FEARNHILL SCHOOL

Fearnfile Issue 673 11th November 2026

MR SPENCER'S UPDATE:

Achieving More

Y11 Mocks start this week, followed by Y13 the week after. Having the opportunity to practice sitting exams is vital for success. We do the exams because they help students learn, not just to see how they are doing. We already have a good idea of how well each student will perform and here is why:

Attendance on the up: I know that Year 11 outcomes will improve for the school this year because the attendance of the year group is good. I teach a Y11 class and it is rare for any student to be missing. This is by far the easiest way to make success more likely.

Attitude to learning in lessons: Students who do not try in lessons do not make good progress. It is an obvious fact. However, there are always a few students who believe they can do well without trying. The effort and engagement I have seen from Y11 & Y13 students in lessons has been excellent. Students are producing high quality work in each lesson and, here again, I have great confidence that this will lead to improved outcomes.

Developing skills outside of lessons: We don't want students to just be good at exams. In fact, I don't believe students are likely to do well in exams - let alone their life beyond school - if they don't develop other skills. Generally, students who get involved in other aspects of school life - clubs, trips and house competitions tend to see more academic success.

For all these reasons, I am looking forward to reviewing student progress after the mocks. Recently, I have received lots of positive feedback about the performance of students in Key Stage 4 especially. As students embed these habits every day, they lay the foundations for future success.

Mr Tim Spencer, Headteacher

YEAR 7 LONDON TRIP

On Friday 16th October, the whole of Year 7 was invited on a cultural experience to London. Here, we were lucky enough to watch the Changing of the Guard outside Buckingham Palace, walk past Downing Street and the Houses of Parliament, before crossing Westminster Bridge. We then embarked on a guided River Cruise along the River Thames, which took in sights such as St Paul's Cathedral, the Tower of London, HMS Belfast and the Tate Modern. After this, the group hopped on the London Eye to give a breathtaking 360 view over the city.









YEAR 7 LONDON TRIP













All staff were incredibly impressed with Fearnhill students, as they all displayed a real positivity when taking in the sights, as well as great confidence when tackling new challenges. Year 7, you should be very proud of yourselves.

Miss J Mills, Spanish Teacher / Head of Year

ABIGAIL'S FUNDRAISER FOR BREAST CANCER NOW

Abigail, from year 12, has recently been doing an incredible job fundraising for the charity Breast Cancer Now. Within the school this has included a bake sale, all ran and organised by Abigail, as well as a non-uniform day on the last day before half term.

Additionally, Abigail set out to walk 100 miles over the month of October.

'Breast Cancer Now is the UK's leading breast cancer charity. During those 31 days, breast cancer will take almost 1,000 lives in the UK. They are mums and daughters, friends and colleagues. Someone loved. Someone lost. Breast Cancer Now has a bold vision - that by 2050, everyone affected by breast cancer will live and live well. And every pound raised this October will help fund their life-saving science and life-changing support, so they can make their vision a reality'.

A massive well done Abigail, this is an amazing thing to do!



HUMS HEROES

Congratulations to our Hums Heroes for the first half of the Autumn term, who were chosen to be celebrated for their contribution to a Humanities subject.

Well done to Reuben M 9G, Maya S 10H, and Dylan G 6CBJ in Geography, Rocco L 7G, Olivia P 10P and Bruna F 6MMO in History, Shay C 7H, Olivia P 10P and Levi D 6MMO in PRE, Cheryl O 6VST in Sociology, Juhi K in Psychology, Zubi Z 6CBJ in Criminology, Lucy C 10N and Rosalind A 6CBJ in Business, and Reece C 9G for always being a Hums Hero!



Miss J Cheeseman, Geography Teacher

HOUSE MUSIC COMPETITIONS

On the Wednesday and Thursday before half term we were lucky enough to have our house music competition finalists. Students from KS3, KS4 and KS5 shared their incredible talents and it was great fun for everyone who watched and took part. We are very proud of all who performed!



Students displayed a wide variety of musical skills, we saw singers, drummers and pianists with performances from several different genres. This is always a great day in the school calendar and this year did not disapoint.













HOUSE DODGEBALL

Our latest house event, which concluded last week, was a whole school dodgeball competition, they were split into year groups with year 7 & 8 playing together, year 9 & 10 playing together, and year 11, 12 & 13 playing together. This is always a very popular house competition with everyone having a lot fun. We have some really exciting events coming up with announcements coming soon, so make sure to keep an eye out.











