



Issue 562

# Fearnfile

*Fearnfile - out every two weeks!*

## Headteacher's Message

### Week One – and all's well!



▲ We have now come to the end of the first week of the new term and I am delighted to report that Fearnhill is running smoothly, with very few issues arising from our **changed site arrangements**. The students have responded really well to their year zones and seem very happy to be back at school. Staff are adapting to new ways of working; we have certainly all completed our 10,000 steps each day! I have written to parents and carers today with details of our **Open Evening**, which will be virtual this year and taking place on **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September from 6.30pm**. Just go to our website to follow the link to my speech and a live Q&A session with a panel of students. It is also useful to note the **revised timings of the school day** from Monday 14<sup>th</sup>; we are keeping this under review so do check the letter if you are not sure:

<http://www.fearnhill.herts.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Letter-to-parents-carers-110920.pdf>



▲ This edition of Fearnfile covers the first day experience of our new **Year 7 and Year 12** students and gives details of several upcoming events. Clearly we are not inviting visitors on to the site currently, but you can get the latest update on our **Fearnhill Flyers** programme, with a planned virtual open day at **Oxford University** and the Black Achievement Conference run by the **London School of Economics**.

▲ There is also good news for Fearnhill students on two fronts; we have received a donation of **books** from the **Letchworth Heritage Foundation** and these are being given to students as rewards for their achievement in reading, and we are also now part of the **National Schools Breakfast Programme** (you may know it as 'Magic Breakfast'), so check the details inside. Further up the school we are looking at the best way to deliver our **careers education and guidance programme**; read all about what is in store!

Thank you for your support as always, and do remember to tune in for the **Open Evening on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September at 6.30pm**.

*Liz Ellis*  
Headteacher

### Half Term

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October  
to  
Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October

# Careers Corner

## The Year Ahead in Careers Education & Guidance in Key Stage 3 & 4

Welcome back to a new year at Fearnhill School. I hope you are settling in well and are focused on achieving your full potential throughout the next 3 terms.

Year 7s will take part in a PSHCE Day on Achieving Economic Well Being – this is a fun filled and enlightening day which has been a real success over previous years. It concentrates on Personal Finance Education and introduces students to managing their money and looking at their future career options as well as discovering the personal skills and qualities necessary to get there.



Year 8s will be given the opportunity to explore the world of work and begin to research and in greater detail options and possibilities for their future careers.



Year 9s will be choosing their subjects for KS4 as part of the options process. These are decisions that will shape their future so they must choose wisely.



Year 10s will be preparing for their virtual Work Experience – with the opportunity to take part in live work- place webinars and chats with employers. Work Experience continues to be a vital part of a year 10 student’s development and teaches them numerous skills and how to adapt to different situations in the workplace.



Year 11s will be learning how to write an impressive CV and will take part in an interview day, standing them in good stead for their higher/further education and future work choices. They will also take part in an Enterprise day whereby teams compete to win the tender for the end of year prom. This involves, team-work, initiative, problem solving, literacy, numeracy and artistic flair in order for them to be successful.



**Ms Balchin**  
*Head of Careers, Work Related Learning & PSHCE*

**Cambridge**  
Regional College  
first for training & skills



## Explore our upcoming Open Days

**15 September, 6pm**

Online

Join us online for our first open day of the academic year. September is an important time for those exploring their options for when they finish their GCSEs the following year.

Register



## Day One for Year 7

### Welcome to Year 7

It was so exciting to welcome our new Year 7s to school this September. A very different experience for us all as we embark on this slightly altered new beginning. There were nerves, a little fear and a lot of excitement as the students arrived but everyone seemed to settle really quickly into school life.



The students were all fantastic as we welcomed them with some key introductions on the school playground. It was here that the students met their form tutors and began to make some new friends. From here students spent the day experiencing Fearnhill School lessons and some additional tutor time where they got to know their class and the school even better. Students seemed really positive about the day with lots of smiles and learning throughout.

