



TERM 2 NEWSLETTER - 2023

SPONNE NEWS

The official newsletter of Sponne School

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!



Y7&8 Futsal



Y7&8 Futsal Squad Scores Big and Qualifies for District Finals!

On the night of November 7th, our A squad donned their new red girls' kits and secured their spot in the District Finals! Congratulations to our players of the night,

Emily, Tigs, Naiara and Evie-Rose, who truly shone on the field. Additionally, we would like to thank Gabe for his top-notch refereeing skills.

In This Issue:

Sports News

- Cross Country
- Year 7 & 8 Futsal
- KS3/4 District Boccia

Music News

- Last Post Performance
- Remembrance Day

Other News

- Accelerated Reader

... And more!

Ensuring Students' Safe Collection by Parents

Please ensure that arrangements are made for your child's timely collection from the Learning Resource Center (LRC). We have had a few instances where students are still in the LRC after 4:30 pm, and our reception team have had to contact parents.

Follow us on social media to stay up to date with latest news



[SponneSchool](#)



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Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to our second newsletter of the year and our special Christmas edition. This term has flown by and it is extraordinary to think that if your child is in Year 7 they have now completed a third of their first year at Sponne whilst our Year 11 students are almost half way to the start of their GCSE examinations. I am tremendously proud of the way in which the majority of our students have engaged with their learning so far this year.

Despite the festive season seeming to have rushed towards us, lots has happened this term and it has been particularly busy for our musicians who have had a number of engagements in the past few weeks in addition to our usual fantastic Christmas concert. For the first time in many years I was unable to attend as my wife was playing her flute at a concert in Northampton but I am aware that the standard

of playing and singing was absolutely amazing and I'd like to thank them and you, as parents, for all that happens behind the scenes to enable these events to take place (as well as my music staff!).

In addition, highlights for me this term have been the support from our students for Children in Need, raising more than £1000. Thanks also to members of our sixth form led by Emily Akrill and Josie Ormond for raising more than £400 for the Movember charity.

Our Year 11 students have now completed their mock exams and have been receiving feedback regarding their performance. Their approach and attitude has been outstanding and we look forward to their continued positive commitment in the New Year as we help them to prepare for their final exams. Please do let us know if there is more we can do to support your son/daughter during this time.

We are very sorry to be saying goodbye to a few colleagues who are leaving us at Christmas. We wish Miss Whitmore and Mrs Webster the very best for their future and look forward to welcoming Miss Samples and Mrs Bodily in January.

Can I take this opportunity to wish you a very happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.

Iain Massey

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Iain Massey'.

Headteacher

Parking outside of school

Please park considerately and legally outside of school. We have had a few incidents recently where our neighbours' driveways have been blocked and issues with cars being parked too close to the pedestrian crossing. You **MUST NOT** park on the crossing or in the area covered by the zig-zag lines.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Music News

Remembrance Day

Sponne school students observed a minute of silence for Remembrance Day. Some students came to school in service uniform to mark the occasion. Sponne musicians Michael Ward, Katie Skey and Emily Underwood performed the Last Post at Sponne and local primary schools.



Sponne Musicians Festive Music Performances

It has been an exceptionally busy couple of weeks for Sponne musicians. On 8th December the 'Christmas Band' played Carols at Towcester Farmers market collecting donations for the Towcester food bank. Just over £83 was raised in the 45 minutes of playing. This was followed by a much appreciated festive performance for the residents of Malthouse court. On Sunday 17th December the senior and chamber choirs and A level soloists performed in a concert in Bicester as a joint fundraising venture with the Church of the Immaculate Conception. In total over £800 was raised by the event. On Tuesday 19th December we held our Christmas Concert in the school hall showcasing all the Sponne music enhancement groups. Well done to all participating musicians for an excellent performance. Wednesday 20th saw the annual Carol Service in St Lawrence Church. The service was a mixture of readings and music with all of yr 7 in attendance. Well done to all those who took part. On Thursday 21st December the Christmas band and chamber choir represented the school at a festive engagement at One Angel Square for NCC. Huge thanks and well done to all our talented Sponne musicians for being fantastic ambassadors for the school.





