliant example came recently from Mia in Year 8. She came to see me with Mitchell in Year 12 and Brooke in Year 8. They had a great idea: a bake sale to raise money for Keech Hospice, a charity that means a lot to Mia and her family.



Continued...

# MR SPENCER'S UPDATE ...CONTINUED

I said yes—and the students got to work. They asked other students and staff to help by baking delicious treats, then set up a well-organised bake sale just before half term. It was a big hit.

Hundreds of cakes were sold, and they raised an amazing £330.42! Keech Hospice even sent a letter to say thank you. They wrote:

"This is such a thoughtful gift that will contribute towards the continued care and support that Keech Hospice provides for all our patients and their families at some of the most challenging times of their lives."

Well done to Mia, Mitchell, Brooke, and everyone who helped. What a fantastic example of kindness and leadership.

#### Changing the Uniform – The Student Voice in Action

Another great example of student impact came through the Student Council. Last year, students spoke up about feeling too hot during the summer. They suggested adding polo shirts—and now we've added shorts as well. Please see my letter sent last week for more details.

These changes happened because students used their voice in the right way. They raised concerns, offered ideas, and worked through the proper channels—and it paid off.

#### You Can Make a Difference Too

Whether it's raising money for a good cause or helping to improve school life, these stories show that students can make a real difference. Students' opinions matter to us. If they have an idea to make Fearnhill even better, I hope they will speak up. Students can talk to me, their form tutor, head of year, or join the Student Council.

I want students to realise they don't have to wait until they're older to start making positive change. Students can be a force for good - both at Fearnhill and in society - right now.

#### Mr Tim Spencer, Headteacher

## ATTENDANCE MATTERS



#### 6. Strengthening Teacher-Student Relationships

One of the key factors in a student's success is the relationship they have with their teacher. Regular attendance gives teachers the chance to get to know their students better and provide personalised feedback. This strengthens the connection between student and teacher, creating a more supportive learning environment.

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

#### **GENERATION STEVENAGE**

Before half term a group of our Year 10s went to Generation Stevenage in Knebworth Barns, a careers fair for young people to meet local employers from across a broad range of sectors. Students had the opportunity to research into future choices and next steps. The fair was also open to families in the evening, we hope as many of you as possible were able to attend.



Ms L Balchin, Careers Lead

# YEAR 10 ST ALBANS TRIP

At the end of May year 10 RE students went to St Albans where we spent time at the Cathedral and St Peter's Church.

At the Cathedral we were given a tour and a question and answer session with a member of the Clergy team who was excellent at answering numerous questions the students had about his faith, how the church works and the age old problem of 'if there is a God how can evil exist'? We are no further forward answering that question! the tour was informative and students enjoyed being able to lay on the floor and marvel at the intricacies of the ceiling.

At St. Peter's we took what we had learnt at the cathedral and compared it to a smaller church. We learnt about the term 'pilgrim church' and the links that St. Peters has to the Cathedral.

At both venues staff commented on how well behaved and respectful the students were and I am very proud of how they conducted themselves on the day.

#### Ms L Chilton, Teacher PRE

# CADETS FIRST AID

At the end of May 3 of our fearnhill army cadets took part in a first aid competition. This included teams from across the Beds and Herts area. The teams had to deal with various scenarios from an unconscious person, a person with alcohol poisoning and a nasty cut. This allowed them to demonstrate their ability to stay calm and deal with anything they came across.

Both of the teams did exceptionally well with Zach's (10H) team coming 2nd overall and Clara (11H) and Ryan's (11G) team coming first.

The first place team then went to Cambridge on the 31st May to compete against teams from across East Anglia. They were tested in both a team situation and as individuals. For the first time in 16years the reigning champions of Cambridge were knocked off the leader spot and I am ecstatic to report that Clara and Ryans' team came FIRST! In the individual competition Clara placed 3rd in the area and Ryan placed 2nd.

Both are now off to Liverpool after the summer to represent Beds and Herts Army cadets in the national competition against the best in the UK. Well done to all involved and good luck for the final stage of the competition.