A massive well done to our Year 7s on making an excellent start to their secondary school journey. More very exciting times to come as they continue to grow as members of our community.

*Mr Turner  
Head of KS3*

## Day One for Year 12

### Welcome to Year 12

What a great pleasure it was to welcome the new Year 12 students on Friday 4th September. As well as seeing many familiar faces, the sixth form team were delighted to welcome students from other schools.



The morning started with a discussion about the different feelings and emotions experienced by the students when their alarm clock went off earlier that morning. For many, it had been nearly 6 months since their last early morning call! The discussion then moved onto the collective trauma that all of us have experienced since lockdown and the steps that have been taken, by the school, to enable students to feel a sense of wellbeing once more. Students were informed how they can access pastoral support should they want it.

After such thought-provoking discussion, it was time to mix things up with a tour of the new sixth form zone. The students took great interest finding out where their lessons will be, how they can organise themselves whilst minimising the books/resources that they take on and off site, but perhaps most importantly, where they can eat!

Following on from the tour, the students had the chance to spend some time with their form group and new form teacher. They also listened to presentations from Mrs Rainbow about how to stay safe whilst on site and from Miss Corbishley who spoke about the Fearnhill Flyers programme. Whilst there were many strands to the morning, the students left with the clear message, that they should set high expectations for themselves and embrace any opportunity to take on a challenge whilst in the sixth form. Additionally, following on from the main presentation, that they should understand how the qualifications they are working towards will move them one big step closer to a career that they will enjoy and find rewarding.

*Mr Dixon  
Director of Post-16 Education*

## Virtual Open Evening Information

Fearnhill Open Evening will be virtual this year. Join us via a link on the school website at **6.30pm on Thursday 17th September**, to hear the headteacher's speech and have the opportunity to ask questions in a live Q&A session with a panel of students.

A series of short videos will also be available over the coming weeks, to introduce each faculty in the school and allow you to experience 'a day in the life' of a Fearnhill student.

Unfortunately we are unable to offer tours in the current situation, but if you have specific questions you would like answered, please email [admin@fearnhill.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@fearnhill.herts.sch.uk) and mark them 'Open Evening – question'. If we cannot answer your query straight away, we will contact you once we are able to, to arrange a meeting or conversation with the right colleague.

Just keep an eye on the front page of our website for all the details.

## Uniform

Our students have returned this week looking smart and business-like, as we expect. We work closely with our uniform suppliers, Uniform Monkeys, and are happy to supply them with very precise information about any missing items; please let us know if you are experiencing difficulties, especially in the current situation. Uniform Monkeys will be in touch with parents individually to resolve issues. High standards of uniform are important at Fearnhill, but please be assured that no student has been sanctioned for a uniform issue where it is beyond their control. As you will appreciate, we are unable to lend uniform items to students currently.

## Site Safety

As we settle in to the new term, can I remind parents and carers not to park on the roads into and out of the school car park. There are sufficient parking spaces available and we do need to ensure students are kept safe at all times. Please do make your drop offs as quickly and safely as possible to avoid congestion.

## No Nuts Please!

This is a reminder that students should not bring in to school any form of nuts, due to children with severe allergies. Our school wants to provide the safest environment possible for students and staff with anaphylaxis (life-threatening allergies). In order to reduce the risk of a life-threatening exposure we need everyone's co-operation. Please do not send products containing nuts or peanuts to school (including Nutella).



Please check the ingredients of all foods your children bring to school and ensure you do not send foods with peanuts or any other types of nuts. Also avoid sending items which say, 'may contain traces of nuts', as these could pose a serious risk.

We realise this request poses an inconvenience for you when packing your child's snack and lunch, however we wish to thank you in advance for your support and understanding of this potentially life-threatening allergy.

Please contact the school if you have further questions or concerns.