Sponne PE want to hear from You

pestudentachievements@sponne.org.uk

Let's Celebrate

Sponne PE know many of our students compete in a variety of sports outside of the school environment, whether that's Martial Arts, Gymnastics, Dance or Horse Riding we want to hear from our proud parents.

Please scan the below QR code to provide us with the information of your child's success, so we can share and celebrate with you.



Sports News

KS3/4 SEND District Boccia Competition



On Friday 8th December we hosted the KS3/4 SEND District Boccia competition. Our performers were wonderful, played fantastically applying skill and tactics and were so supportive of each other it made our hearts sing!

The Leaders did a fantastic job officiating and keeping things fair and in order!

Well done to EWS who won gold. Sponne picked up silver, bronze and 4th! Both schools have qualified for the next round in the new year.



Other Sports News

Sponne Equestrian

Congratulations to our equestrian teams on their results this weekend competing in the Bloxham school Eventer Challenge at Aston Le Walls.

The team finished 2nd and 4th in the 85cm with lots of individual placing. They have now qualified for the championships in February.



Other Sports News

Cross Country

It was so lovely to see everyone on the 9th November, and what a glorious day for Cross Country! We saw a rainbow and then the sun came out to warm our bones! Some fantastic individual results by the children but even more special was seeing the exceptional displays of perseverance and the cheering and encouragement shown to all!

Congratulations to Nicholas Hawksmoor who were our overall winning school.



District Cross Country

The Sponne cross country team competed in the annual district cross country championship held at a muddy, hilly course at Courtenhall Estate and did themselves proud!

In the Year 7 girls race, Hannah Armson and Naiara Lopes Oliveira had a tight tussle with only a few metres separating the two girls, with Hannah eventually finishing in 7th, with Naiara just behind in 8th. There was a similar situation in the Year 7 boys race with Joseph Boyle just pipping Harry Boyle, as the boys finished in 4th and 5th positions.

In the U15 boys race (Year 8 and Year 9), Sponne claimed two medals as Edward Oscroft finished in silver with Charlie Gercs just behind in bronze. The U15 girls races saw Tadata Chesney race to an outstanding bronze medal against older runners, with Orna Lett just behind in 4th position.

Well done to all that took part. These athletes, together with others, will now go on to represent the district at the County cross country championships in January.

U13 Futsal

There was a superb team performance from our U13 futsal squad, who played a district event at CCS on Monday 4th December. It was a narrow loss to the hosts in an end to end game, plus a dominating 2 - 0 win against EWS.



4 - 3 Loss VS CSS



Leo B
Ethan B
Rhys R

2 - 0 Win vs EWS S



Jorge H
Rhys R

Player of the Tournament



Harry I



U13s Football - EFL Utility Cup



We had an awesome day on 8th November, at Fairfield Football hub, MK. The girls played their hearts out on a rather grey and drizzly day. Epic saves from Emily, Tigs and Sophie.

Goals Scored

Holly: 8
Evie-Rose: 2
Hannah: 1

Players players are: Holly & Evie-Rose
Coaches players are: Annabelle & Naiara
A team were 3rd & B team were 6th

Well done to all involved!



Boys Football (and Futsal) Terms 1 & 2: 2023/24

We've had a busy fourteen weeks of after school club sessions (plus fixtures), with lots more planned in January and beyond! Our football sessions are inclusive, and "for all"; it has been fantastic to see increased numbers attending sessions, particularly across Years 7 to 9. Our commitment award winners are named in the following graphic, and acknowledges students who regularly attend and engage in the football and futsal sessions offered.

