



FEARNHILL SCHOOL



Fearnfile

Issue 664 18th March 2026

MRS NUNNELEY'S UPDATE:

It has been an incredibly busy and exciting week at Fearnhill, filled with a range of valuable events and activities for our students.

Last Friday, we held a hugely successful Alumni Day, hosted and organised by Mrs Balchin. We welcomed 64 former Fearnhill students back to school to share their career journeys and experiences with our current students. A wide range of professions were represented, from healthcare to business management, and we were even privileged to welcome Commonwealth Games gold medallist Nicky Hunt - with her gold medal!.

All students were given a timeslot to ask questions and learn more about the different career pathways available to them. It was an extremely valuable opportunity for our young people, and we are hugely grateful to our former students for giving their time and sharing their expertise. They are truly inspirational role models.

The alumni event followed our recent Careers Week, during which teachers incorporated learning about careers into their lessons by highlighting the skills needed for jobs linked to their subjects. We hope this has inspired students to think positively and ambitiously about their future career options.

On Monday, the focus turned to Healthy Relationships, as One YMCA's Dignify team came to speak to students in Years 9, 10, 12 and 13. Their key message was that every student deserves respect and should expect to be treated with kindness and dignity in a healthy relationship.

The Dignify team then worked with 26 student ambassadors to begin developing a Fearnhill School charter, which will be agreed with the wider school community. This is extremely important work, and we would like to thank our ambassadors, who did a fantastic job representing the school.

As I write this, our Year 8 students (and our Headteacher) are enjoying their residential trip to Gilwell Park. More on this in the next issue of Fearnfile! *Mrs S Nunneley, Deputy Headteacher*

YEAR 12 DAY TRIP TO AUSCHWITZ

On the 25th February 6 year 12 students went to Auschwitz for the day as part of the Learning for Auschwitz project. After an early start of 4.15am we flew to Poland and spent a very full day looking at the memorial to those who suffered and were murdered at Auschwitz and Auschwitz-Birkenau. We got to see pictures of those who had been deported to the camps and artifacts which had been found.

For me the most horrifying part was being able to walk through the Gas chamber and see the state of the living conditions in the camps. The day ended with a short memorial service where we heard poems which had been written by both survivors and those who had died in the camp and had prayers from Rabbi Nick who had accompanied us on the trip.

Our students were thoughtful and respectful throughout the day and it brought home to all of us that these are not just numbers but actual people, adults and children, who suffered unimaginable things.

I am incredibly proud of all those who took part in this trip and I know that we have all been changed because of it.

Mrs L Chilton, Head of Humanities



ALUMNI CAREERS EVENT



This year saw 64 ex-students sharing their expertise, knowledge and success stories with our young people in Years 8-13. For the 3rd year running we have been astounded by how many people want to give back.

Lesley Balchin - Careers Lead welcomed the alumni with a speech including the following: "If you're wondering what the impact of you being here has on our students - well, just one conversation can literally change a student's life, whether that's increasing their confidence in being able to speak to complete strangers, taking heed of advice or helping them to find their 'thing'.

It's so important that we can open young people's eyes to the range of opportunities that are available to them in the future and the wealth of knowledge, experience and variety in the jobs that you all bring provides this in a way that nothing else can...



A massive thankyou to Miss Bennett for the incredible spread of food made!

ALUMNI CAREERS EVENT

You are all amazing role models and the students constantly talk about this event. And again, if you wonder what the impact of you being here today is – when students say “Miss- can I come back and be an alumni?” – there it is - the bar that you have all set , inspiring them to achieve and to stand where you now stand, helping to inspire the next generation.



When a student recently asked me who was the most successful student I have ever taught, I replied that I couldn't answer that, as how do you define success? Success is about your journey, the grit, determination and resilience in getting to where YOU want to be, and doing what makes YOU happy. That's where we want our young people to be - knowing that you write your own story and your success comes in many forms.

So once again - thank you for giving back, making a difference and sharing YOUR success stories - it makes me extremely proud and honoured to stand before you."



