



FEARNHILL SCHOOL

Fearnfile Issue 672 15th October 2026

MR SPENCER'S UPDATE:

Attendance Award

I was delighted last week to receive an attendance award for the school. The award was given to us for being in the top 25% most improved schools in the country for attendance.

I am extremely pleased that we have received this award. The award is recognition of the improved effort of students to come into school each day, it is recognition of the support we receive daily from parents and carers and it is recognition of the hard work of staff to support good attendance.

Last year our whole school priority was to 'make school unmissable' for students. Increasingly there is evidence that students are enjoying school and thriving in their learning and this award celebrates that.

Of course, I would love to see attendance improve even further. No student with under 93% attendance made expected progress last year in Y11 or Y13. Additional missed days have a huge impact on student achievement. Therefore, we will keep working hard to make further improvements whilst celebrating the improvements we have seen so far.

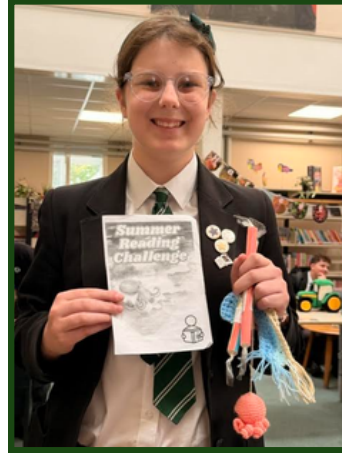
Don't forget we have a two week half term break coming up (19th-30th October). I hope all students enjoy the rest and relaxation and return ready to achieve more on 2nd November.

Mr Tim Spencer, Headteacher

LIBRARY UPDATES

Summer Readers

Eliana and Olivia completed the Library Summer Reading Challenge, if any other students have completed please bring forms to library to collect your prize.



Book Ambassadors

Have you read all the books in a set? If you have and are prepared to talk to other students about them if asked, speak to Mrs Thurlby in the library and she will organise your badge.



Overdue Books (image attached)

Key Stage 3 students are reminded of overdue books during library lessons but knowing how easy it is to forget we are trialling a reminder.

If you notice your student with one of our bright green armbands please encourage them to find and pack their overdue books to return to school.

The next big overdue book return for all students will be running before Christmas and requests for a donation towards replacement will be sent early in the new year for any not returned.

Mrs R Thurlby, Library / Literacy Leader

MAKING FOOD MORE FUN

Year 7 were creating pizzas using tortilla bases as part of their food technology lesson. Ms Balchin was particularly impressed with Harry taking his initiative to make food even more fun when he creatively placed his toppings to create this very funky face.

We love seeing students getting so invested in their creations and finding new ways to find fun in the things that they are making.

Ms L Balchin, Head of Careers / Teacher of Art, Design & Technology



SCIENCE CLUB



Our science club meet every Wednesday, they have been working hard recently seeing how different elements can affect flame colour when they're lit using bunsen burners.

YEAR 8 BASKETBALL

On Monday 28th September, our year 8 basketball team played an extremely exciting game against The Priory School. Unfortunately it was a loss for us but it was very tight with a score of 20-15. All boys played so well, with Teddy T being awarded Player of the Match.



YEAR 8 FOOTBALL

On Tuesday 29th September, the year 8 football team played against Thomas Alleyne. Unfortunately they did lose the game but were competitive throughout.

Player of the Match was awarded to Oliver D. Despite not scoring he was strong and had a few really good shots. Their keeper played a blinder.

Mr M Turner, Teacher PE / Head of Year

YEAR 10 FOOTBALL

The year 10 football team played a very exciting match against St Chris on Wednesday 7th October.

It was a comprehensive and dominating team performance to win 4-1. 2 goals in the first half by Jamil A and Dash J gave Fearnhill a strong foothold in the game. The game was then put out of St Chris reach where Fearnhill manufactured 2 more goals in the second half by Jacob B and the outstanding Dash J. St Chris managed a consolation goal late in the game but by then, Fearnhill were out of sight.

Player of the Match was awarded to Dash for his incredible performance. A special mention is also given to Alfie C, however everyone certainly played their part.



Mr S Manley, PE Teacher

YEAR 9 FOOTBALL

Against Thomas Alleyne

On Thursday 8th October, our year 9 football team played a brilliant game against away against Thomas Alleyne.

They came away with a win of 3 goals against Thomas Alleyne's 2 goals. The whole team were phenomenal and put in a great shift for each other. Rudy was awarded Player of the Match.

A massive well done to everyone that played!

Against St Christopher



Year 8 and 9 played an exceptional game against St Chris on the 14th October.

