



# Sponne School

*Inspiring Achievement*



## **Sponne Sixth Form “Lockdown” Newsletter**

Welcome to the first edition of our “Lockdown” Newsletter, we hope that you are all keeping safe and well. In these, the strangest of times, many of the institutions who provide support for schools have adapted to lockdown by delivering online resources, webinars and presentations, a selection of which we have included below.

We will continue to provide support for our students and remain available during normal school hours should you wish to contact us.

Take care and stay safe.

The Sixth Form Team  
ss.sixthformteam@sponne.org.uk

### **Year 12 Shoutouts**

*Teachers have been asked to nominate one student from each class for a fortnightly shoutout based on their engagement and communication during this lockdown period. Names were randomly picked to win an Amazon voucher.*

**Winners - 20th April - 1st May:** Hollie Gallant & Jack Phillips

**Winners - 4th May - 15th May:** Naomi Cartwright & Lauren Cooke

## Lessons from Auschwitz - Trip to Poland

The Holocaust Educational Trust was set up in 1988 with the aim of educating young people of the importance of the Holocaust. Four students were chosen to represent Sponne and were accompanied by Mrs Ramsden to engage in the inspirational Lessons from Auschwitz project. An informative afternoon in Nottingham enabled us to acquire valuable insights into the history of the Holocaust, meet other participants and preparation to undertake a visit to one of the death camps in Poland. This included listening to Steven Frank MBE tell his fascinating and poignant holocaust survival story (reminding us all of the power of laughter in such times of extreme adversity). On the 5th March we flew into Krakow. We met our expert educators, who guided us around the town of Oswiecim (this was Auschwitz original name before the Nazis took control of the area). Here we learnt about the everyday normality of pre-war Jewish life and disturbingly how this was so easily decimated once the Nazis invaded and neighbour turned on neighbour.



Auschwitz 1 was the first of over 30 camps created by the Nazis in the surrounding area, with only two visible today. Each group was assigned a specialist guide who escorted us around both remaining camps. Walking through the infamous gates bearing the inscription "Arbeit Macht Frei" you could not help but feel the magnitude of the pain and suffering seeped into the very soil we stood upon. Auschwitz 1 is now a museum showcasing different exhibitions of the many aspects of daily life in the camps. One memorable exhibit displayed the victim's hair (which was spun into carpets or rugs), small perfectly formed children's shoes, glasses and a myriad of

everyday objects which we take for granted representing our humanity and ripped from inmates as they entered the gates. Other valuable items that had been stolen from the inmates on their arrival into the camp. The book of names lists over 4 million names and occupations of those murdered in the Holocaust. To see every name carefully listed in such a book helped us to start to appreciate the momentous weight of loss that affects Europe to this day and know that the list doesn't even scratch the surface in terms of the numbers of lives that were destroyed.

Auschwitz-Birkenau has been kept just as it was when it was liberated. We walked along the train tracks contemplating thousands of men, women and children were brought to their death, following in the footsteps that every new prisoner would have taken. That evening we took part in a reflective service led by a Jewish leader and we laid memorial candles in respect, at a monument created by the Russians with inscriptions of prayers, in almost every language. In the darkness we were able to resonate on what we had heard and witnessed. The biting cold (through our thick coats) evoked empathy for those clad in paper-thin striped pyjamas and the conditions and anguish they valiantly endured. It is difficult to encapsulate this experience but every single one of us will remember this until our dying day.





“As I walked around Auschwitz, I had the stories and accounts I had heard from the seminars in my head and this made the experience that more powerful and real”.

“When at Auschwitz I felt that I did not want to touch anything. This was for two reasons. Auschwitz was a monument that was being observed but also the horror of knowing what had happened to the people who had been there”.



“The book of names was incredibly emotional to see because it didn’t even include all of the people killed as millions of names were never discovered or documented knowing that someone in my family had been here but for such extremely different reasons was difficult to process as we were walking through such a deeply haunting place”.