In December, U13 and U15 squads have travelled to CCS, competing in District Futsal tournaments, both representing the school admirably, finishing 2nd and 3rd, respectively. In the County Cup, our U12s had a fantastic 8-1 victory over NIA, and our U13s a battling 2-1 win over Abbeyfield. It was a 2-0 loss for the U15s to Lodge Park Academy, whilst our U14s are yet to play their game away to Guilsborough.

Sessions typically run on Wednesdays, but students are advised to check noticeboards and Football Google Classrooms for all of the latest information about planned sessions. Where possible, we do try to announce plans on the school Facebook and X (Twitter) feeds too.

We are also offering opportunities for students to develop their understanding of the game through coaching and refereeing opportunities. These courses are totally free, and are suitable for students aged 14 upwards. Information about coaching can be found here; bit.ly/Playmaker2324 and refereeing here; bit.ly/Referee2324. These courses enable students to develop their knowledge about the game and also are the first steps required in order to become a qualified coach /referee.

Lastly, a couple of reminders

1. Correct kit. Students should come to sessions fully prepared, including shin pads and correct footwear.

Kit List

Sponne PE shirt (black)
Black football shorts
Black football socks
Shin pads
Football boots (always pack trainers in case sessions move indoors)
Tracksuit top or jumper
Base layer, hat, gloves (as appropriate)
Snacks
Refillable drinks bottle

It is **YOUR** responsibility to attend with **ALL** of the correct kit.

2. Fixtures. This year, we are asking for £1 voluntary contributions, when students are selected for fixtures. This is to allow us to arrange and pay for qualified officials to oversee matches. Students should bring this (in cash) before the afternoon of their fixture.

STT, JMH, SC & CJR

Year 7

(Possible Sessions = 10)

Thomas G (7CJR)	10
Jorge H (7CJR)	9
Ellis S (7AMG)	9
Joseph S (7CJR)	9
Marcus W (7CML)	9
Stanley D (7CCM)	8
Reggie L (7EH)	8
Liam N (7CML)	8
Clayton G (7AMG)	7
Harry P (7AMG)	7
Freddie P (7KAM)	7

Year 8

(Possible Sessions = 11)

Rory C (8JDG)	11
Curtis D (8RW)	11
Oliver H (8JDG)	11
Ethan B (8NC)	10
Leo B (8RW)	10
Liam C (8RW)	10
Thomas D (8JSP)	10
Harry I (8RW)	10
Harshan S (8KAS)	10
Arainn S (8RW)	10
Harvey T (8JDG)	10
Noah J (8JDG)	9
Oscar M (8JDG)	9
Tobias C (8JSP)	8
Logan D (8JDG)	8

Year 9

(Possible Sessions = 7)

Ellis M (9MG)	7
Rian S (9MG)	7
Rhys Y (9AAW)	7
Jacob C (9SC)	6
Ousman D (9SC)	6
Zac F (9SC)	6
Josh K (9RHB)	6
Finn M (9MG)	6
Stan S (9SC)	6
Patrick C (9RB)	5
Branko G (9SC)	5
Josh G (9GB)	5
Dom H (9RHB)	5
Max K (9SC)	5
Oscar M (9SC)	5
Edward O (9RHB)	5
Ewan R (9SLB)	5
Isaac S (9KP)	5

Year 10

(Possible Sessions = 6)

Panos M (10DW)	6
Sam M (10GP)	6
Ruben W (10VL)	6
La Shawn H (10HW)	5
Jamie W (10JOW)	5
Ahmad D (10MM)	4
Joe M (10VLV)	4





Darts Club

Terms 1 & 2: 23/24



Hand-eye Coordination
Mental Arithmetic
Stress Relief
Social Skills
Concentration
Teamwork
Strategic Thinking



ENGAGEMENT

- Isaac B, 12HLW 🎯14
- Henry E, 12SR 🎯13
- Oscar C, 7AMG 🎯12
- Hailey C, 7CCM 🎯12
- Max R, 11TN 🎯12
- Ethan B, 8NC 🎯11
- Monica B, 12SR 🎯11
- Leo C, 7CCM 🎯11
- Sophia J, 7CCM 🎯11
- Liam N, 7CML 🎯10
- Leo R, 7AMG 🎯10



| The PDC World Darts |
| Championship takes |
| place from 15th Dec |
| to the 3rd Jan! |

Thursdays
3.05 - 4.15pm
in W9

Other News

Movember Charity Event



Well done and thank you to all those who supported the Movember charity event on Wednesday 29th November led by some of our fabulous sixth form students, in particular Josie Ormond and Emily Akrill.