This was a home game with a win of 6 goals vs their 3. It was a great performance from the whole team with Riley S being awarded Player of the Match for scoring a very good and very quick hat trick.

The whole squad were great but special mentions to Teddy C and Ollie D who were everywhere.

Mr M Turner, Teacher PE / Head of Year

HISTORY ON OUR DOORSTEP

Last week our history cohort took a short walk to discover what our school surroundings have to offer.

We started on the Icknield Way, the track most of you probably walk along to get to school. It is one of the oldest roads in England, running from Thetford in Norfolk all the way down to Devon. People used it for trade, carrying things like flint and pottery, and the Romans used it too. Many of us walk on it every day without knowing it's rich history.

From there we walked along the edge of the field to Wilbury Hill. It is often called a hillfort, but it was really a village surrounded by a ditch. The walls were first built around 700BC and digs in 1929 and 1933 found fireplaces, huts, rubbish dumps, pottery and human remains. We explained to the students that Roman coins found show people were still living there after the Romans arrived in AD43. It's funny to think there could be lots more undiscovered items right under our feet!

Then we walked a little further along the edge of the school grounds to look across at Ickleford Tumulus. It is a bowl barrow, which is a burial mound and it stands out quite clearly in its surroundings. In 1816 local history enthusiasts dug into the middle and found human remains about nine feet down, with two bronze spears and a bronze blade. Nobody has dug there since, so there is probably more inside to be found. The trees that used to grow on it have now been removed, which means you can see it much more clearly. Why not have a look next time you take a walk?

We really enjoyed stepping outside of the classroom. Standing in the field and picturing the village that once stood there got students using their imagination and made history come alive.

Ms Scott, History Department



SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING



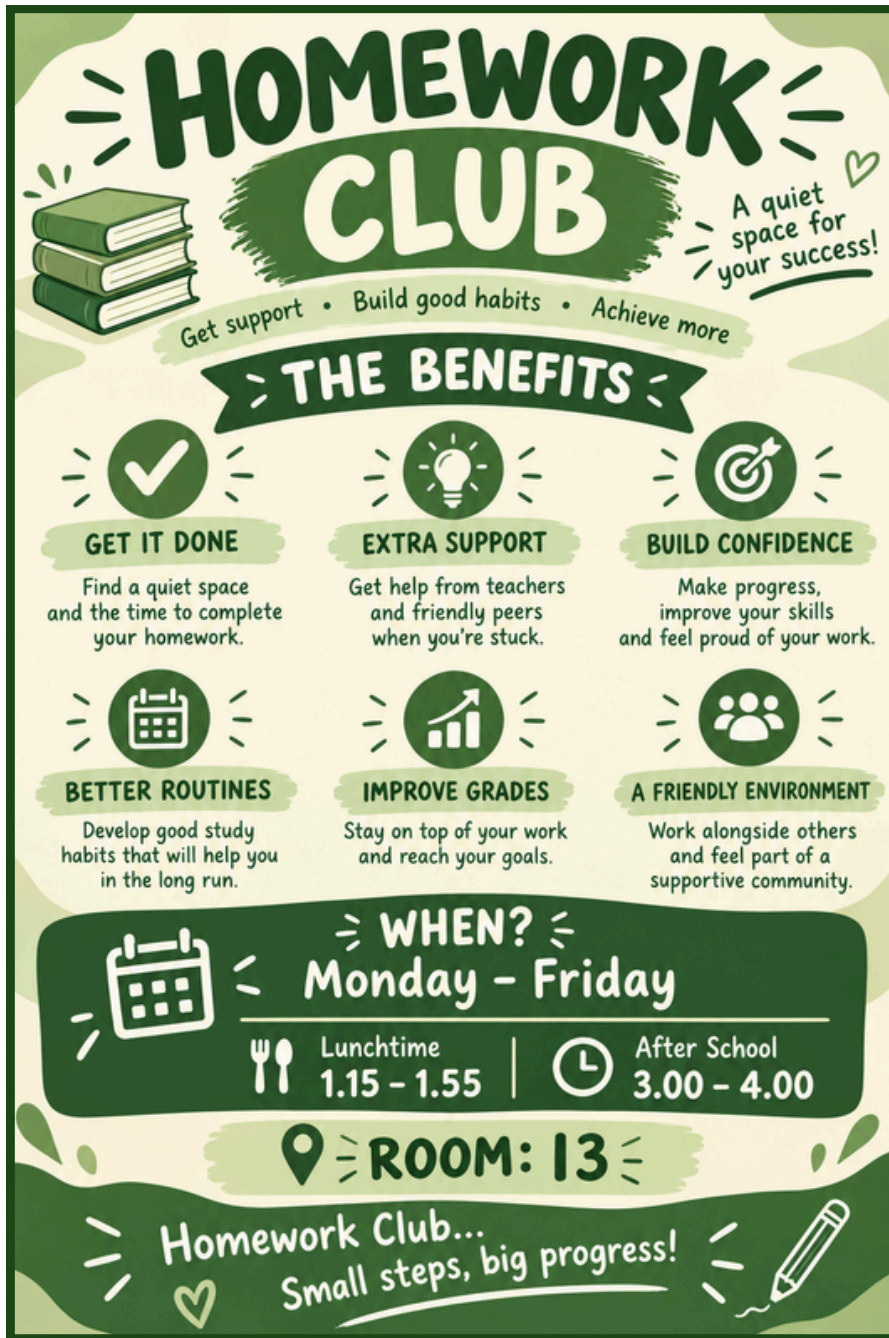
FEARNHILL SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING

Tuesday 3rd November 6-8pm

Year 11 students and their families are warmly invited to attend our Sixth Form Open Evening.

We would love to see prospective sixth form students at our upcoming Sixth Form open evening on the 3rd of November. Students, and their families will get the chance to meet our staff, explore our A-Level and BTEC courses, take part in subject taster sessions and explore our school and facilities.

In our Sixth Form we pride ourselves on being a small, happy community. By creating a supportive and nurturing environment, we help our students to achieve their full potential. Our students are involved in sport and performing arts; as well as giving back to our school and local community, which equips them with leadership skills needed for the future.



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!).

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.



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

Hertfordshire Music Service

ATTENDANCE MATTERS



17. Accessing Extracurricular Opportunities

School isn't just about academics—it also offers a wealth of extracurricular activities, such as sports, arts, music, and leadership programs. Regular school attendance ensures that students are able to take advantage of these opportunities, which can contribute to their personal growth and open doors to future scholarships or college admissions.

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Autumn Term 2026

Tuesday 1 st September	Inset day
Wednesday 2 nd September	Year 7 Induction Day
Thursday 3 rd September	Years 7, 12 and 13 in school
Friday 4 th September	Term starts for all students
Monday 19 th - Friday 30 th October	Half term
Monday 2 nd November	Return to school
Monday 9 th - Friday 20 th November	Year 11 mock exams
Friday 18 th December	Term ends

Spring Term 2027

Monday 4 th January	Spring term begins
Monday 15 th - Friday 19 th February	Half term
Monday 22 nd February	Return to school
Monday 22 nd February - Friday 5 th March	Year 11 mock exams
Friday 26 th March 2027	End of spring term

Summer Term 2027

Tuesday 12 th April	Summer term begins
Monday 3 rd May	May bank holiday
Monday 10 th May	2027 Exam season begins
Monday 31 st May - Friday 4 th June	Half term
Monday 7 th June	Return to school
Friday 18 th June	2027 Exam season closes
Monday 21 st June - Thursday 1 st July	Year 10 mock exams
Friday 2 nd July	Inset day
Friday 23 rd July	End of summer term

CONTACT US

Phone: 01462 621200

Email: admin@fearnhill.herts.sch.uk

Website: www.fearnhill.herts.sch.uk

Address: Fearnhill School, Icknield Way, Letchworth Garden City, Hertfordshire SG6 4BA

**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.**

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)

EXTERNAL INFORMATION

FYP FOREVER YOUNG PEOPLE

LETCWORTH YOUTH HUB

CALLING ALL LOCAL 12-17YR OLDS!

COME & JOIN US EVERY THURSDAY | 6-8PM

FREE

SCAN ME

Jackmans Community Centre
Letchworth, SG6 2NL

GOOD FOOD, GREAT PRICE, ZERO WASTE.

Tuesdays 11.30am - 1.30pm
4.45pm - 5.30pm

Wednesdays 11.30am - 1.30pm

Thursdays 11.30am - 1.30pm
(hot food to takeaway)

Fridays 11.30am - 1.30pm

We are in Garden Square Shopping Centre, Letchworth (next to Iceland)

BEST BEFORE CAFE

THE SHOP
Bring a bag & a smile
fruit/veg & storecupboard items
£3 a bag and bread is free

THURSDAY TAKEAWAY
We cook hot food to takeaway or eat in.
Pay As You Feel
Children eat Free

SATURDAY FOOD STALLS
From 9.30am
Free surplus food on
Glebe Rd, Mullway,
Bayworth, Rushby Walk,
& Ridge Rd, Letchworth

WHY RESCUE FOOD?

