



FEARNHILL SCHOOL

Headteacher – Ms E Ellis BA, MA

11th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

As we come to the end of our first full week of term, I am writing to update you with some **key information**. Firstly I have to say a huge thank you to everyone for what has been a very calm and business-like start to the term, especially in such unusual circumstances. Students have arrived looking smart, fully equipped and ready to learn. We are all learning new ways of working and students have approached the challenge with positivity and good humour.

We are now **managing the site** in a slightly different way, and I need to thank those of you who are dropping off or collecting your child by car, for avoiding delays and using the 'drop and go' approach. This helps to keep all of our community safe. Our Year 7 students in particular are still learning about the car park so do please be aware of that as you enter or leave.

This is also a good time to remind everyone about the **timings of the school day** from Monday 14th September; Years 7 and 8 students will finish at 2.30pm, unless they are involved in catch up support until 3.00pm. You will be contacted if this applies to your child. Year 9 will finish at 2.40pm and Years 10 and 11 at 2.50pm. Sixth formers will finish at 3.00pm. The staggered end times are designed to avoid the mixing of year groups, so please encourage your child to leave the site promptly. Students who have siblings in school are free to wait outside on the grass by the cycle sheds, or socially distanced in the canteen in poor weather.

To support our management of the coronavirus situation, we have made some small changes to our **school behaviour policy**, including the organisation of detentions. You can view the policy and changes here:

<http://www.fearnhill.herts.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Behaviour-for-Learning-policy-COVID-19-addendum-Sept-2020-4.pdf>

All of the latest information about the **school's response to the virus** can be viewed on the 'Coronavirus 2020' tab under 'Community' on the website. This includes a helpful flowchart giving details of what to do if you or a member of your family develop symptoms:

<http://www.fearnhill.herts.sch.uk/covid-19-information/>

As a result of the current situation, our **Open Evening** this year will be virtual, and will launch at **6.30pm on Thursday 17th September** via a link on the school website to our YouTube channel, 'Fearnhill Live'. I will be making a speech, along with contributions from our head girl and boy and a live question and answer session with a student panel. Departmental presentations will be launched on the website from Monday 21st September, and our prospectus is also available to view online. We are excited to share our success and tell people about what is happening at Fearnhill; if you know parents of Year 5 or 6 children please do share your experience as parents and encourage them to tune in to the Open Evening events.

As always at the start of the new academic year our older students move on to university, college or employment, and parents who have supported the school by acting as governors or working with the 'Friends of Fearnhill' group over the years also move on. This year we do have a vacancy for a **parent governor**, so if you are interested to learn more about this very valuable way to contribute to the school

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Telephone: 01462 621200 – Email: admin@fearnhill.herts.sch.uk – Website: www.fearnhill.herts.sch.uk

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and to support your community, please contact me directly on head@fearnhill.herts.sch.uk so that we can arrange an informal chat to learn more about what the role involves. Our **'Friends of Fearnhill'** group also makes a valuable contribution to the school, so if you feel able to contribute some time and energy to this group of parents and supporters of the school, again please do get in touch. Of course we are not able to organise large scale events at this time but we can talk about other ways to keep improving the school for your children.

The first **'Fearnfile'** of the term is out today, so do take a moment to see what has been going on this week.

Once again, many thanks for your support and do get in touch if you have any questions.

Yours faithfully

Ms E Ellis
Headteacher

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