Stick on moustaches were available to our sixth formers to raise funds and we had decorated cookies for sale on the Yellow Brick Road.

Our wonderful Cucina chef Ghyslain was at school from 4am to bake and decorate a batch of 300 cookies each with a chocolate moustache!

Huge thanks to Cucina for sponsoring this too.

£400.24 was raised.

Well done to everybody involved.

Towcester Foodbank

"Well done team Sponne for the generous donations of food items for the Towcester Foodbank. In addition, Sponne musicians raised an extra £83.81 with carolling in the local community.

Many thanks to all who have supported this worthwhile cause. Merry Christmas."



Anti-bullying Ambassadors



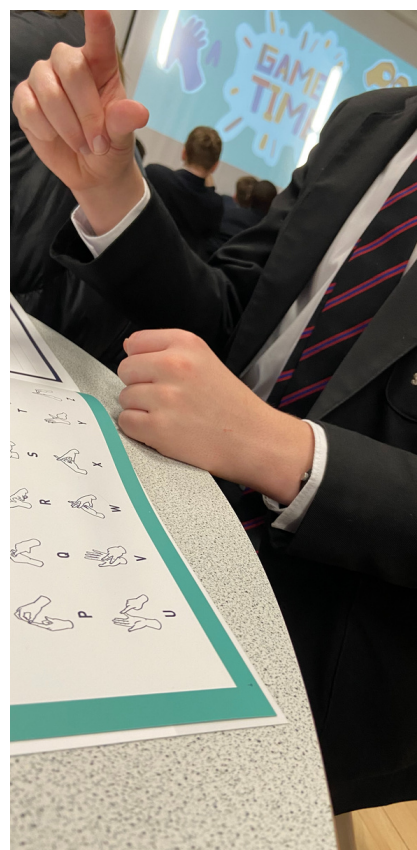
On Tuesday 12th December we took a small group of our anti-bullying ambassadors on a training day with The Diana Award in Peterborough. We spent time classifying different bullying behaviours and discussed signs we may see in a peer if they are experiencing this.

In the afternoon we focused on how we can report and tackle bullying behaviour in school, coming up with a campaign plan to roll out in Sponne over this academic year.

Our pupils behaved and engaged extremely well and we were so proud of how they represented Sponne, often contributing more than their fair share compared to the other schools there.

The group returned enthusiastic and ready to pass on their knowledge to the rest of the Anti-Bullying team and then the whole school over the coming months. Well done to them all!

Mrs Whitbread and Miss McGlen



PARENT SUPPORT ADVISER

Ana Lopes

About Me...

Hello, I am the Parent Support Advisor here at Sponne, I am part of the Pastoral and Safeguarding Team.

I connect with families, working in partnership with you, ensuring your child is at the forefront of everything we do.

What is my role...

I support parents and carers with some of the every day problems that they might be having with their children, so that the children are happy to attend school, engage and make progress in their learning.



What I can do for you...

- Provide non-judgemental 'Early Help' support.
- Signpost or refer families for specialist support.
- Offer support through parenting programmes.
- Inform you of local services.
- Provide pre-loved uniform.
- Inform you of services that the school provide.
- Support with applications for Free School Meals.



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sponne.org.uk

**Sponne
School**

A Music & Science Academy



Dream Believe Achieve



COMPUTING

The Inspiring Digital Enterprise Award, known as iDEA is an international award winning programme that helps you develop digital, enterprise and employability skills for free."

