



Issue 534

Fearnfile

Fearnfile - out every two weeks!

Headteacher's Message

Christmas Greetings



Welcome to the last Fearnfile of 2018. With just one week to go until the end of term, there is plenty of festive fun around and our students have been busy in many areas. Inside our seasonal edition, you can read the full report on **'A Christmas Carol'**, our Christmas production, you can see the winning entries in the **Christmas card design competition** and read about our work with the **Letchworth Foodbank** and **Children in Need**. Keeping with the Christmas theme, **Year 12** students have been making **chocolate logs** – pictures inside.

House netball has been running this week and the results are inside, along with the results from the **Senior UK Maths Challenge**. The library has been very busy, with the **Book Fair** last week and the great news that, for the second year running, Fearnhill has won the **national award** for the **'Most Creative Celebration of Reading'** from Accelerated Reader. Our librarian, **Mrs Hunt**, deserves congratulations and thanks for her outstanding work developing reading and the library at Fearnhill. The **English department** give you a flavour of what has been going on in **Year 8 and 9 lessons** as well as the **'Word of the Week'**, a great initiative that has our students expressing themselves powerfully, finding their voices and enjoying the power of language!

Unfortunately the end of term also brings a few farewells. This Christmas we are saying goodbye to **Mr Griffiths**, our geography specialist and a much valued colleague who has given 13 years of service to the school. He is off for a new adventure and he will be sorely missed. Over the years he has led many trips, seen students through their exams and been a great colleague. We wish him well. We are also saying goodbye to **Mrs Tant**, our sixth form pastoral coordinator, who has worked at Fearnhill for ten years and seen many sixth formers through struggles and challenges. Her kindness and commitment to Fearnhill students has had a huge positive impact and, again, we will miss her very much. **Mr Irvine** in business and computing, and **Miss Leonchuk** in science are also leaving us for new challenges. We thank them all for their hard work for students and send them our best wishes.

I just need to finish by wishing everyone connected to Fearnhill a very happy and peaceful Christmas, and to confirm that we will be **ending the term at 12.10pm on Friday 21st December**, following our traditional House Day – the first time **Year 7** will have had this experience! Well done to them for making it through their first term and we look forward to welcoming them, and everyone, **back to school on Monday 7th January 2019 at 8.40am**.

With my very best wishes for 2019,

Liz Ellis
Headteacher

Careers Corner

Year 11 16+ Options

Students should be checking application deadlines ahead of them applying for their future courses in the new year.

All Year 11 students should be completing their 16+ Your Future, Your Choice booklets prior to their interviews in January. If students have misplaced their booklet they can get another one from the Careers Office for £1.

Any questions please see me.

We hope that all Year 11 students get the grades they are hoping for in their mock exams. Happy Christmas!

Ms Balchin

Head of Careers, Work Related Learning & PSHCE



Year 10 Work Experience

Year 10 students go out on their Work Experience from Monday 11th – Friday 15th March.

Friday 21st December is the extended deadline for students to have completed the following...

- selected their 6 different choices from 6 different areas of work on Link2 & pressed submit!

<http://hcc.learnaboutwork.net>

Students are encouraged to collect a **Private Placement form** from the Careers Office or download from the school website in the Careers section and approach employers/companies that they would like to work with for their WEX placement. This deadline has also been extended to Friday 11th January 2019

Friday 18th January is the deadline for students to have completed the following... (these will be issued in school after Christmas)

- completed their WEX Choices Form
 - completed their WEX Application Form
- > Both forms to be handed in to Tutors

Failure to meet these deadlines will result in students possibly not getting one of their top 3 choices.



*Ms Balchin & Ms Charter
Careers Dept*

Year 9 Options Process

The Year 9 Options process begins in January and a copy of the Year 9 Options booklet can be found on the school website from the start of next week. The link for this will be emailed to parents/carers explaining the process and how students go about choosing their KS4 options.

This is a very important time for Year 9 as they prepare for their change of key stage and the options available to them. They need to choose carefully as they will be studying these exam subjects for 2 years.

Important Dates:

Year 9 Options Afternoon - Tuesday 8th January 2019

Year 9 Options Evening - Tuesday 26th February 2019

Any queries please see me.

Ms Balchin

Head of Careers, Work Related Learning & PSHCE



Performing & Expressive Arts

Students of the Month - November



Made a fantastic, positive start in Art, making great progress on dragon eye drawings



Showing grit & perseverance in ukulele unit & working hard to achieve target grade



Outstanding ATL in lessons, consistently positive & keen to improve



Works diligently & conscientiously in both lessons & extra-curricular activities. Hard worker with lovely outcomes



Participation in extra-curricular activities & showing dedication to piano practice resulting in high standard coursework



Excellent performance in X country. Also working well in GCSE PE theory

Have you got what it takes to be Student of the Month? Try your best in all lessons and extra-curricular activities and you could find yourself nominated and crowned!