CLARA'S INCREDIBLE ACHIEVEMENTS

We are delighted to celebrate the achievements of one of our inspiring Sixth Form students, Clara, who has recently received a national award for community service through the Cadets. This recognition reflects her remarkable dedication to helping others and the positive impact she continues to make in the wider community.

Over the past 18 months, Clara has raised more than £1,800 for charity; £1,000 for Down's Syndrome UK and £800 to provide Christmas presents for children and staff on the children's ward at Addenbrooke's Hospital.

Her commitment to helping others doesn't stop there, and Clara also organised a successful bake sale in school to support our good causes. Her compassion, initiative and commitment to helping others make her a wonderful role model and a real credit to our school and we are incredibly proud of her achievements



Mrs E Mackrell, Sixth Form Coordinator

YEAR 9 OPTIONS WORKSHOPS



During form time and period 1 on Wednesday the 4th March, the year 9 students were delivered options preparation workshops by their tutors. This allowed them, as a form group, to go through what was involved in the process of picking their GCSE options and look at the different elements that should factor, and shouldn't factor, into their choices. Working within their form group allowed for discussions with their peers, and gave them opportunities to collate their opinions and collectively increase their understanding of what would be the best choices based on their strengths and interests.



SCHOOL CHESS COMPETITIONS



There was some serious competition last week as students took on one another in a number of chess games. These competitions took place from Tuesday lunchtime until Friday lunchtime. The sixth formers took part in some particularly heated games in the Common Room on Friday. There was a lot of frustration and critical thinking but ultimately a lot of fun was had.



MOTHER'S DAY IN THE CANTEEN

The canteen team made some lovely sweet treats, for students, on Friday to celebrate Mother's Day over the weekend. This included some gorgeous floral cupcakes, alongside some decorated cookies.

Happy Mother's Day to all!



YEAR 12 TRIP TO THE FREUD MUSEUM

On Friday 13th March, a group of Year 12 students from Social Science subjects visited the Freud Museum in Hampstead, London. Freud's house, which he moved into in 1938 after fleeing the Nazis in his home city of Vienna, is a beautiful building which still has his office and his famous couch in it. The museum also hosts exhibitions regularly. Students had a guided tour and a bespoke workshop on the history and lifetime's work of one of the most significant founding fathers of modern psychology.



Mrs C Brownjohn, Head of Social Sciences

NOTES FROM THE SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

Fearnhill has just come through a long, wet and cold winter. With this experience fresh in mind, School Council were asked to come up with suggestions on how we can improve the student experience during our winter months.

Incredibly, a suggestion raised by Lucy J in year 12 in our October meeting to build a covered outdoor pavilion had already been heard and was brought forward as the main

topic of the meeting. Students discussed with Mr Spencer the best way to provide for an outdoor covered seating area. Where should it go? One big one or lots of small ones? What would make you use it? What would stop you using it? How can we prevent these issues?

If students have any other suggestions on this topic please feel free to share them with your school council representative or talk directly to Mr Cordwell or Mr Spencer.

Mr T Cordwell, Student Voice



Key Takeaways from the meeting:

Make Winter Better

- A covered Pavilion will be built in the area between the maths block and the hard courts.
- Consider making sports hall and gym accessible
- -Open up the hall for a film on wet break.
- More activities in the Library e.g. new board games should be a constant process of student feedback.
- Consider opening up the interior courtyards with benches for student use.

AOB

- Be aware of a potential large grant for the development of the PE changing rooms in the next 5 - 10 years.
- The minibus to be cleaned
- New toilets to be installed this summer in the English and Humanities area.

DIGNIFY WORKSHOPS

Dignify is a UK-based youth programme that focuses on helping children and young people build healthy, respectful relationships, particularly in a digital world. A key part of its work is raising awareness about the impact of pornography and sexualised online content, while challenging harmful social norms such as misogyny and sexual objectification. Dignify aims to equip young people with the knowledge and confidence to make safe, positive choices in relationships, while influencing schools, communities, and policymakers to create a safer environment.

A selected group of students were chosen to become the first-ever Dignify Ambassadors. During the workshop, they explored key topics including healthy relationships, the importance of speaking to a trusted adult, and how society and online influences can shape attitudes and behaviour. Students were encouraged to think critically about these issues and their impact on young people in everyday life.

