



MR SPENCER'S UPDATE:

Two weeks ago we received a phone call to inform us that Ofsted would be inspecting the school the following two days (21st & 22nd April). Ofsted inspections are high stakes and intensive assessments of a school's provision. Five inspectors reviewed important aspects of school life including teaching, curriculum, inclusion, sixth form, leadership, governance, personal development, wellbeing, behaviour, attendance and achievement.

What did they find?

We are not allowed to share the report with you, or the specific 'grades' given until Ofsted have completed the quality assurance process. However, there were themes that came through clearly. Inspectors spoke to lots of children in lessons and during breaks, they spoke with staff and reviewed responses to the Parent View survey. Inspectors also spent lots of time in lessons and reviewing safeguarding documentation. It was their view that the vast majority of students feel happy and safe at Fearnhill. Behaviour in lessons and around the school was calm and well managed, students make good progress in lessons and over time. Students get lots of opportunities for a broader, holistic education. Ofsted agreed with our assessment that attendance needs to improve and recognised the work we have been doing in the last year to make attendance better.

What next?

As soon as the report is published I will share it with you. I am extremely proud of the way students and staff responded to the pressure of inspection and showed so much of what is excellent about Fearnhill. I look forward to reading the report and celebrating external recognition of our school.

Mr Tim Spencer, Headteacher

YEAR 13 EPQ PRESENTATIONS

On Thursday lunchtime Year 13 students presented their Extended Project Qualification work in H5. The projects ranged from a film, to handmade jewellery and issues of car safety. They had put in a lot of work and it was an opportunity for staff and students to find out about the processes of writing and creating that had gone into each piece. The EPQ is worth 28 UCAS points (equivalent to half an A level) and is highly valued by universities for developing independent research and study skills.

Mrs C Brownjohn, Head of Social Sciences



PERFORMING ARTS SHOWCASE

Our spectacular performing arts BTEC class recently held a fabulous showcase, in which they performed a wide variety of short scenes from numerous plays, musicals, and much more. The compilation had amazing feedback, with audience members stating everyone exceeded their expectations through masterful acting, and Mr Marlow expressing how it was "probably the best thing he's seen produced by Fearnhill".

Frankie R (Year 12) stated it was a "great experience, and it was fun to be on stage again embodying characters from different pieces of work". Nuqi J (year 12) stated she enjoyed the freedom of the performance, and being able to work with a wide variety of people, and learning their interests. Furthermore, our Year 12s have gone above and beyond, by performing Commedia Del Arte's, "A servant of two masters" to many Year 9 classes who are studying the text at the moment. We hope to inspire them with our performances to create comical characters and continue studying performing arts at sixth form.

We're extremely proud of our Performing Arts class, and we have really seen them grow over the years. The school community is very excited to see what they have planned for their next productions! Great job guys!

Mrs H Landsman, Lead Teacher Music

CAMBRIDGE CENTRAL MOSQUE TRIP

Mosque Trip 29th April 2026

‘Today we went to the Cambridge Central Mosque, the first eco-mosque built in Europe. We travelled by minibus with Mr. Turner which was definitely something! (thank you Mr. Turner for coming with us).

The Mosque was beautiful and was a really eye opening experience to the difference in beliefs and opinions. We went inside following and respecting their rules. We saw a number of people praying and we watched them which put our learning into perspective’. Cayden Yr 10

Year 10 PRE students went to Cambridge Mosque to experience what goes on inside of a religious building. We were given a guided tour which allowed us to understand how and why certain parts of the building are as they are.

I am very proud of the students and how respectful they were of the beautiful building.