FOR YOUR WALLET:
Why pay full price for perfect food? We rescue surplus groceries that are delicious, just past their 'best before' date. Feed yourself & your family for a fraction of the cost.

FOR THE CLIMATE:
If food waste were a country, it would be the 3rd largest emitter of greenhouse gases. Every meal you rescue is a middle finger to climate change. You are saving the energy, water, and land used to grow that food.

FOR THE MYSTERY:
We don't rescue just the basics. Every day there's something different. Often we rescue food which you wouldn't normally buy. It's like a treasure hunt!

OTHER FOOD RESCUE PROJECTS

King's Cabin
Friday 2pm - 4pm
16 Whiteaway Letchworth

Wilbury Food Stall
Saturday mornings
Campers Avenue/
Westbury Place
Letchworth

ickford Community Larder
Sunday 2pm - 3.30pm
St Katharine's Church,
ickford

Food Rescue Hub
Thursdays 9.30am - 11am
Half Moon Pub
57 Queens Street, Hitchin

Super 1s

Free of charge inclusive cricket sessions for young people with a disability or neurodiverse condition

Have fun, be Active and make new friends

Participants are welcome to bring their friends/siblings to take part with them

Hertfordshire Cricket

Harpenden Hub
Thursdays 5-6pm
Katherine Warington School, Harpenden, AL5 5FH
Age: 10-25 year olds
Start Date: 08/10/26

West Herts Hub
Saturday 11am-Midday
Parmiters School, High Elms Lane, Watford, WD23 0UU
Age: 8-25 years old
8-13 year olds will train together, 14 year old plus together
Start Date: 03/10/26

Hatfield Hub
Sundays 5-7pm
Chancellors School, Pine Grove, Hatfield, AL9 7BN
Ages: 10-25 Years Old
Start Date: 04/10/26

Hitchin Hub
Saturdays 9-10am
Westmill Community Centre, John Barker Place, Hitchin, SG5 2PG
Age: 8-16 year olds
Start Date: 04/10/26

CONTACT:
Luke Heskett
07894318756
luke.heskett@hertscricket.org

LORD'S TAVERNS
Empowering young people through cricket

www.lordstaverners.org/super1s
Registered Charity No. 306054 | OSCR No. SC046238

Stand-by-me
Bereavement Support

HALLOWEEN DISCO BINGO

RAFFLE & BAR

PRIZES

BOOGIE BETWEEN ROUNDS

£15.00 a ticket

Friday 30th October
7 - 11pm

St John's Community Centre
St John's Road
Hitchin, SG4 9JP

GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY

EVENT

*includes 4 bingo games & disco

EXTERNAL INFORMATION



OCTOBER HALF TERM ACTIVITIES AND CHILDCARE!

USE CODE: SCHOOL20

GET AN EXTRA £20 OFF WHEN YOU BOOK 2 OR MORE DAYS!

*Not to be used in conjunction with other offer codes

- Try new things
- Develop skills
- Meet new friends
- Boost confidence

barracudas.co.uk
01480 467 567

OFSTED REGISTERED

Trustpilot



Halloween at church farm

24th - 31st October

Visit Church Farm Ardeley
A real working farm!

- Spooky Farm Trail to see the farm animals & Halloween Décor
- Big Bale Play
- Tractors & Digger Ride-Ons
- Creepy Fairy Woodland Play
- Spooky Photo Opportunities
- Spot the Pumpkin & sweet treat prizes
- Scarecrow Trail
- Find the Spooky Fairy Doors
- Find your unique Witch and Halloween name
- Spooktacular Costume Stickers for the best dressed boys, girls & dogs
- Halloween Activity Pack, 'I've Been to Church Farm' Sticker
- Puzzles and Colouring-in fun
- Farm Sensory Trail

Additional Activities

- Pumpkin Picking & Carving
- Trick or Treating in our Spooky Wood (4-6pm)
- Horrid Hay Tractor & Trailer Rides
- Eerie Egg Collecting
- Ghoulish Goat Walking

Book online www.churchfarmardeley.co.uk

CHURCH FARM, ARDELEY
A Free Range Experience



STEVENAGE STARLETS FC

U14 NAVY PLAYERS WANTED

Defenders & Midfielders

For the 2026/27 season

- Girls aged 13–14 (School Years 8 & 9)
- Based in Stevenage, Hertfordshire
- Thursday evening training
- Saturday league matches — HG FPL Division 2
- Friendly, supportive team with qualified coaching

Come and join us!

Contact: Simon Keehne | 07722 294650 | skeehne@gmail.com | www.starletsfc.com