REMEMBRANCE PARADE

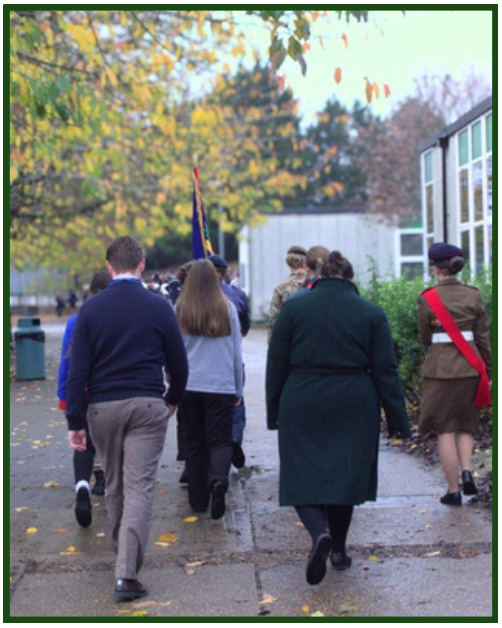
As a school we all came together to honour all of our fallen soldiers. Students marched through the school grounds to where everyone was gathered, Mr Monaghan read an extract from 'For The Fallen', followed by Mrs Landsman and James L playing The Last Post. The whole school then observed a two minute silence. This is an incredibly important and moving event in our calendar, and it was great to see everyone come together to remember those that have fought for us.











MOVEMBER









Movember is back at Fearnhill! Following our involvement last year, we are once again coming together to support the Movember charity and everything it stands for. It's great to see even more members of staff dusting off their razors, leading to a fair few double-takes when we returned after half-term! Armed with more knowledge and the school community behind us, we aim to make this year's efforts bigger and better than ever.

Alongside our Mo Bros, several staff members are opting to 'Move for Mental Health' - a challenge to run or walk 60 kilometres over the month for the 60 men lost to suicide every hour, globally. It's a great way to build mental toughness while getting fresh air during these autumn months.



The moustache starts the conversation, but Movember is about much more than just facial hair. It aims to shine a light on some of the biggest health issues facing men, including prostate cancer, testicular cancer, and mental health—particularly suicide prevention. Challenging the way men's health is often tiptoed around can be the catalyst someone needs to speak up or get checked out. Crucially, it starts with our young men seeing that being a man doesn't mean carrying everything on your own.



So, keep an eye out for some questionable facial hair this November, and take a moment to ask the men in your life a question that can't just be brushed off with an "I'm fine."

Mr J King, Maths Teacher

YEAR 8 FOOTBALL

Before half term, our year 8 football team played a brilliant game against Barclay Academy, where we won 4-1.

The whole team was phenomenal. All played really well and as a team, including all substitutes. They really worked hard for each other!
Nathan C has been awarded Player of the Match but Harry and Teddy were strong as ever as well.

A massive well done to all that took part, this is an amazing result!



Mr M Turner, Head of Year/Teacher PE

YEAR 7 FOOTBALL

Our year 7 football team played their first match this week. It was an away game against St Chris. Unfortunately it was a loss, but for their first game a 5-3 score was amazing.

They displayed a very spirited, committed performance and will improve as they play more competitive games. Our 3 goals were scored by Jake (2) and Ethan (1).

Player of the Match was awarded to Jake M. with special mentions to Ethan C, Tommy L, Harry P and Qusai A.

A massive well done for all of their efforts!