As part of the programme, the ambassadors worked collaboratively to develop a presentation, which they will later in an assembly. This provides an opportunity to share their learning, raise awareness, and inspire others to contribute to a safer, more respectful school community.

Miss A Wright, Inclusion Leader



ST PATRICKS DAY IN THE CANTEEN



St Patrick's Day was celebrated in the canteen on the 17th March. On offer were lucky clover topped cupcakes and cake slices with their own pots of gold at the end of the rainbow. It was unmistakable as to which holiday was being celebrated with the amount of green that adorned the display.



These were well enjoyed by the students and were a lovely touch from the canteen! Happy St Patricks Day to all that celebrate!



YEAR 7 TOTORO THEATRE TRIP



FEARNHILL SCHOOL

Headteacher – Mr T Spencer, BSc

Our ref: MSN/SCR

6th March 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Year 9 Theatre Visit – ‘The Hunger Games’ at Troubadour Canary Wharf “Ladies and gentlemen, let the 74th Hunger Games begin!”

The world of Panem comes to life on stage in the highly anticipated, world-premiere production of Suzanne Collins’ *The Hunger Games*. This stage adaptation is a gripping tale of survival, defiance, and the human spirit, set against a backdrop of a dystopian future.

As part of their **English and Drama** courses, students have the opportunity to visit the **Troubadour Canary Wharf Theatre, London** for a matinee performance on **Friday 12th June**.

This trip offers a unique opportunity for our students to explore a major new theatrical work in a state-of-the-art venue. For our **English** students, the production provides a live exploration of the novel’s themes of social inequality, media manipulation, and political rebellion. For our **Drama** students, the show is a masterclass in immersive set design, high-intensity performance, and experience a large-scale spectacle.

Trip Details

- **Transport:** We will travel to and from London via coach
- **Departure:** We will leave school at **midday**
- **Performance:** The matinee starts at **2pm**
- **Return:** We expect to return to school at approximately **7pm** (depending on traffic)
- **Cost:** The cost per student is **£41.00**
- **Additional Funds:** Students may wish to bring a small amount of money for **refreshments and souvenirs** inside the theatre

You can secure your child’s place by paying for the ticket either in full (£41.00) or in two monthly instalments of £20.50. Please note that places are limited and tickets will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. To secure a ticket, either the full payment or the first instalment (deposit) must be received by **Friday 20th March**.

As always, we want to ensure this trip is accessible to all students. If you would like to discuss payment confidentially or require assistance with the cost, please contact the [Finance Department](#). As this is a school trip, all students are expected to demonstrate exemplary behaviour at all times. The school reserves the right to withdraw a student from the trip if their behaviour prior to the visit or on the day is deemed unacceptable. In such circumstances, refunds may not be possible.

Yours faithfully,

English and Drama Departments

Icknield Way, Letchworth Garden City, Hertfordshire SG6 4BA

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



YEAR 8 HADESTOWN THEATRE TRIP



FEARNHILL SCHOOL

Headteacher – Mr T Spencer, BSc

Our ref: MSN/SCR

6th March 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Year 8 Theatre Visit – ‘Hadestown’ at the Lyric Theatre **“Way down Hadestown, way down under the ground...”**

Following its Grammy® and Tony Award®-winning success on Broadway, Anaïs Mitchell’s acclaimed musical *Hadestown* has made its long-awaited return to London. This production intertwines two mythic tales: young dreamers Orpheus and Eurydice, and King Hades and his wife Persephone.

As part of their **Drama, Music, and Performing Arts** courses, students have the opportunity to visit the **Lyric Theatre, London** for a matinee performance on **Thursday, 4th June 2026**.

This trip offers an opportunity for students to experience world-class theatre and live music. For our **Drama** students, the production is renowned for its “steampunk-meets-New-Orleans” aesthetic and sophisticated staging. For our **Music** students, the show provides a rare chance to see a Grammy-winning score performed by a live on-stage ensemble, blending New Orleans jazz with modern folk. It is a haunting and hopeful journey that explores the power of industry versus the power of art.