“The most reflective aspect that brought everything together was the ceremony that we were part of at Birkenau. The prayer was an opportunity for me to gather the full extent of the atrocities but the togetherness of the people representing the Holocaust Educational Trust”.



Thank you to Jen Brown, Freya Davies, Charlotte Evans and Jess White for their contributions

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## **THE LEGAL APPRENTICE**

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During my first year at Sixth Form, I participated in a Law competition with three of my friends. The competition required us to investigate different scenarios and use our knowledge of

Law to decide a fair and reasonable outcome for the individuals involved. Some of the tasks were challenging and encouraged us to explore further principles of Law. Fortunately, by attending Law School Junior run by Oliver Lowe, we had a good understanding of the main aspects of Law. Before joining the club and taking part in the competition, I wasn't really interested in this subject area and felt it wouldn't help me with my future aspirations. Thankfully, I decided to give the club a go and have really enjoyed attending, so when my friend suggested competing in the competition, I jumped at the chance!

I have enjoyed the challenges and the experiences I have acquired by attending the club and competing in the challenges set. My confidence in expressing my ideas has grown and strengthened and I have been able to experience a whole new subject, which is not normally taught at Sixth Form. I am looking forward to being able to finish the competition once we are back in school. I would thoroughly recommend for the new Sixth Formers, to give the Law School Junior a try!

Abigail Tonkinson

### **University of Cambridge visit**

I was lucky enough to be selected for a trip to Pembroke College, in the University of Cambridge on the 9th of March. We attended several meetings (with tea and biscuits!), where a helpful admissions officer talked through the application process and answered our questions. She gave us template personal statement handouts that were extremely useful and provided a clear idea of the specificity needed to get into such a prestigious university. One of my concerns was whether it would be possible to take a gap year to do another required A level for a course (as I don't take maths), and she answered that it was possible to get in after deferred study as long as I got the entry requirements.

After this session we were introduced to three students who talked about their subjects and then took us on a tour of the premise, ate in the lunch hall and did a Q+A. This really gave us a feel for the college and I found the overall experience very informative.

Lucy Rendell

### **Career guidance on Google Classroom**

We are currently building a database of subject specific careers information on Google Classroom. Topics covered include construction and engineering, health and associated professions, STEM, CV writing and interview tips and general information from UCAS and the National Careers Service. We continue to develop this database as and when new information becomes available so it is worth checking in periodically to see what is there. Alternatively, contact us for specific career related content and we will look to include it.



### **Winchester University virtual presentation**

On Thursday 7th May we held a Q&A session with Winchester University about university finances and budgeting. Ruth Boyce from the university held a free virtual presentation with a number of Year 13 students via Microsoft Teams, with time at the end for any specific questions. General feedback from students said that they found it very informative and helpful.

## **Support for Year 13 in preparing for university**

Colette Jeffrey, teacher of BA Graphic Communication at Birmingham City University, has offered her support to Year 13 students in preparing for university and their HE courses. She can answer any questions students may have about going to university, being a student in higher education, what study days and staff will be like and can make suggestions for what students could do to prepare. In addition to her own specialist subject, through colleagues at Birmingham she can also offer support in Architecture, Psychology, all the design courses plus many more. She is also an external examiner at the University of Reading so can offer the same provision to students.

Questions can be submitted via email to the Sixth Form Team.

## **Online learning platforms**

In this difficult time of uncertainty, finding the focus and motivation to study at home can be difficult. However, there are a number of online resources which will help to encourage students and keep them learning until they return to school or head off to university.



[FutureLearn](#) has over 1000 courses students can work through at their own pace from flexible short courses to degree programmes.

[OpenLearn](#) from the Open University also has over 900 free courses currently available to get students ready for full time study at university.

Comfortable environment



Regular emails are being sent to students with links to new and existing courses on these and other platforms.