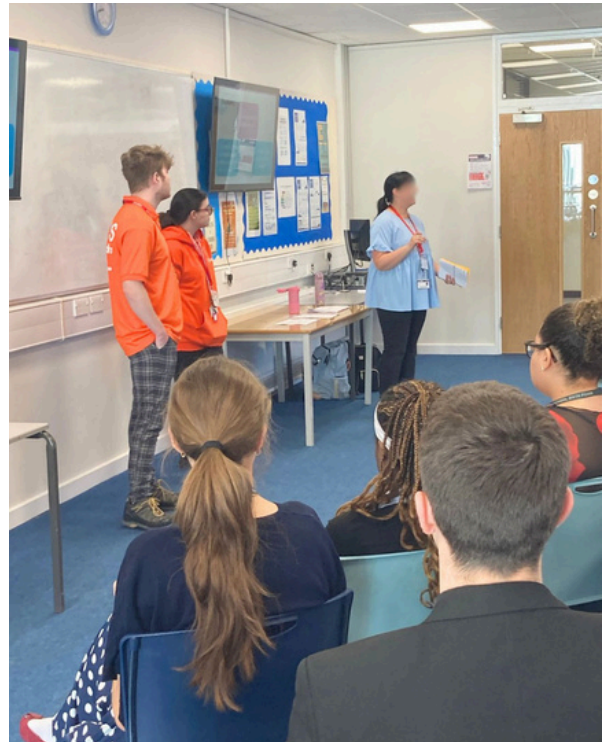
Mrs L Chilton, Head of Humanities



YEAR 12 UNIVERSITY OF HERTS EVENT

On the 30th April, Year 12 took part in an engaging session led by representatives from the University of Hertfordshire. They explored key aspects of university life and student finance, and encouraged students to reflect on their future plans.

They also gave an insight into what to expect at the upcoming Taster Day in June and how students can make the most of the day.



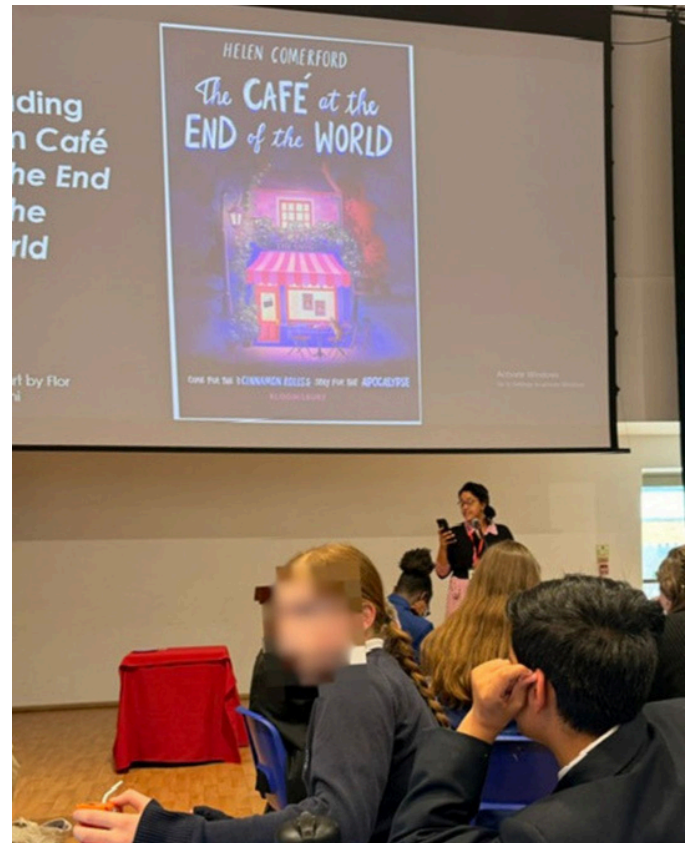
Mrs E Mackrell, Sixth Form Co-ordinator

NORTH HERTS SCHOOL LIBRARIES' BOOK AWARDS

On the 28th April, 9 students went to the North Herts School libraries' book awards at Saint John Henry Newman in Stevenage. The students discussed the short listed books with students from 9 other local schools and then voted for their favourite.

The Winners were Last Dragon on Mars in the 11+ group and Wyrddwood for the YA group.

Then author, Helen Comerford, talked to students about writing a book and getting it published before answering questions.



Mrs R Thurlby, Library Leader

YEAR 10 CRICKET FIXTURE

On Thursday 30th April, Year 10 played a cricket match, away, against St Christopher School. Our players included, Joel S, Thomas H, Josh B, Braeden M, Sam P, Oliver G and James L. As well as a massive thanks to the following 3 students for helping out and playing, Niahaan T, Charlie S and Louie M.

Unfortunately it was a narrow defeat but there were excellent all round performances by the Fearnhill lads.

Quality technique and impressive bowling numbers by Joel S and Thomas H. Both young men co-captained the side superbly well. Others to impress were Louie M with ball in hand and Charlie S with the bat.

Player of the Match was Joel S.

We are incredibly proud of all of our players in Thursday's match.

Mr S Manley, PE Teacher

A SHOUT OUT TO TORI IN 10H

We are so proud of Tori in 10H who has recently had a massive haircut and donated it to the Little Princess Trust.