WELL DONE TO OUR LATEST SET OF BRONZE AWARD WINNERS!

Claire S (7CCM)

Matthew C (8OW)
Lexi D-S (8JSP)
Ajax F (8KAS)
Holly T (8RW)
Jack W (8OW)

Oscar A (9GB)
Mai B (95C)
Max C (95C)
Jess C (9MG)
Andrew C (9RB)
Ousman D (95C)
Katherine F (95C)

Zac F (95C)
Charlie G (9GB)
Max K (95C)
Rylan K (95C)
Orna L (95C)
Tom L (9RHB)
Finn M (9RHB)

Megan M (9KP)
Grace P (95C)
Frankie P (9KP)
Thomas R (9GB)
Abi S (9GB)
Ollie W (9KP)

iDEA is embedded into the Computing curriculum across Years 7 to 9... but students will only earn a bronze/ silver award, by putting in considerable extra hours to acquire badges across the 4 components; citizen, worker, maker and entrepreneur!



ALL TIME TOTALS

Year 7

Year 8

Year 9

Year 10

Year 11

3 1

2 0

3 7

2 0

3 30

2 2

3 30

2 1

3 35

2 2



COMPUTING



Reasons to Touch Type

- Increases productivity
- Reduces fatigue (time spent typing)
- Learning how to type, means you can focus on the content, you are typing
- Reduces the risk of developing RSI (repetitive strain injury)
- And, it engages most parts of your brain, helping to activate new memory muscles and build more active and strong cognitive connections that in turn will enhance your overall brain capacity and function.

EXERCISES COMPLETED

9SC	6839
9GB	6500
9KP	6401
9RB	5537
9RHB	5464
9MG	5414
9SLB	5357
9AAW	5252
8KAS	5083
8OW	4647
8PG	3891
8JDG	3824
8RW	3680
8AMT	3495
8JSP	3452
8NC	3076
7CML	2262
7CJR	1962
7KAM	1858
7CRS	1847
7STW	1845
7AMG	1809
7EH	1754
7CCM	1750

SPEED WPM

9SC	38.50
9RHB	34.79
9KP	33.11
8OW	32.34
9AAW	32.23
9GB	31.33
9SLB	31.26
8PG	31.23
9MG	30.47
9RB	28.74
7CCM	27.89
8RW	27.09
8AMT	26.67
8KAS	25.25
8JDG	24.88
8NC	24.67
7EH	24.62
8JSP	23.24
7KAM	22.98
7STW	21.76
7CRS	21.66
7AMG	20.47
7CJR	19.44
7CML	19.40

ACCURACY %

7CML	94.01%
9RHB	93.79%
9KP	93.78%
9SC	93.40%
7CRS	93.28%
8JSP	93.24%
9GB	92.82%
7CCM	92.65%
7EH	92.65%
8KAS	92.19%
7AMG	92.13%
8NC	92.09%
8RW	92.09%
7CJR	92.08%
9MG	92.01%
9SLB	91.92%
7KAM	91.86%
8PG	91.56%
7STW	91.29%
8JDG	91.21%
8OW	91.21%
9AAW	90.94%
9RB	89.03%
8AMT	88.53%

Y10 Art Trip - to the Tate Britain



The Year Ten Art students had the superb opportunity to visit the Tate Britain, Millbank London which has recently had a major rehang since the last time we went.

The Y10's were excellent in their attitude and seemed to enjoy the day looking and sketching art from famous historical paintings and sculptures to more contemporary thought provoking paintings and sculptures.

Well done Y10 Artists, you were a real credit to the school.



Term Update - Year 11

Term 2 has been a busy term for Year 11! We have been very proud of them for the way they conducted themselves during the mock period in November and hope they will take every opportunity to make use of the feedback they are getting from teachers in class and at parents' evening moving forward into the new year.