#### Ms L Chilton, Teacher PRE

# CRICKET

#### Year 7

Our Year 7 cricket team put in a sterling effort against Knights Templar recently, although they didn't get the win this time. Lucas SE was the Player of the Match for a great catch and for taking a couple of wickets. Really good bowling performance from the whole team, special mentions to Archie F and Harry P in particular and great batting from Jaydon.

#### Mr M Turner, PE Teacher & Head of KS3

#### Year 8

The Year 8 Fearnhill lads performed admirably well at the recent Calypso cricket tournament at Highfield school where they beat Priory school and agonisingly lost by only 1 run to Highfield.

Some excellent bowling from Thomas H saw him take a number of wickets while Dash J and Tommy B made some impressive catches in the field.



# UNIVERSITY OF HERTFORDSHIRE TASTER DAY

As part of our Widening Access scheme in partnership with the University of Hertfordshire, students in Year 12 attended a free University Taster Day on Thursday



5th June along with around 3000 other students from 60 schools across Hertfordshire. Students had the opportunity to book taster lectures in subjects that interest them as well as finding out more about University life, student finance, accommodation and degree apprenticeships. Our students explored two of the University campuses independently, making use of the University shuttle buses, and we are pleased to report that everyone made it home safely, albeit a little tired, after an enjoyable and insightful day.

Mrs Mackrell, Sixth Form Administrator



# YEAR 7 PIZZA MAKING

Year 7 had a great time making pizza in Food Technology. Learning how to make something they can easily cook at home, Mr Walkinshaw showed them how to make easy pizzas using flour tortillas as a base.



Mr Walkinshaw, Cover Supervisor

# ROUNDERS

Our Year 7 and Year 10 girls' rounders teams have had great success to far this term, with a selection of wins and draws against neighbouring schools - the team showed great commitment and determination.



Miss S Straughn, Head of PE

# UNIFORM



We are pleased to announce that from next week we will be allowing students to wear shorts as part of their summer school uniform, if they wish to. Shorts MUST be tailored black school shorts with the Fearnhill logo on, which can be purchased from Uniform Monkeys. Please visit the shop where possible and try on shorts to get the best fit. Please see the letter on our website for more information.

## **PROUD TABLE**

On the Friday before half term we were excited to announce our Proud Tabke Winners. Congratulations to Ainhoa V, who won £50 in our half termly draw, Cayden S, who won £10 and Faith B, who won £10 in the previous week's draw! All three from entering their Merit Point cards into the draw. The Proud Table takes place every Friday lunchtime outside Maths (or inside if the weather is bad).



# KEECH CAKE SALE



A huge well done to Mia E (8P), Brooke H (8P) and Mitchell M (12JWY), who ran a bake sale before half term to raise money for Keech Hospice Care. With a huge range of incredible cakes and cookies and queues out the door at break and lunch time, they raised £286.41 for this amazing charity!

# 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**



#### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

#### Summer Term 2025

Ongoing Monday 9th June Tuesday 17th & 24th June Monday 23rd June Wednesday 25th June Wednesday 25th June Wednesday 25th June Wednesday 2nd July Friday 4th July Wednesday 9th July Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> July Wednesday 16th July Wednesday 16th July Wednesday 23rd July Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> August Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> August

#### Autumn Term 2025

Wednesday 3rd September Thursday 4th September Friday 5th September Terms starts for all students

#### **CONTACT US**

GCSE & A Level exams Year 7 Assessment week starts Year 12 Volunteering Day Year 10 Mock exams start Year 8 Reports issued Year 9 Reports issued Year 7 Reports issued INSET DAY - School closed to students Sixth Form Induction Day Year 12 Activity Day Trip Year 10 Reports issued Year 12 Reports issued Year 12 Reports issued Term ends A Level results day GCSE results day

INSET DAY - School closed to students INSET DAY - School closed to students Induction Day Year 7 & 12 Terms starts for all students

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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!



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