The Little Princess Trust is a UK based charity that provides free, real-hair wigs to children and young people up to age 24 who have lost their hair due to cancer treatment or other conditions. The work that the Little Princess Trust do is incredibly important and it is donations from people like Tori that make it possible for them to continue doing what they do.



Tori has said 'I decided to cut my hair to donate to the Little Princess Trust. I am happy that I get to help children with cancer and alopecia, and I am enjoying my short hair!'

A massive well done to Tori! This isn't a small thing to do and her donation will make the world of difference to someone that needs it!

FOR THE ATTENTION OF YEAR 10 AND 11 PARENTS

North Hertfordshire College is pleased to announce our open afternoon at Springboard Letchworth which will be held on Thursday 14th May 2026 3pm – 5pm at our premises. This is an opportunity for professionals, parents, and prospective students to meet the team and find out more about the Springboard programme.

Please note our address for this event will be:

**Springboard
Letchworth Town Hall,
Broadway,
Letchworth Garden City,
Hertfordshire,
SG6 3BX**

The nearest car park is Morrison's where you can park for free for three hours.

Springboard is a full-time personalised course which provides students with the support, knowledge, skills and confidence to become more independent, make informed decisions and ultimately to progress into mainstream college and work. The course is delivered in self-contained teaching centres in Watford and Letchworth.

Springboard is for young people aged 16 and over who require additional support before progressing to a cross college vocational course or employment. Many of our students have a diagnosis or traits of autism. Many have associated emotional and mental health needs that require specialist and bespoke support before they can move on and make a successful transition to adulthood. We do also consider 15-year-olds but only if they have a EHCP.

FOR THE ATTENTION OF YEAR 10 AND 11 PARENTS

Our students study Employability, Functional Skills Maths and English from E3 to Level 2, Creative Arts (Drama) Therapy, Life Skills, Personal Development and Wellbeing, Vocational Tasters in Art, Cooking and First Aid, Enrichment, and complete 34 hours of work experience in their vocational area of interest. We support our students to transition into cross college vocational courses, supported internships or apprenticeships or employment by helping them to discover what they want to do after Springboard, arranging taster sessions and supporting them at interviews. Students need to meet our assessment criteria in order to access the provision although individual needs are always considered and decisions are made on a case by case basis and subject to funding being approved by the Local Authority.

If you would like to attend please RSVP to Mickaela Windsor mwindsor@nhc.ac.uk or Rebecca Lewis rebecca.lewis@nhc.ac.uk. Or call us on 07943 863730.

To help us to manage numbers we would appreciate a confirmation from you as to what time you are planning to attend.

Please forward this email to any students, parents or professional contacts who may be interested in attending.

If you are unable to attend but would like to find out more about our provision, we would be happy to meet with you on an individual basis. Please email Mickaela or Rebecca at the above emails and we can arrange for you to come in and see us. Alternatively, we can come to your setting to meet with you any groups of students and parents that you believe would benefit from Springboard.



TALK & LISTEN,
BE THERE,
FEEL CONNECTED



DO WHAT YOU CAN,
ENJOY WHAT YOU DO,
MOVE YOUR HOOD



REMEMBER
THE SIMPLE
THINGS THAT
GIVE YOU JOY



EMBRACE NEW
EXPERIENCES,
SEE OPPORTUNITIES,
SURPRISE YOURSELF



Your time,
your words,
your presence



FEARNHILL
SCHOOL

Exam Wellbeing



HEALTH FOR TEENS

Health for Teens is a website with links to videos, blogs and advice about how to manage exams.



[LINK](#)



MIND

Understanding exam stress & tips for coping with exam stress.

[LINK](#)



COPING WITH EXAM PRESSURE - A GUIDE FOR STUDENTS

How to feel more confident about exams and assessments.

How to best plan your revision.

How to control physical reactions to anxiety.



YOUNG MINDS

1. Coping with exam pressure
 2. How to deal with exam stress
 3. Revision tips
 4. Dealing with disappointment on results day
 5. Get help now
- Guide for parents**



SANDBOX

Sandbox offers 1-1 online therapy and a digital course created by psychologists for young people.



THE MIX
Essential support for under 25s

THE MIX

LifeSkills: Free Online Support to Help You Cope with Anxiety

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



How to help your child fall in love with reading!

Ready to spark a lifelong passion for reading in your child? Discover simple, powerful ways to make reading a cherished family activity that boosts their happiness, well-being, and success!

Proud to support
The National Year
of Reading 2026.



**GO
ALL
IN.**

Your step-by-step guide to reading fun!