## Free Breakfast

### National Schools Breakfast Programme (NSBP)

Family Action and Magic Breakfast are two charities who have joined together and along with funding from the Department for Education, are working to support schools to improve access to healthy breakfasts.

Fearnhill has signed up to receive free healthy breakfast food as part of the NSBP Covid re-response offer. School breakfast provision has been shown to improve educational outcomes for children, by improving their memory and concentration. Our aim is to ensure that no child should be too hungry to learn. This provision will be available from 21st September to March 2021.



During this first half term whilst we are unable to offer a before school breakfast club, we will be offering a pack of 5 bagels each week to our Free School Meal students. They can grab them on their way out of school and bring them home so they have breakfast available each school day.

If you are not entitled to Free School Meals but feel that your child/children will benefit from a pack of bagels then please let us know.

We can change the food options available once we are able to re-open our before school provision and will contact you again when we are able to do so.

Please complete the tear off slip which you should have received via SchoolComms, place this in a sealed envelope and ask your child to hand this in to their form tutor by **Wednesday 16th September** latest.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to email me at [verity.burgess10@fearnhill.herts.sch.uk](mailto:verity.burgess10@fearnhill.herts.sch.uk) If you are unable to print the reply slip you can send me your request via my email address, clearly stating your child's name and form.

*Mrs Burgess*  
*Student Support Coordinator*

## Free School Meal Applications

If you feel you may be entitled to a free school meal for your child you can apply in the following ways:

- Online at: [www.hertsdirect.org/freeschoolmeals](http://www.hertsdirect.org/freeschoolmeals)
- Smartphone: Using the LookingLocal app. Available from app stores
- Digital TV: The Community Channel – press the red button
- Wii/Xbox/PS3: [www.lookinglocal.gov.uk/hertsdirect](http://www.lookinglocal.gov.uk/hertsdirect)
- Phone: 0300 123 4048 between 8:00am and 8:00pm Monday – Friday, or between 9:00am – 4:00pm Saturday



For more information on free school meals and other educational benefits in Hertfordshire, and the qualifying benefits, visit [www.hertsdirect.org/freeschoolmeals](http://www.hertsdirect.org/freeschoolmeals)

# Read to Succeed

## Achievement Rewards

We started the year by distributing rewards for achievements in reading last year. Many thanks to the Letchworth Heritage Foundation for funding 20 copies of Matthew Syed's 'You Are Awesome' for our word millionaires, book quiz champions and winners in the 'Get Caught Reading' raffle in the Library.



The following students will find a personal copy of the book in their form pigeonholes on Monday.

**Word Millionaires:** Lisa A, Lily G, Maddi H, Harriet W, Chiara T, Amy P, Lara P, Tarun N, Ana T.

**Book Quiz Champions:** Keegan S, Tia N, Jaydee N, Hussein H.

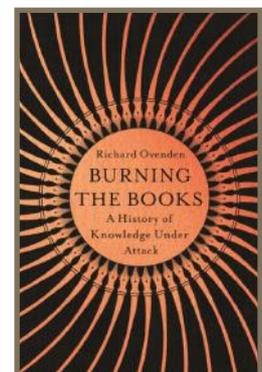
**Winners in Get Caught Reading Raffle:** Tom L, Ha T, Elizabeth M, Bridget M, Rajveer K, Samantha H.

**Book Rapper:** Matilda R.

## Bookish Podcast Recommendation

'Burning the Books' by Richard Ovenden covers the history of deliberate attacks on recorded knowledge and is well worth a listen on Radio 4 / BBC Sounds at

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/series/m000m4pm>



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



Email us at [library@fearnhill.herts.sch.uk](mailto:library@fearnhill.herts.sch.uk)

**Mrs Hunt**  
**Head of Library**

## ***ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A PART TIME JOB?***

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

We have two shifts available both running Monday to Friday.  
The shifts are either 10am to 2pm or 3.45pm to 5.45pm.