Trip Details

- **Transport:** We will travel to and from London via coach
- **Departure:** We will leave school at **midday**
- **Performance:** The matinee starts at **2:30pm**
- **Return:** We expect to return to school at approximately **7pm** (depending on traffic)
- **Cost:** The cost per student is **£49.50**
- **Additional Funds:** Students may wish to bring a small amount of money for **refreshments and souvenirs** inside the theatre

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GROWING EXCELLENCE EVERY DAY



YEAR 9 HUNGER GAMES THEATRE TRIP



FEARNHILL SCHOOL

Headteacher – Mr T Spencer, BSc

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English and Drama Departments

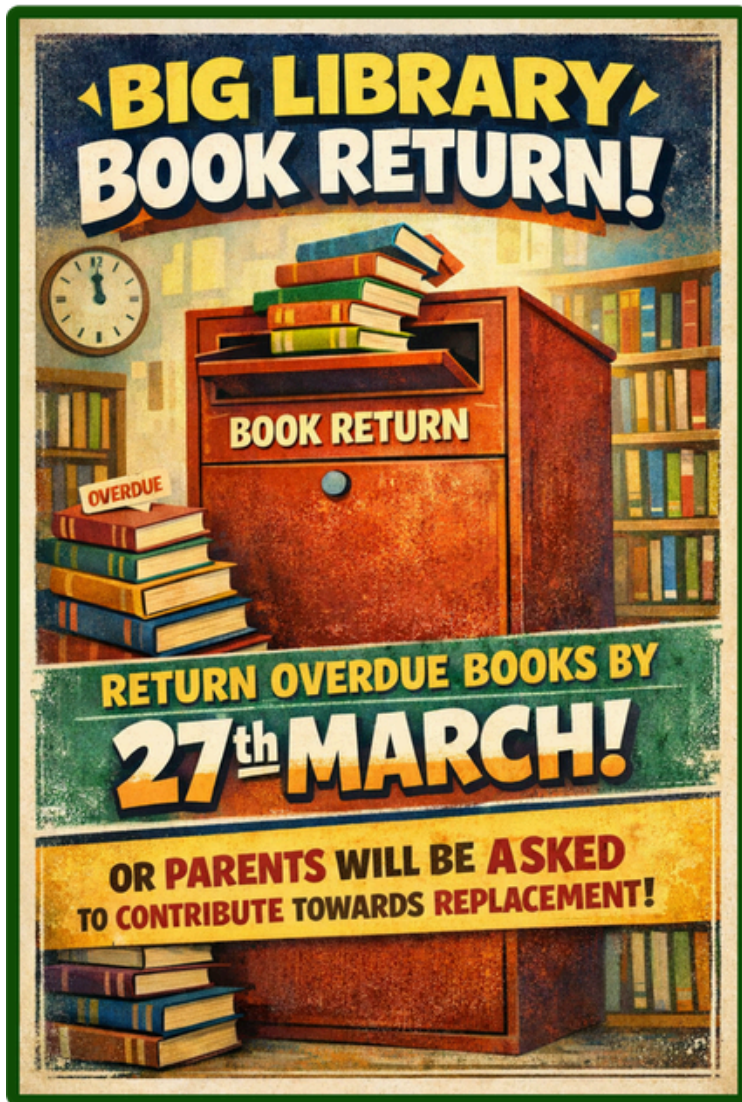
Icknield Way, Letchworth Garden City, Hertfordshire SG6 4BA

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



GROWING EXCELLENCE EVERY DAY





EASTER READING CHALLENGE

How well can you follow written instructions?

Sign up in the library before the holidays.
Get the instructions emailed to you,
collect a stand and skewer, some paint and felt tips.

Bring your completed task into school by 17th April

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

LIBRARY

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!).

Mrs Thurlby, Library & Literacy Assistant



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.



Hertfordshire Music Service

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- ▶ 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.



