



FEARNHILL SCHOOL



Fearnfile

Issue 654 23rd July 2025

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MR SPENCER'S UPDATE - A TIME TO REFLECT & CELEBRATE

As the school year ends, it is a moment to look back on the year and reflect and celebrate all that students have achieved this year. School should be hard work for students as they overcome challenges and strive to achieve their best. I believe that you can only enjoy rest if you have worked hard first and so many of our students have earned their summer holiday break after working so hard this year.

Awards Evening

It was a pleasure to attend both the Y7-9 and Y10-13 Awards evenings last week. It was inspiring to hear from subject leaders and pastoral leaders about students who have gone above and beyond all year. I was delighted to be able to give out awards to so many exceptional students.

Festival of Sport

We also changed the format of sports day this year with an emphasis on building community through sport. I enjoyed watching students compete in football, rounders, dodgeball and tug-of-war as well as all the classic track and field events. The final result came down to the

Continued...

MR SPENCER'S UPDATE ...CONTINUED

last race of the day - the Year 10 boys 100m race - as Gorst leapfrogged Pearsall in the overall standings to claim victory as the champions of the 2025 Festival of Sport.

School of Sanctuary

On Monday we welcomed Keith Hoskins, Chair of North Hertfordshire District Council, along with a number of other leaders of local organisations and charities to celebrate the award of School of Sanctuary status. This was another opportunity to reflect on the welcoming community that students have helped Fearnhill to become.

Proud Table

Finally, we give out our last two prizes of the year during the End of Year assembly today. A £50 voucher and an iPad will be given to two lucky winners who have earned tickets in the draw through excellent work, achieving merits, completing homework or having excellent attendance. I look forward to seeing who wins.

Let me take this opportunity to thank all the staff for their tireless work supporting our students to achieve. I would also like to congratulate students on all their successes this year, it is a pleasure to watch students mature and develop into the Fearnhill Students we want them to become. And thank you to all the parents and carers for your support throughout the year, it makes a huge difference to us. Wishing all members of our school community a relaxing and restful break, we look forward to seeing you again in September.

Mr Tim Spencer, Headteacher

ATTENDANCE MATTERS



9. Improving Long-Term Academic Performance

Studies have shown that regular school attendance is linked to better academic performance over time. Students who are present for lessons, tests, and assignments are more likely to perform better overall. Consistency is key to retaining information and achieving academic excellence in the long run.

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

FESTIVAL OF SPORT

Our Festival of Sport last week was a huge success! Well done to everyone who took part!

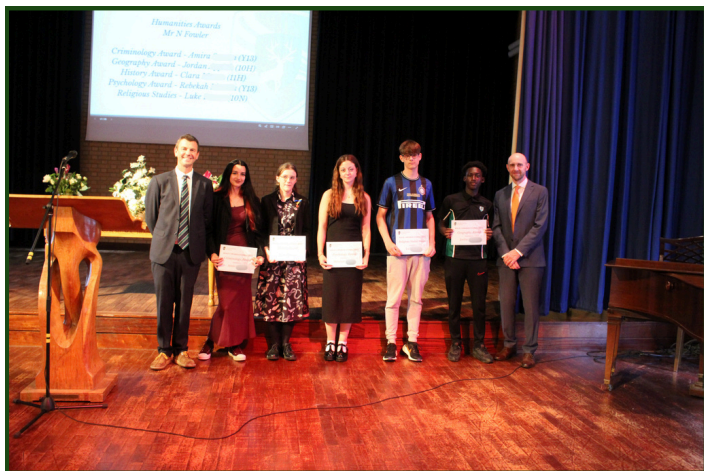


AWARDS EVENING

Last night we hosted an awards ceremony, celebrating students who embrace the values of the Fearnhill student, who is Kind, Confident, Resilient and Self Aware. Students were awarded a certificate from Mr Spencer and we enjoyed performance from Joel, Mia, Ella and Amy, as well as a delicious buffet provided by our very own Ms Bennet. Congratulations to everyone who won an award and are so proud of you all and of our wider school community!