## **Virtual work experience from Speakers for Schools**

July would have seen all Year 12 students getting a real taste of experience in the workplace. Unfortunately, that has been put on hold this year, however, Speakers for Schools have launched a Virtual Work Experience programme which offers virtual placements with such prestigious companies as Cisco and Industrial Light & Magic. Current opportunities have been uploaded to the Work-Related Learning drive on Google and are updated as and when new placements become available.

## **Free mock digital interviews for students**

Capgemini (one of the CECs Cornerstone Employers) have created a free mock digital interview for students. As you would expect right now more than ever, Digital Interviews are the norm for at least the initial stages of recruitment so this is a chance for the students to check it out and see what it's like. Students will be given written feedback or telephone feedback if preferred.



[Capgemini Digital Interviews](#)

The link to sign up is listed above and if students have any further questions about the process or safeguarding when you click on the link there is a phone number and an email address to contact.

## **Virtual Apprenticeship Support and Knowledge (ASK) Programme**

The ASK programme offers a wide range of online support for students following the apprenticeship route and access to their Virtual Assembly Presentations and Employability Workshops focussing on Apprenticeships is now available.



### **Apprenticeship Resources to Explore From Home**

ASK has created a full range of resources to help support parents through these unprecedented times.

Parents can access current and past editions of their specialist Parents' Pack, filled with the latest advice and guidance, supported by the National Apprenticeship Service.

Coming soon is their Parents' Activity Pack which focuses on activities, interviews with employers and ideas on how to engage in discussions about apprenticeships at home.

### **Parents' Pack May 2020**

The latest apprenticeship information & advice for parents, supported by the National Apprenticeship Service. The new May Parents' Pack is here and includes information on mental health and wellbeing, understanding buzz words and how to link them to your strengths, CV expectations, employers top tips for applicants and much more!

[Parent's Pack May 2020](#)

## **UCAS - Virtual Open Days**

Even though you currently cannot visit university campus sites in person, you might be able to attend a virtual open day at a university of college to find out more about them them click here:



[Virtual UCAS Open Days](#)



## **Success at Schools career guidance for parents**

With the support of sponsor JP Morgan, Success at Schools have created a guide to help parents and carers steer their children through the confusing world of career choices. From university and apprenticeships to work experience and gap years, their guide has it all.

The full guide will be out next academic year but they have shared a preview version to help you as lockdown continues.

To access the eBook, follow the link: [Success at School career guide](#)

**inspiring the future** are offering free facilitated interactive 'Careers Chat' sessions. Teachers and volunteers have played an integral role in the development of these sessions via focus groups and feedback. The sessions will last approximately 40 minutes and will enable students to hear from 3 different volunteers, take part in quizzes and ask their questions. Sessions will be delivered by



**Inspiring the Future** volunteers and will be tailored to your year group. This activity will help to broaden horizons by introducing students to a range of volunteers from different jobs and sectors and help to motivate and inspire students by showing how what they are learning links to the wider world.

Please email [jelliott@sponne.org.uk](mailto:jelliott@sponne.org.uk) if you would like to take advantage of this opportunity.



## **University of Law**

### **Streetlaw**

University of Law is delighted to be able to share with you their first remote Streetlaw presentation on Sexting & the Law. Recorded by current ULaw Nottingham students, the session covers the laws around sexting and the impact these have for young people. The recording for the presentation can be accessed using the link below and for the best experience should be copied and pasted into Chrome or Firefox before viewing;

<https://eu.bbcollab.com/recording/dfc2e80ffcff4e39bf933694a6926151>

### **Upcoming events**

In addition to virtual workshops, ULaw has a number of live events running over the coming weeks that you can sign up to individually. Details and bookings can be made here:

<https://www.law.ac.uk/events/booking/>

### **Lockdown by Lucy Rendell**

In lockdown, I've talked to my neighbours, FaceTimed family members with quizzes, dyed and cut my parents hair and made friends with people I wouldn't have even come across. Despite it being a horrible situation, global pandemics have a beautiful way of bringing people together - albeit two metres apart.

Thank you all for your continued support.

The Sixth Form Team.