If you would like to apply for this position, please contact  
Mrs Rainbow, School Business Manager  
01462 707210  
hazel.rainbow10@fearnhill.herts.sch.uk

### **Keep in touch with Fearnhill!**



**Email:** [admin@fearnhill.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@fearnhill.herts.sch.uk)



**Facebook:** <https://en-gb.facebook.com/fearnhillschool>



**Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/fearnhillschool>

# Fearnhill Flyers



Register now for Oxford University's next Virtual Open Day, to be held on **Friday 18 September**



Unlike many universities, Oxford has no central campus, but is made up of colleges and departments spread around the city.

Many of these colleges and departments provide content for our Virtual Open Days so there is a lot to choose from!

There is also lots of information about our student service teams, for example the Disability Advisory Service, Careers Service and Fees and Funding.

Admissions staff also run general information and advice sessions, for students as well as teachers.



SCAN ME

Scan here to register for the virtual open day (places get booked up fast)

Scan here to find out more about the virtual open day.

SCAN ME





## Registration to attend The Black Achievement Conference has now opened for Years 10-13

In celebration of Black History month in October, the LSE is inviting students to join their online webinar to find out more about studying at university, applying to the LSE and hearing the experiences of current LSE students.

It's an inspiring day with a line-up of speakers from the African-Caribbean community.

Speakers in October 2018 included Kat B from MTV and June Sarpong MBE, British television broadcaster.

**The 2020 Black Achievement Conference will take place on Saturday 31 October as an online webinar 10.00am-1.45pm.**

### What to expect:

- Hear from a great line-up of speakers from the African/Caribbean community including academics
- Learn how to make a competitive LSE application
- Hear from current LSE students about their university experience

### To attend you must be:

- from a Black African, Black Caribbean, Mixed Black (e.g White and Black Caribbean), or any other Black Background

Use this link <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lse-black-achievement-conference-2020-tickets-117548461613>

or scan the QR code to register your place.

SCAN ME



*Miss Corbishley  
English Teacher*

## Music Department News

### URGENT NOTICE ABOUT INSTRUMENTAL LESSONS

We are changing the way that music lessons from Herts Music Service are billed. This will now be done through HMS directly rather than via the school. It is therefore important that you now **register for this online ASAP** to confirm their place if your child is continuing with instrumental lessons. This allows HMS time to arrange the timetable and teachers for us as a school. If your child would like to start learning an instrument, you also need to register via Herts Music Service website below and we will get it arranged for you ASAP.



Please don't forget to check your eligibility for the remission subsidy on the HMS website too. All the information you need to book is available at <http://www.hertsmusicservice.org.uk/registeronline>. HMS tutors will be teaching face to face in large rooms (but can deliver lessons online if needed) and every effort has been taken to ensure both tutors and pupils are kept safe in line with guidance and relevant risk assessments will be implemented. Please get in touch if you have any queries.

*Mrs Landsman  
Lead Teacher Music*

## Thought of the Month - September



# Performing & Expressive Arts

## Students of the Month - July 🏆

Luke 7H



*Superb work throughout Lockdown. Magnificent outdoor art of the butterfly, collaged Aslan, & many fantastic drawings, especially your deserted house. Exceptional!*

Mia-Grace 9U



*Innovative & creative approach to Musical careers task.*

Wesley 8U



*Great contribution to Summer House Day completing all sporting challenges.*

Kathryn 10R



*Superb dedication & commitment on artworks through Lockdown. Very impressive drawings, annotation & exploration of ideas & materials. Fantastic effort.*

Tia 9Q



*Excellent start to GCSE music & a brilliant solo performance recording.*

Madison 10R



*Positive engagement with remote learning & excellent standard of work produced.*

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!

*Mrs Clifton  
Lead Teacher of Art*

*Mrs Landsman  
Lead Teacher of Music*

*Miss Straughn  
Head of PE*