Mr Marsh
Head of Performing and Expressive Arts

House Netball Tournament

A great week of netball skills demonstrated by all years. Spirits were high and energy even higher. A real showcase of what the students at Fearnhill can do.

Thank you to all the staff who pushed the event with students - the Year 8s on Tuesday were especially well attended. A special thanks to Charlotte Pryke, a sports ambassador for helping out and showing excellent leadership skills throughout the week. Also, the Year 11 boys for promoting the event during this week.



Position	Monday Year 7	Tuesday Year 8	Wednesday Year 9	Thursday Year 10	Friday Seniors (11-13)
1 st	G	G	P	P	N
2 nd	N	H	N	G	H
3 rd	P	P	H	N	P
4 th	H	N	G	H	G











Miss Straughn
Teacher of PE

Year 10 Basketball

The Year 10 basketball team played last week. They beat Marriotts and narrowly lost to The Priory School.

Dom put in a very strong performance and was the top scorer by some way. All the boys played well and grew in confidence as the match progressed.

They now need to build on this and play with greater freedom in their next match vs John Henry Newman.

							
	Dom	10H	Stanley	10P			
	Dennis	10G	Rhys	10N			
	Michael	10G	Tae	10G			
	Paul	10P	Codi	10N			

Mr Wakeling
Head of KS4/Teacher of PE

Letchworth Foodbank and Children in Need

During the last few weeks, students, parents and staff have been placing donated food and toiletry items into a shopping trolley at the front of our school. Many of the items will be used by the Letchworth Food Bank to comprise Christmas food parcels which will then be delivered to local individuals and families in crisis. The rest will be used at the Foodbank to distribute when needed.



Our newly elected Head Girl and Boy, Lily and Liam, helped Mrs Burgess with the donations.



The Christmas items were delivered to the Foodbank this week to give plenty of time for the Foodbank to put the parcels together.

The staff were extremely grateful to everyone who donated and asked us to pass on their thanks and to wish everyone a merry Christmas!

We are also pleased to announce that we raised £337.42 for Children in Need following Fearnhill Extra Day where students donated £1 for wearing their own clothes.



Mrs Burgess
Student Support Co-ordinator



ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A PART TIME CLEANING JOB?

We are seeking to appoint enthusiastic and reliable **cleaners** to join our team.

The hours of work are Monday to Friday 3.45pm—5.45pm term time only.

If you would like to apply for this post please contact Mrs Rainbow, School Business Manager on:

01462 621200, ext 210
hazel.rainbow10@fearnhill.herts.sch.uk

A Christmas Carol

On Wednesday 5th and Thursday 6th of December, over 35 students were involved in this year's production, 'A Christmas Carol'.

After two months of hard work learning the lines and songs, painting and building sets and finding Victorian costumes, the show was ready to perform to an audience. The students all worked really hard in learning some quite tricky lines from the original Dickens story. Year 11 student, Joshua King gave a standout performance both nights as our Ebenezer Scrooge – he really captured the spirit of the miser to a tee! A special mention must go to Samuel Adesunloro, who stood in as the role of Silus (the narrator) with ten minutes to go before the first performance. He did an incredible job, and then went away and learned all the lines by heart for the next night's show. There was some great feedback from the audience, and they particularly enjoyed the 12 days of Christmas sing-a-long at the end of the night! The Christmas market in the canteen was also a big success, with a great community spirit being shown and lots of lovely treats on offer.

A big thank you to all the students for their hard work and to the staff who helped out behind the scenes.

I found learning my lines easy. I went over my lines a lot and when I felt confident I gave my script to someone else and tested myself. Performing in front of a live audience is quite nerve racking as you don't want to mess up your lines and the acting. 'A Christmas Carol' is a good story for Christmas because it shows how Christmas is a time to be happy and that you can change from being selfish to caring. I would definitely do the play next year. It has made me want to be an actor. Charlotte Pryke, 10N



I found it enjoyable and would like to be in a play again next year. Matthew Waldon, 10G



I really enjoyed being in the play and thought it was a good choice for this time of year. It was good because everyone had a part with lots of lines. I learnt my lines by going over them at home by myself. I found being on stage fun and exciting. Billy Brinkler, 10H