AWARDS EVENING



SCHOOLS OF SANCTUARY CELEBRATION EVENT



Our wonderful school has recently become an official School of Sanctuary. This award recognises Fearnhill as a welcoming and supportive environment for young people of all backgrounds as well as raising awareness of the issues facing people in the asylum system. We are the first school in Hertfordshire to be recognised in this way and one of very few secondary schools. We held a celebration event on Monday 21st July, as part of Culture Day, which included attendees from the local council, the Letchworth Heritage Foundation and the Refugee Council as well as staff, students, school governors and parents.

YEAR 12 ACTIVITY DAY

On Thursday 10th July we took our Year 12s out for an exciting activity day at Essex Outdoors. Between them they took part in Kayaking, Abseiling, Archery, Stand Up Paddleboarding and All Terrain Boarding. It was a day of laughter, fun and falling in the water; we hope the students enjoyed it as much as we did!



WALTON ON THE NAZE



On Wednesday 16th July, 42 Year 10 Geography students went to Walton on the Naze, Essex to investigate the enquiry question: How successful are the coastal management strategies at Walton on the Naze. GCSE Geography requires all students to complete some physical and human geography fieldwork - this is the physical fieldwork.

We arrived at an overcast Walton on the Naze at 11.00am. Miss Cheeseman's group headed to the 'south' protected beach to measure the groyne widths to investigate the impact of the groyne on longshore drift. Mr Fowler took his group to the 'north' unprotected beach to measure the gradient, using the ranging poles and the clinometers. Both groups also completed width and other longshore drift and wave type experiments. After lunch the tide came in particularly fast, pushing us to complete our experiments quickly. We left Walton on the Naze at 2.30pm to return to school.

A great time was had by all - not too many sunburnt but many tired on the return journey. We returned to Fearnhill to present and analyse the data and to answer our enquiry question. A massive thank you to Mrs Boulter, Miss Northern and Miss Cheeseman for helping out on the trip and well down to the Year 10 geography students whose behaviour was exemplary and credit to the school.

Mr N Fowler, Head of Humanities

TRANSITION DAYS

On Wednesday 9th July, we invited year 11 into Fearnhill for our Sixth Form Induction Day. Students enjoyed subject taster sessions, apprenticeship information and a talk from the University of Hertfordshire. It was a pleasure having them all here today and we look forward to seeing many of them join our wonderful sixth form in September.

On Thursday 10th July, we enjoyed getting to know our incoming year 7s during transition day. They had a brilliant day meeting their tutors, making new friends and trying out some secondary school lessons. Well done to you all and welcome to the Fearnhill family!

Sixth Form



Year 6 into year 7



SUMMER BARBECUE



Our Fearnhill Summer Barbecue was in full swing here yesterday afternoon, with our school canteen cooking up a feast of burgers and sausages, with a delicious range of salads for students and staff to enjoy. It was a huge success with almost the whole school turning up to get a piece of the action! Thanks so much to our catering staff from HCL for all their hard work on this and throughout the year!

LIVES NOT KNIVES

On Wednesday 16th July we had a visit from 'Lives not Knives' community outreach group to work with some of our Key Stage 3 cohort.

The sessions involved the students wearing VR headsets and working through various scenarios where the students had to choose what they would do next.

All the students had a fabulous time and were a credit to Fearnhill. Many thanks to Miss Brown for supporting and Mike Holland and Jackie Hickman for the opportunity.



DUKE OF EDINBURGH WALK

When you ask the average young person if they would like to walk from Letchworth to Welwyn or Ware, carrying a bag that weighs a quarter of their body weight in over 30° heat, and then walk back the following day in the same conditions they would probably say no; if they did not, they would either be woefully under-informed, or exceptionally brave and resilient. On Friday 11th of July, 14 of our Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award students proved themselves the latter as they set off on their Qualifying Expedition, walking 19.9km from the school to the Camping Centre at Cottered, just outside Buntingford.