Talking of opportunities, we've had lots of fantastic assemblies focusing on post-16 choices. These assemblies have included representatives from Moulton College, Northampton College, Sponne Sixth Form, Varsity Nine plus a visit from a former student Tom Vickers talking about his career path including reporting on the Northampton Saints! Tutors are continuing to support students thinking about post-16 choices and applications, and it's been great to see students engage with careers appointments and trips.

Our Year 11s will need to show determination and resilience in the new year as we enter the year of their final coursework deadlines and of course summer exams.

We are so proud of them and know they can take the challenge in their stride!

Maths Update - Calculator Drive 2024



As reported in the news over the last few months, our communities are facing a 'Cost of Living Crisis'.

At Sponne we are no different....

The maths department is asking for donations of any old Casio scientific calculators that are no longer required to support your child's studies.

If you are able to help, please drop off the calculators marked FAO Mrs Lewis

Many thanks in advance.....



Young Artists' Summer Show 2024



Hello all creative students!

Registration and submissions for the Young Artists' Summer Show 2024 open soon. Why not use the Christmas holidays to get creative?

Now in its sixth year, this popular online and onsite exhibition at the Royal Academy of Arts features and celebrates the creativity of young artists aged 4-19. We can't wait to see what you've been creating!

It's free to enter. Registration and submissions are open from 8th January - 27 March 2024. Please email **Ms Noble** if you would like to enter.

Year 8 'Wasted' Tour

Once again, students in Year 8 were able to see the drugs based drama 'Wasted', created and performed by students from Northampton College. This performance tells the story of Charlotte and her experiences with drugs, based on an amalgamation of true stories of young people in Northamptonshire. The performance is supported by representatives from NGAGE/Aqaurius, an early intervention drug and alcohol service for young people aged 10-18 in Northamptonshire.

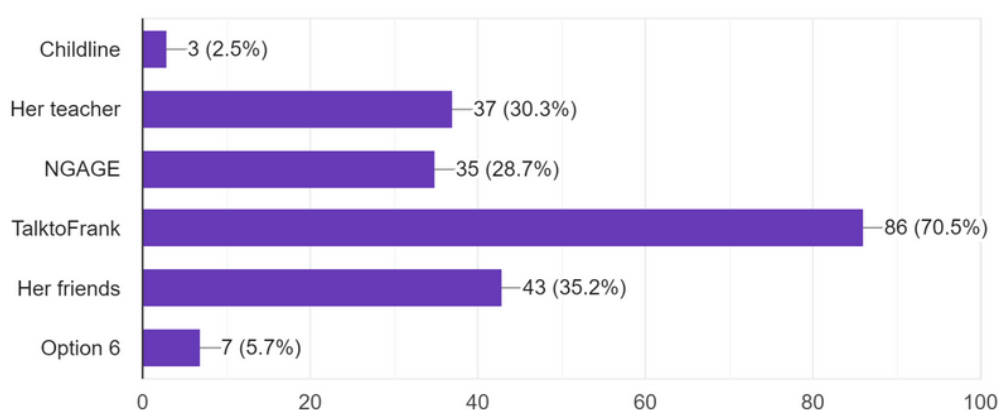
This valuable performance raises awareness of the issues surrounding drug use/misuse with our students and supports and enhances our PSHE curriculum, which is focused on drug issues in the autumn term.

After the event we get feedback from both students and parents:

Students were able to identify the drugs used by Charlotte, reasons for her drug use and where she was able to get support from:

Where did Charlotte get help from?