I was backstage crew for the Christmas play. The reason I knew when to come on and off is I always had a script on me and the stage directions were written in bold so I knew what to do. I did well communicating with the other backstage people but on the night we couldn't make a sound so it got tougher but we did it once we got the hang of it by pointing at the script. The lighting was an issue because we were behind the stage and we struggled to see some points. I would do it next year as it was learning the play with everyone and helping make it a success. Charlie Pitt, 7Q



I played Lucy Cratchit. I learnt my lines by reading and practising them everyday with my mum and sometimes without her. I would definitely do another play. It's a lot of fun being on stage. It may seem scary but once you're on it all your worries disappear. It's like stepping out of our own lives for a bit. Cheyenne Bester, 7Q



Mrs Landsman, Subject Leader for Music
Mr Sheridan, English & Drama Teacher

Christmas Card Competition

This term Fearnhill School held a competition for students to design the official Christmas card for the School. The requirements were to use strong colours, bold lines and bold images.

We had a wonderful array of entries and it was very difficult to choose the winners! After much debate a decision was made. The winners of the Key Stage 3 category were Jude Hurn (Year 7) and Ana Tyler (Year 8). The winners of Key Stage 4 were Kathryn Lincoln in Year 9 and Kaitlyn Lawrence in Year 10. All the winners received an Amazon voucher as a prize. These students took the time to create something and get involved outside lessons; key qualities of the 'Fearnhill Student'.

The cards have been professionally printed. Some have been used as the official Fearnhill School Christmas cards and some were sold at the school production of 'A Christmas Carol'. There are still a few left for sale. They contain the greeting, 'With best wishes for Christmas and the New Year' inside and are for sale at 50p for one, or £2.50 for 6. They are displayed at Reception.



Music Department News



Congratulations to Aliyah who passed her Grade 5 singing exam with a merit after a lot of hard work and dedicated practice.

We are all very proud of you.



Mrs Landsman
Subject Leader for Music

Please keep an eye on our website for letters. We do send letters home via School-comms or with the students but copies are usually put onto the website too.

<http://www.fearnhill.herts.sch.uk/parents/letters/>



Maths Department News

Senior UK Maths Challenge Results 2018

I am really pleased to announce the results of the Senior Maths Challenge that some of our Year 12 & 13 students took part in earlier this term. This is a national challenge with only the top students in the country being awarded a certificate. Congratulations to the following students who have been awarded certificates:

Best in school: Luke Fiddy

Silver Award: Luke Fiddy

Bronze Award: Luke Earl, Jack Tyler

Well done to those of you that also participated!



*Miss Williams
Head of Maths*

Technology Department News

The Year 12 Food Science and Nutrition students have finished an excellent first term with new chef whites and butchers aprons. They are looking super smart whilst they concentrate on decorating their yule logs.



*Mrs Fullard
Technology Teacher*

Read to Succeed

1st Word Millionaire of the School Year



Congratulations to Year 8 Harriet who is our first word millionaire of this school year. Harriet received this fetching mug along with a certificate, golden ticket to our Accelerated Reader party and a postcard home.

Half-price Book Fair



Well done to Harriet, Lisa, Kieron, Lara and Maddi, who are the KS3 students with the highest word count in the Accelerated Reader scheme so far this year.

They were each rewarded with a £5 voucher off anything at the book fair.

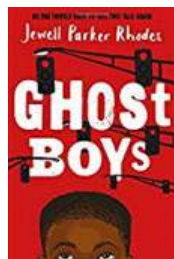
Here's what Lisa bought with her voucher.



North Herts School Book Awards 2019

Local librarians met at Hitchin Boys' School this week to decide upon a shortlist for the awards we will host here at Fearnhill on Wednesday, 20th March 2019. We are delighted to announce a very exciting shortlist as follows:

For the younger reader category (Y7 and Y8)



For the old reader category (Y9 and above)



Students selected to take part in the awards day will be contacted shortly.

Renaissance Awards

The Library is delighted to win Renaissance's Most Creative Celebration of Reading Award for the second year running. Renaissance are the providers of the Accelerated Reader reading programme which is followed by all students in KS3.



Book Return Box

Thank you to Mr Marsh in Technology for converting an unused pedestal into a lockable book return box for the Library.

This replaced the red crate which had been in use for many years.



Charitable Donations



If you are thinking of making a charitable donation this Christmas, you might like to consider donating to BookTrust. BookTrust send book parcels out during the year to children who are vulnerable or in care. For many children, it may be the first time they have had a letter or parcel through the post. For some, these may be the first books they've owned.