Mr S Manley, PE Teacher

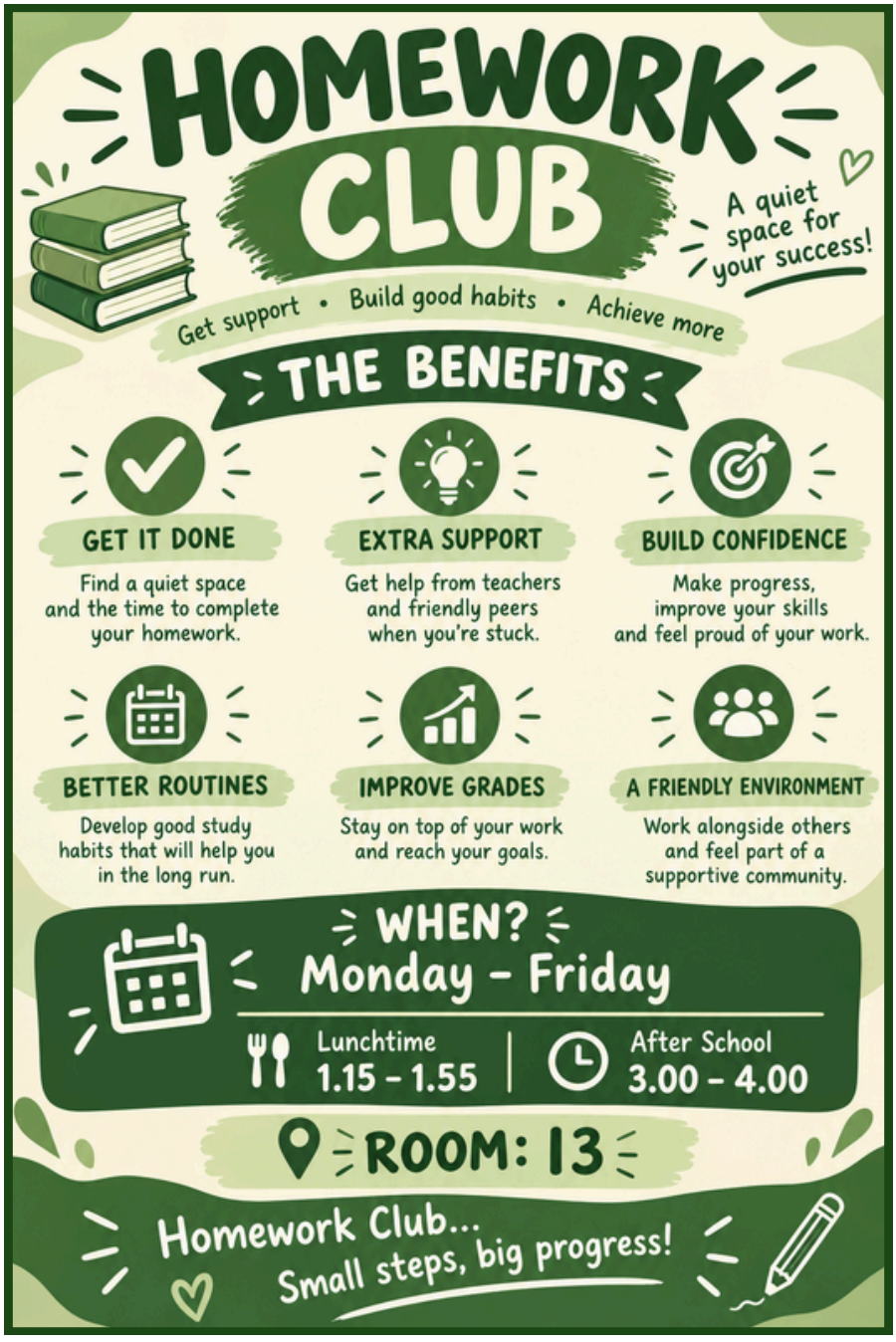


Hertfordshire Young People's Health and Wellbeing Survey 2026

The Hertfordshire Young People's Health and Wellbeing Survey 2026 will be open from Monday 9 November to Friday 18 December 2026. The survey gives young people (aged 11-19) the opportunity to share their views on a range of health and wellbeing topics, helping services and commissioners better understand and respond to their needs.