122 responses



Year 8 'Wasted' Tour - Continued

They were also asked for a quote about the play:

"Very helpful and a clear story that I could understand. It showed me what to do if me or one of my friends was in trouble." TW

"It was very good and it really showed how anyone could take drugs for any reason but also where to get help from." KF

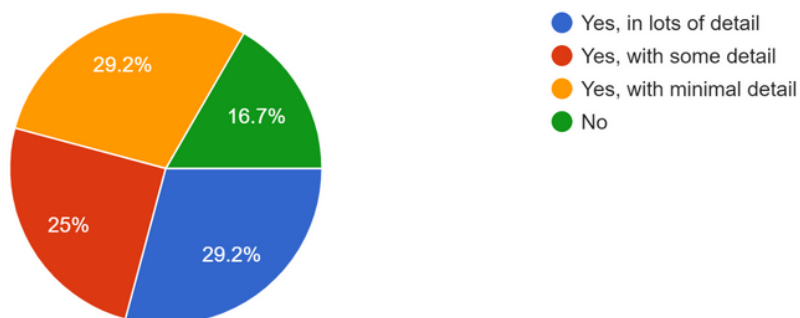
"Drugs don't make us stronger, only love, passion and feeling emotional pain can do that" EN

"The actors all brought the story to life and helped the audience see how anyone can be involved with drugs and where to find help and support." OL

Parents feedback showed that the students went back and told their parents about the performance without being asked and that most were able to say what the performance was about, some in lots of detail:

2. Was your child able to tell you what the performance was about?

24 responses



If you want more information/support for your child, please contact NGAGE who accept referrals from all agencies, parents and young people themselves:

<https://aquarius.org.uk/our-services/young-peoples-services/northampton-yp/>

You can view their brochure for parents here and their contact details are: 01604 633 848 or ypnorthamptonshire@aquarius.org.uk

Autumn/Winter Update

What have we learnt about?



PSHE Lessons

Year 7 Relationships Sex Education - Building healthy relationships, including anti-bullying & Puberty/Growing up

Year 8 Drugs Education - SVSA, Laughing Gas & Edibles

Year 9 Citizenship Education - British Politics

Year 10 Either Relationships Sex Education - Healthy Sexual life or Careers Education - Personal Career Development

Year 11 Careers Education - Next Steps

Year 12 Citizenship Education - Being a Safe Driver

Year 13 Financial Education - Finance for Life



Tutorial Sessions

Year 7 Relationships Sex Education - How to be successful

Year 8 Relationships Sex Education - Families/Health Education - BBFC: Choosing what to watch Year 9 Study Skills/Internet Safety & Harms - Critical Thinking

Year 10 Metacognition and revision techniques/Careers Education - Preparing for Work Experience Year 11 Careers Education - Preparing for Change

Year 12 Study Skills/Health Education - Life Skills

Year 13 Careers Education - Planning for UCAS/Health Education - Wellbeing

Careers

Year 11 Trip to Northampton University & Apprenticeships Fair

Year 8/9 Girls Cosworth - Girls on Track Day

Year 10 Careers assembly - introduction to work experience

Year 11 Careers assemblies - Moulton College; Northampton College & Varsity Nine (Football academy)

Yr12 Work Shadowing Launch

PSHE

Yr8 'Wasted' drama tour - Drugs Education

Yr9/10 Nitrous Oxide awareness talks - Drugs Education Yr12 My Pink Trainers - Road Safety presentation

Yr13 First Gear - Drink/Drug Driving presentation

👀Coming Up👀

More Yr11 careers talks from local providers

Year 11- Into the 6th Form Evening

Yr12 CV workshop with employers - if you can help please get in touch; email careers@sponne.org.uk



Accelerated Reader

It has been another productive term for our Year 7 and 8 students using Accelerated Reader. They have read a further 11,133,083 words since returning at the end of October and passed another 566 quizzes - a great achievement! Our top-performing Year 7 students this term are Clayton Gilheany-Pockett, Harry Philpot, Paige Hodgkinson, Claire Sopko, Callum Burgess, Freddie Howkins and Amaya Fleckney. Our top Year 8 students are Rory Castle, Carter Hartley, Lilly-Mae Loasby and Sage Hildebrandt.