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Hertfordshire Music Service

HOMEWORK CLUB

HOMework WEEKLY PLANNER

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
DUE Today Bedrock Learning	DUE Today Sparx Science		DUE Today Sparx Maths	
HOMework CLUB Lunchtime 1.15-1.55pm Afterschool 3-4pm in I3	HOMework CLUB Lunchtime 1.15-1.55pm Afterschool 3-4pm in I3	HOMework CLUB Lunchtime 1.15-1.55pm Afterschool 3-4pm in I3	HOMework CLUB Lunchtime 1.15-1.55pm Afterschool 3-4pm in I3	HOMework CLUB Lunchtime 1.15-1.55pm Afterschool 3-4pm in I3

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Spring Term 2026

Monday 16 th - Friday 20 th February	Half Term
Monday 23 rd February	Year 11 and 13 Mock Exams Start
Tuesday 24 th February	Year 10 Parents Evening
Wednesday 11 th March	Year 8 HPV Vaccinations
Thursday 12 th March	Year 12 Parents Evening
Tuesday 24 th March	Year 12 Trip to UCAS
Friday 27 th March	End of Term

Summer Term 2026

Monday 13 th April	Term Starts for all Students
Monday 13 th April	Year 8 Assessment Week
Tuesday 14 th April	Year 7 Parents Evening
Monday 25 th - Friday 29 th May	Half Term
Monday 1 st June	Year 12 Mock Exams Start
Thursday 4 th June	Year 12 University of Hertfordshire Trip
Monday 8 th June	Year 7 Assessment Week
Monday 29 th June	Year 12 UCAS Day
Monday 6 th July	INSET Day - School closed to students
Thursday 23 rd July	End of 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.

SOCIAL MEDIA

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

Enjoy Water Safely 



RLSS UK National Pool Lifeguard Qualification

Become an everyday hero, work part-time around your studies by attending the Royal Lifesaving Society UK's National Pool Lifeguard Qualification (NPLQ)

Tuesday 7th to Sunday 12th April 2026 8am-5pm daily for £325.00
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From this one course, you can attain the following qualifications:
NPLQ Generation 10 / Management of Anaphylaxis / First Aid at Work / AED Operator, in addition to UCAS points!

If you are a competent and capable swimmer over 16 - this is the one for you!

Interested?

To book your place email Rob - Course Trainer
rob@inspiredlearninggroup.co.uk

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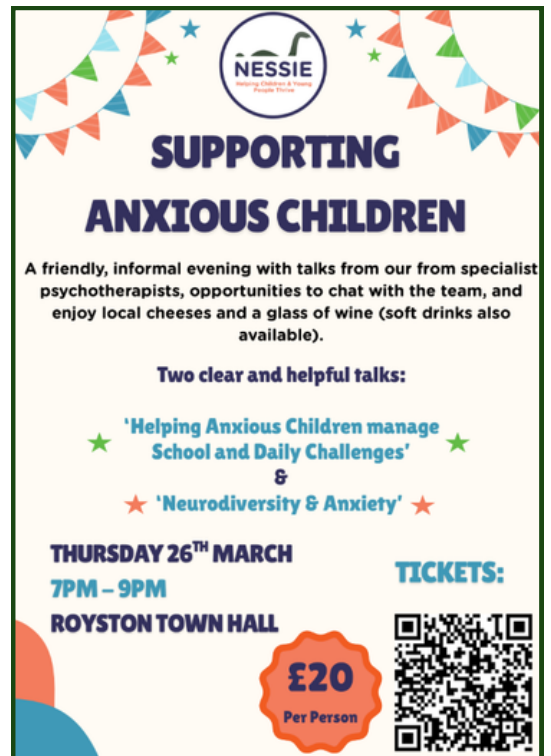
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SUPPORTING ANXIOUS CHILDREN

A friendly, informal evening with talks from our from specialist psychotherapists, opportunities to chat with the team, and enjoy local cheeses and a glass of wine (soft drinks also available).

Two clear and helpful talks:

- 'Helping Anxious Children manage School and Daily Challenges'
- &
- 'Neurodiversity & Anxiety'

THURSDAY 26TH MARCH
7PM - 9PM
ROYSTON TOWN HALL

TICKETS:

£20
Per Person



EXTERNAL INFORMATION