Not only is this near 20km hike tricky at the best of times, but in the heat and sun in which they found themselves, it was not easy going! Luckily, Mr Fowler, Miss Mills, Miss Jennings and Mr Fox were situated at key checkpoints to assess their health, and top them up with copious amounts of water as they walked through Baldock, Clothall Common, Wallington and Shaw Green on their way to the campsite. Students did not just battle the heat and uneven ground, but also dealt with nausea, rolled ankles, and bad jokes as they journeyed towards their destination with the resilience and determination which we are always so proud to see in Fearnhill students. We were especially impressed with Mason Hinks (9N), Braeden Mann (9H) and Oliver Govier (9G) who pushed on through both days of the walk in exceptionally hot heat, when some students had to stop for medical reasons.

After the students arrived at the camp-site they put up their tents (which had been driven to the site by Mr Fowler in the school minibus to remove the extra stress in the heat) and began to cook substantial meals before retiring for the evening between the hours of 7-10pm. There they slept soundly until quite late on Saturday morning, whereupon they struck their tents, had breakfast (some ate cereal, some cooked pancakes) before wishing Mr Fowler a happy birthday and heading back home. Along the way they were able to see an impromptu airshow performed by a local Radio Control Plane group that flies out of a local airstrip!

Due to the weather concerns, the walk was terminated early at Baldock Tesco where the students enjoyed the shade before being collected by their parents, but all spirits were high and the students all reported having a wonderful experience which they would happily do again!

If any parent or guardian of a student Year 9 or above would like to find out how their young person can take part in the Duke of Edinburgh program, please speak to Mr Fox, Mr Fowler, Miss Mills or Miss Jennings. For the guardian of any student currently in Year 8 who is interested, there will be a Parent Information Evening on Thursday, September 18th 2025 at 4:00pm.

Mr B Fox, 2nd in English

DUKE OF EDINBURGH WALK - PHOTOS



WIND CHIMES



Year 7 enjoyed making Wind Chimes in DT. We think they look fab and they sound lovely too!

Ms A Holloway, Student Teacher

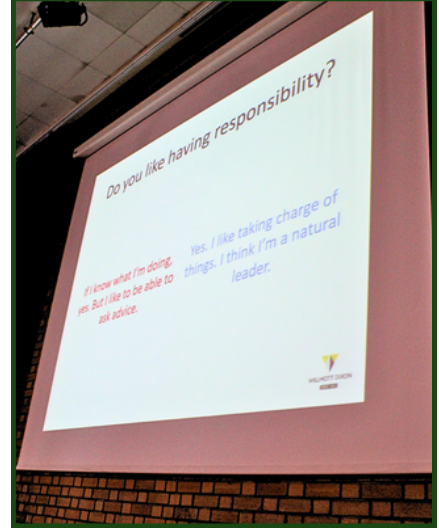
MOCKTAILS

Year 10 enjoyed making 'mocktails' (alcohol-free cocktails) in catering last week. Mixing up a storm with juices, syrups and garnishes. students enjoyed creating these colourful, fruit-based drinks!



EMPLOYABILITY

Year 10 took part in an employability skills day on Tuesday 8th July. Sessions were run by Stem Point, Tate Recruitment, Airbus, Wilmott Dixon, NHC and Amazing Apprenticeships. It was a valuable day for building their knowledge and skills for success in the workplace and their next steps post 16.



Ms L Balchin, Careers Lead

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 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



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

Summer Term 2025

Wednesday 23rd July

Thursday 14th August

Thursday 21st August

Term ends

A Level results day

GCSE results day

Autumn Term 2025

Wednesday 3rd September

Thursday 4th September

Friday 5th September

Monday 8th September

Mon 27th - Fri 31st October

Friday 28th November

Monday 1st December

Friday 19th December

INSET DAY - School closed to students

INSET DAY - School closed to students

Induction Day Year 7 & 12

Terms starts for all students

Half Term

Occasional Day - School closed to students

Disaggregated Day - School closed to students

End of Term

CONTACT US

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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!