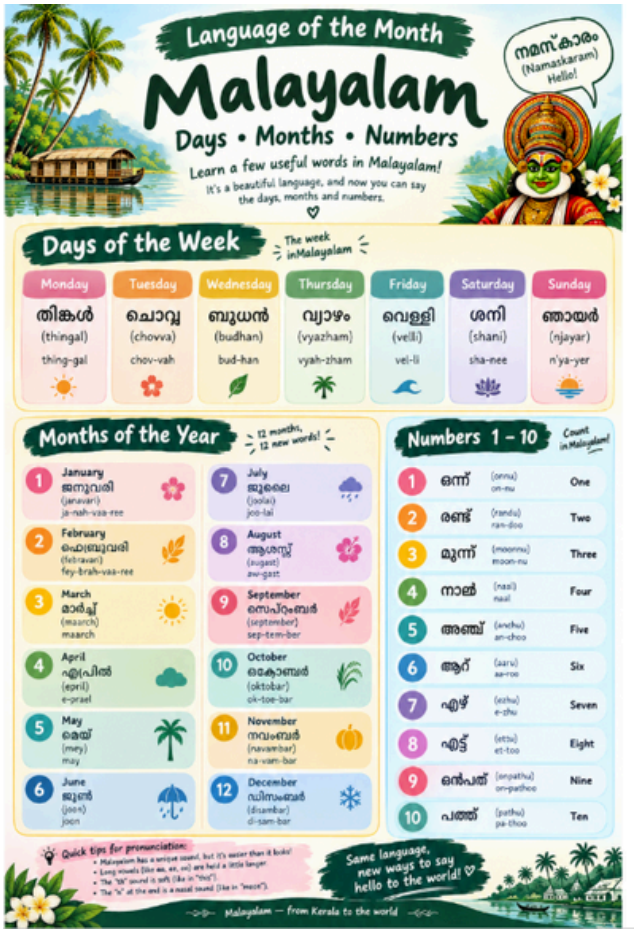

ChatHealth
NHS
Hertfordshire Community
NHS Trust
Do you want to talk about...
Problems with friends or family?
Alcohol or smoking?
Feeling sad or angry?
Bullying?
Relationships?
Changes to your body?
You can text your School Nurse for confidential advice and support:
07480 635050
We do not usually inform your parents, teachers or anyone else if you contact the school nurse. We might inform someone if we were concerned about your safety, but we would usually speak to you first. Your messages are stored and can be seen by other healthcare staff who follow the same confidentiality rules. We aim to reply to you within one working day and you should get an immediate bounce-back to confirm we received your text. Texts will not be seen outside of normal working hours. If you need help before you hear back from us, contact a member of school staff or your doctor. Our text number does not receive voice calls or MMS picture messages. We support messaging from UK mobile numbers only (which does not include messages sent from landlines, international mobile numbers and some 'number masking' mobile apps). Prevent the school nurse from sending messages to you by texting STOP to our number. Please respect your school's mobile phone policy. Messages are charged at your usual rate.



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!).


November's
Language of the Month
is
Malayalam
മലയാളം


Language of the Month
Malayalam
നമസ്കാരം
(Namaskaram)
Hello
A language, a people, a beautiful place
What is Malayalam?
Malayalam is a Dravidian language spoken mainly in Kerala, a state in southwestern India. It is the mother tongue of the Malayali people and has its own unique script, alphabet and rich literary tradition.
Where is Malayalam spoken?
Malayalam is mainly spoken in Kerala, but it is also found in many other countries around the world.
India
Kerala (main home of the language)
Lakshadweep Islands
Border areas of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu (and parts of nearby states)
Middle East
United Arab Emirates
Saudi Arabia
Qatar
Kuwait
Oman
Bahrain
Other countries
United Kingdom
Malaysia
Singapore
Australia
Canada
United States
New Zealand
South Africa
INDIA
Karnataka
Arabian Sea
Tamil Nadu
Kerala
Capital of Kerala
Thiruvananthapuram (Trivandrum)
Main language
Malayalam
Region
South India
Coastline
Arabian Sea
Fun fact!
Malayalam gets its name from the region of Kerala, and most people who speak Malayalam as their first language are from there.
Real people. Rich culture. One language.
Malayalam — from Kerala to the world


Language of the Month
Malayalam
Days • Months • Numbers
നമസ്കാരം
(Namaskaram)
Hello!
Learn a few useful words in Malayalam!
It's a beautiful language, and now you can say the days, months and numbers.
Days of the Week
The week in Malayalam
Monday തിങ്കൾ (thingal) thing-gal
Tuesday ചൊവ്വ (chovva) chov-vah
Wednesday ബുധൻ (budhan) bud-han
Thursday വ്യാഴം (vyazham) vyah-zham
Friday വെള്ളി (velli) vel-li
Saturday ശനി (shani) sha-nee
Sunday ഞായർ (njayar) n'ya-yer
Months of the Year
12 months, 12 new words!
1 January ജനുവരി (janavari) ja-nah-vaa-ree
2 February ഫെബ്രുവരി (febravari) fey-brah-vaa-ree
3 March മാർച്ച് (maarch) maarch
4 April ഏപ്രിൽ (epril) e-prael
5 May മെയ് (mey) may
6 June ജൂൺ (joon) joon
7 July ജൂലൈ (joolai) joo-lai
8 August ആഗസ്റ്റ് (augast) aw-gast
9 September സെപ്റ്റംബർ (septembar) sep-tem-ber
10 October ഒക്ടോബർ (oktobar) ok-toe-bar
11 November നവംബർ (navambar) na-vam-bar
12 December ഡിസംബർ (disambar) d-sam-bar
Numbers 1 – 10
Count in Malayalam!
1 ഒന്ന് (onnu) on-nu One
2 രണ്ട് (randu) ran-doo Two
3 മൂന്ന് (moonnu) moon-nu Three
4 നാൽ (naal) naal Four
5 അഞ്ച് (anchu) an-choo Five
6 ആറ് (aaru) aa-roo Six
7 ഏഴ് (ezhu) e-zhu Seven
8 എട്ട് (ettu) et-too Eight
9 ഒൻപത് (onpathu) on-pathoo Nine
10 പത്ത് (pathu) pa-thoo Ten
Quick tips for pronunciation:
Same language, new ways to say hello to the world!
Malayalam — from Kerala to the world