This Christmas, BookTrust want to make the children feel special by sending a surprise festive book parcel. Donations could help them send book gifts to over 11,500 children. Christmas can be a difficult time for children who are vulnerable or in care. A surprise book gift shows them that someone cares. You can find more information at <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/support-us/donate/>



Email us at library@fearnhill.herts.sch.uk



Follow us on Twitter [@FearnhillLib](https://twitter.com/FearnhillLib)

Mrs Hunt
Librarian & Learning Resource Manager

English Department News

Word of the Week

Serendipity was last week's word of the week. This week it's **implicit**. Our students are being encouraged to use these words in their writing and speaking here at Fearnhill. It would be lovely if the words could be used in conversation at home too.



Serendipity: (noun) The occurrence and development of events by chance in a happy or beneficial way.

Implicit: (adjective) When something is suggested and not directly said.



Next week every English class (except Year 11) will be involved in a Word of the Week Competition. They will play some word games and write a story using lots of different prompts using ALL of the WOWs of the term (appease, brazen, callous, clandestine, eloquent, enmity, furtive, implicit, quaint, serendipity, sycophant, umbrage). There will be prizes for lots of different categories, including the funniest story.

Year 8

In Year 8 English classes we have been exploring the world of Dystopia. Students are now writing their own Dystopian short story. We can't wait to read them!



Year 9

Year 9 have been studying *The Tempest* and *Julius Caesar* by William Shakespeare. They have enjoyed performing different scenes from the plays and have produced some very imaginative still frames.



Mrs Nunneley
Head of English

Fearnhill Farewells

We are saying goodbye to Mr Griffiths at the end of this term. Mr Griffiths has not only led the teaching of Geography at Fearnhill for the past 13 years but has also been a cornerstone of the Humanities faculty. The many students who have passed through his classroom over the years have enjoyed his passion for his subject and his infectious humour. Mr Griffiths has been enthusiastically involved in taking students on trips abroad as well as encouraging students to have an active interest in environmental issues. Staff and students wish him all the best in his new ventures.

Mr McGuire
Head of KS5

After 9 years of service to Fearnhill, we are also saying farewell to Mrs Tant. Mrs Tant has been the Pastoral Care Co-ordinator for the sixth form and many of our students have benefited hugely from her passionate support and guidance over the years. She has always been available when students feel the need to talk to someone. Mrs Tant has organised many fantastic social events for students and supported them as they have taken greater responsibilities for their learning and personal development. She has had a big impact on life in our sixth form and will be missed by colleagues and students alike. We wish her all the very best for the future.

Mr McGuire
Head of KS5

We are also saying farewell to Mr Irvine who has been a great help and support to the Business and Computing Department during the past two years. We will certainly miss him. Isn't it true that sometimes the most ordinary things could be made extraordinary, simply by doing them with the right people. Mr Irvine indeed made most simple things extraordinary! Thank you for all your support, personally and for the department, and all the best for the future.

Mr Dwamena
Teacher of Business & Computing

Finally we are also saying farewell to Mrs Leonchuk who taught KS3 Science here at Fearnhill for the past four years. We will miss her and wish her all the best for the future.

Year 9 Immunisations

The Year 9 immunisation for Diphtheria, Tetanus, Polio and Meningococcal ACWY will take place here at Fearnhill on Tuesday, 29th January 2019. The website link to the NHS letter regarding this is in the first comment below. The letter has also been sent by Schoolcomms to all Year 9 parents. Consent can only be given via the link -

<http://www.fearnhill.herts.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Letter-to-Parents-Immunisations-DTPM-Jan19-EE117504-Fearnhill-School.pdf>

Miss Flett
Administrative Assistant



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Ensure your child does not have access to these devices if the battery compartment is not secure.

Make certain that spare batteries are locked away and that used batteries are disposed of safely.

If your child does swallow a button cell battery, seek urgent medical advice *immediately*.

HERTFORDSHIRE
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BOARD

Hertfordshire Community NHS Trust





Team
programme

Team Programme

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Date: 28th January 2019

Location: Baldock Fire Station

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Prince's Trust

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Student of the Week

W/e Friday 30th November

Student of the Week



Ellie 8Q
– 23 points

Form of the Week

8Q – 367 points

House of the Week

Howard – 672 Points

Staff Member of the Week

Mrs Clifton – 345 points
(Lead Teacher Art)

W/e Friday 7th December

Student of the Week



Ray 9Q
– 60 points

Form of the Week

9Q – 398 points

House of the Week

Neville – 1055 Points

Staff Member of the Week

Ms Balchin – 383 points
(PE Dept/Head of Careers, PSHCE & WRL)

Thought of the Month - December

*Kindness is a gift that
everyone can afford to give*