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



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



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

INSPIRE HER

GIRLS T1 RUGBY CAMP



FREE Summer Rugby camp!
For girls aged 6-12 (school years 2-7).

WHEN
14th and 28th August
11.00am-3pm

WHERE
Letchworth Garden City RFC,
Legends Lane, SG6 2EN

EMAIL
kirareeves@saracens.net
for further info

SCAN THE QR CODE TO SIGN UP



SARACENS FOUNDATION
INSPIRE HER

England Rugby

rugby

LEITCHWORTH GARDEN CITY RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

Space to Grow

Family Nature Connection

for families with neurodiverse teens aged 12-16



Want to try gardening as a family this summer? Spend time in nature, grow food and meet new people?

Who: Triangle Community Garden 'Space to Grow' is a social therapeutic horticulture programme for families with neurodiverse teens

When: Fridays 1.30-3.30pm, 1 August - 5 September 2025

Where: Ransom's Recreation Ground, Hitchin SG5 1RB

How Much: £30 for 6 wk block (refunded on attendance)

For more details contact:
hayley@triangelgarden.org or call 07887 725962



www.triangelgarden.org/space-to-grow

Calling All Young Artists!

Join the Kid's Open Art Exhibition at Make Space.

Celebrate creativity, imagination, and the amazing talents of local kids all while supporting Stand-by-me, helping bereaved children in our community.

All children and young people – any age, any style.
Paintings, drawings, sculptures, mixed media – we welcome it all!

This summer holidays, make art for good.

Register today



1st - 31st August 2025


Make space, 3 West Alley, Hitchin, SG5 1EG

Stand-by-me Bereavement Support

Parent & Carer Support TALKING ASD & ADHD Workshops Autumn 2025

Supporting Links
Promoting Strong Family Relationships

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.



RESPONDING to ANGER

- Healthy & unhealthy anger.
- How to spot the signs early.
- Our own and our children's triggers.
- Techniques that stop angry and aggressive behaviour escalating and when to use them.
- How to respond to our child in meltdown, keeping ourselves, our child and siblings safe.

Tuesday 23rd September, 9.30-11.15am
Workshop SL781 book via Eventbrite:
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/talking-asd-adhd-responding-to-anger-781-for-parents-carers-in-herts-registration-1413258727899?aff=oddtcreator>

THE TEENAGE YEARS

- Teenage brain development and how it affects a child with ASD/ADHD.
- Reducing conflict by learning how to respond effectively to difficult situations.
- How to agree appropriate boundaries and teach risk assessment.
- Help teens develop independence skills.

Monday 13th October, 7.30-9.15pm
Workshop SL782 book via Eventbrite:
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/talking-asd-adhd-the-teenage-years-782-for-parents-carers-in-herts-registration-141736895449?aff=oddtcreator>

SCHOOL AVOIDANCE





- What is Emotionally Based School Avoidance and is this what your child is experiencing?
- Common causes and triggers of school avoidance.
- How EBSA is affecting you and your family.
- Practical steps you can take to support your child and look after yourself.
- How to work with your school in your child's best interests.

Monday 10th November, 7.30-9.15pm
Workshop SL783 book via Eventbrite:
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/talking-asd-adhd-school-avoidance-783-for-parents-carers-in-herts-registration-1417463965879?aff=oddtcreator>

TECH USE

- Keep your child safe online.
- Help your child to switch their device off.
- Support behaviour difficulties when playing.
- The effect of using devices as a reward or consequence.
- Teach children to develop their own methods of regulating device use and staying safe.

Monday 24th November, 7.30-9.15pm
Workshop SL784 book via Eventbrite:
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/talking-asd-adhd-tech-use-784-for-parents-carers-in-herts-registration-1417436894909?aff=oddtcreator>

Follow us on:    

Contact via:
info@supportinglinks.co.uk
www.supportinglinks.co.uk

Funded by Hertfordshire County Council's Targeted Parenting Fund

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.