Making reading a daily habit can be easy and incredibly rewarding. Follow these simple steps to start your family's reading adventure today!

1. Read aloud daily

Spend around 20 minutes reading to your child every day. This simple act shows them that reading is a delight and, importantly, it shows them reading is 'what we do' as a family.

2. Give them free choice

Let your child pick the books! Visiting a library or bookshop together and allowing them to choose what they want to read, or what you read to them, gives them a sense of control and makes reading more exciting.

3. Offer lots of variety

Provide a wide range of reading materials, from books and graphic novels to magazines to comics. Seeing characters and situations they can relate to makes reading more engaging.

4. Create a reading routine

Set aside a special time for reading each day. Turning off screens helps create a calm, focused environment for you and your child to connect and to escape into a story together.

5. Make it fun!

Use different voices for characters and get cozy during story time. The goal is pleasure, not pressure. Show them reading is a treat, not a chore!

6. Connect school reading to home

Ask your child about what they're reading at school and find ways to build on it at home. If they're exploring a certain genre or theme in class, look for books or activities that match! This not only reinforces their learning but also shows them how reading can connect to the world around them in a fun and meaningful way.



Why it works: the magic of reading together

The research is clear: reading for pleasure has a huge positive impact on children's lives! It is the single biggest indicator of a child's future academic success.

When you read to your child, you are not just sharing a story; you are building their vocabulary, improving their language skills, and boosting their chances of becoming a confident, independent reader. Studies show that children who are read to daily are far more likely to read on their own. This shared time also reduces stress, strengthens your bond, and improves well-being for both of you!



Real stories from families like yours!

See what a difference reading together has made for other parents and their children!

“It's amazing how reading together can improve both parent and child's mood.”

Jim, dad to E (9) and S (5)

“Since reading more her screen time has gone down, she is a lot calmer, seems more content and her moods and sleep have improved. She is really enjoying our reading time together.”

Mum to an 8-year-old girl

“My son's attitude to reading is definitely improving and he even talked about reading a chapter on his own today which is unheard of!”

Mum to a 10-year-old boy

“I think Mum is really happy when she reads to me because she just always has a smile on her face...it makes me feel really happy because she's enjoying it and I'm enjoying it.”

Girl, age 9

“We now make sure that we have this time as we both enjoy it and it is a great part of our relationship!!”

Marco, dad to J (8)

“The arguing has stopped, or at least slowed right down, and he is just doing things when he is asked... J made his bed, got dressed and brushed his teeth this morning, all without being asked. A first?! ”

Jack, dad to J (4)

For more reading inspiration, go to www.collins.co.uk/BookSquadParents

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

Start your musical journey today →

Making Music Improving Lives

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.



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01438 844851
hertsmusicservice.org.uk

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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

LUTON MADE: VAUXHALL

The Exhibition

Visit the new temporary Vauxhall exhibition to learn more about Vauxhall Motors history in Luton.

Opening weekend events:

Family fun day
Saturday, 2nd May 2026

Classic car day
Sunday, 3rd May 2026

Stockwood Discovery Centre
London Rd, Luton LU1 4LX

2nd May - 28th June 2026

©Luton News via Culture trust archives
@Lutonmade_vauxhall | lutonmade@luton.gov.uk

School Group Camping
Church Farm Ardeley & Aldenham Country Park
Now taking bookings for 2026

Ideal for end-of-year trips, class camps, youth groups & Duke of Edinburgh expeditions
Private camping areas with campfires allowed

Why our farms?

- Less than an hour from London
- Peaceful farm & country park - a proper break from the city
- Seasonal farm activities available to book*

Accommodation Options

- Camping pitches - bring your own tents
- Bell tents, cabins & glamping available (no tents needed)
- Campfires & private group camping areas*

Early booking recommended - limited group availability

ALDENHAM & CHURCH FARM
A Free Range Experience

www.aldenhamcountrypark.co.uk
info@aldenhamcountrypark.co.uk
0208 953 9602

www.churchfarmardeley.co.uk
info@churchfarmardeley.co.uk
01438 861821

One day they'll stand on their own two feet. We just help them stand **TALL first**

Dance, drama and singing classes that help 4-18yrs grow in confidence, creativity and self-belief.

Saturdays 9am-12pm

St Christopher's School, Letchworth

BOOK A TASTER

www.theatretrein.co.uk/lethworth

THEATRE DANCE ACT SING

THEATRE DANCE ACT SING