Language of the Month
Malayalam
Greetings
Onam, friendship, kindness... all start with a simple hello!
Say hello in Malayalam!
Here are some common greetings, with their pronunciation so you can try them yourself.
1. നമസ്കാരം
Namaskāram
(nuh-muh-skah-ram)
Hello / Greetings
A polite and traditional greeting. Used at any time of day.
2. സുപ്രഭാതം
Suprabhātam
(soo-prah-bah-tham)
Good morning
Literally means "auspicious morning".
3. ശുഭദിനം
Shubhadinam
(shoo-buh-din-um)
Have a good day
A friendly way to wish someone well during the day.
4. ശുഭ സായാഹ്നം
Shubha Sāyahnam
(shoo-buh sah-yahn-um)
Good evening
A warm greeting for the evening.
5. ശുഭ രാത്രി
Shubha Rātri
(shoo-buh rahh-tree)
Good night
Used when saying goodnight to someone.
6. എങ്ങനെയുണ്ട്?
Enganeyundu?
(en-gah-ney-oon-doo)
How are you?
A common and friendly way to ask how someone is.
7. സുഖമാണല്ലോ?
Sukhamannallo?
(soo-khuh-mahn-nal-lo)
Are you well?
A casual and caring way to check on someone.
8. വിട
Vida
(vee-dah)
Goodbye
A simple and common way to say goodbye.
9. നന്ദി
Nandi
(nahn-dee)
Thank you
Used to show gratitude.
A few tips for pronunciation:
The 'a' is like the 'a' in father.
The 'sh' is a soft "sh" sound (like ship).
The 'nh' at the end is a nasal sound (like "n" in moon).
The 'th' is a soft "th" (not the hard "t" sound).
Small words... big connections
ചെറിയ വാക്കുകൾ... വലിയ ബന്ധങ്ങൾ...
Malayalam — from Kerala to the world

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.





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

Spring Term 2027

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

Summer Term 2027

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

CONNECTED, NOT ALONE WORKSHOPS

Letchworth Library and Walk The Walk Family Support Service are offering free workshops exploring the impact of the digital world on young people's mental health and wellbeing.

Connected but Not Alone: Parent & Carer Workshop supporting Teen Mental Health in a Digital World
Tuesday Friday 13th November, 10:30-12:oo noon

Connected but Not Alone: Supporting Teen Mental Health in a Digital World
Tuesday 17 November, 6:00pm - 7:30pm






Could you be a young carer?
If you help look after a friend or family member who needs extra support - you may be a young carer and there's one easy place to get help.
WELCOME
• Be part of a young carers community
• Friendly welcome from the young carers team
A new young carers webpage
• Clear information on what help you can get
• Links to opportunities, activities & wellbeing support
• Designed by young carers for young carers
Support for the whole family
• Friendly chats to consider everyone's needs
• Check ins to make sure you're doing ok
• Help as you grow up and move into new stages of life
Get involved
• Conference designed by young carers, workshops, fun sessions, meeting others
• Opportunities to have your say
• Work with SEND Youth Councils
"I worry about Mum when I am not at home"
Additional support
• Support in your school / college
• Meet other young carers
• If you're eligible for free school meals, you can get discounts with a Herts Card
• Free activity camps in school holidays - HAPpy Camps
How to get support
• Ask an adult in your family to help you get in touch
• Speak to your teacher or a trusted member of staff
• Visit the website or call 01992 658469
www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/youngcarers
Hertfordshire


Stevenage Starlets FC
LOOKING FOR NEW PLAYERS
WE ARE RECRUITING FOR:
U17/U18 | U14
U9 | U8
TRAINING: THURSDAY EVENINGS
MATCHES: SATURDAYS
PLAYERS AT THE HEART OF EVERYTHING WE DO
At Starlets, every player matters. Our qualified coaches provide a positive and supportive environment, with all relevant safeguarding training and certifications in place
play@starletsfc.com

EXTERNAL INFORMATION