AR Inter-Form Competition



Our inter-form competition leader at this point in the year is 7CML with a total of 111 quizzes. They're closely followed by 7CCM on 103 and 7AMG on 101. Our current Y8 leader is 8JDG, with 65 quizzes. Remember, if you read any books over the holiday period, don't forget to come into the LRC in January to take your AR quiz - your quizzes could make all the difference to your form's score. Keep up the good work!



6th Form Reading Mentoring

Our reading mentoring programme in the LRC is now underway and we would like to say a huge 'thank you' to our Sixth Form students who are giving their time once a week to read with a designated Year 7 or 8 student. The students are already making fantastic progress and have passed 98 quizzes this term.

Check Your Books

Don't forget, if you receive any books at Christmas, you can check if they have quizzes at www.arbookfind.co.uk.

Have a Merry Christmas and keep on reading!

Towcester Toy Bank - Book Donations

Thank you for all the donations of books that we have received. They will be donated to Towcester Toy Bank who will give them to families in need.



Sponne FPA Fundraising

Sponne School



Congratulations to Sponne PFA and all those who have supported recent fundraising events. The PFA have been able to make a £15,000 donation towards a new school minibus. On top of this the Christmas raffle and Wreath making event has generated an additional £3000.



Can you help the PFA raise £20,000?



A minibus is a vital part of school life, providing transport to sports fixtures, trips and community events. The school is in need of a new lightweight minibus to continue providing these opportunities for the students.

We need your support to help us hit our target.

Especially we want to hear from:

- Local companies interested in sponsoring a school minibus.
- Knowledge/connections in minibus/van sales.
- Anyone with a brilliant idea for fundraising.
- Anyone in a workplace that offers match funding for charity fundraising.

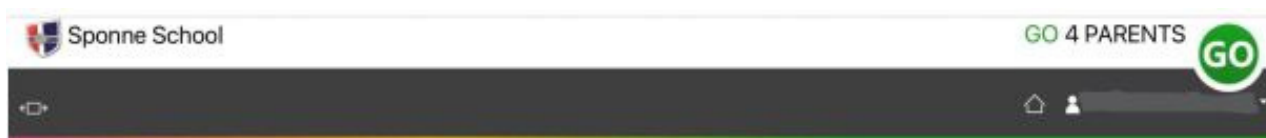
We also need you to support our events this year. Look out for announcements from the PFA and join in!

Please contact sponnepfa2@gmail.com if you can help.

Change of Details - Go4Schools

If you need to update any of the contact/address/email/telephone information we have on record for your child, yourself or any of the other contacts we have, you can do this directly via Go4Schools.

If you log in and click the drop down arrow next to your name in the top right hand corner and select 'settings' you will be taken to the screen below.



Complete the details in the box and press send.

A screenshot of the 'My settings' page. The title 'My settings' is in green. Below it, the text says 'Manage your account and settings to make GO 4 Schools work better for you.' and 'Your login email address is:'. There are three links: 'Update contact details', 'Manage your communication settings', and 'Change your GO 4 Schools password'. The 'Update contact details' section is expanded, showing a form with a large text input box and a 'Send' button. The text below the form says 'Use the form below to notify the school about changes to your telephone number, email address, etc.'

Manage your communication settings

- Automatic daily summaries of homework are sent after 16.00.
- Automatic daily/weekly summaries for behaviour are sent after 18.00, as configured.
- Detention updates are sent by the school as required.
- Attendance updates are sent by the school as required.
- School messages are sent as required.
- Consent messages are sent by the school as required
- All messages will also appear in your Online Inbox

Spam Information - SIMS InTouch

Occasionally we have emails bounce back by our communication provider (SIMS InTouch) as undeliverable or blocked meaning you may be missing important school information, this is often because your email provider thinks our correspondence is Spam or Junk.

What is Spam?

Email is treated as spam if the recipient mailbox believes the email to be unsolicited, irrelevant, or sent in bulk to a mailing list of people where recipient mailboxes have marked the emails as Spam, if the mailbox is dormant, or if the receipts email is invalid.

What Mailboxes do to decide if emails should be treated as spam?

To stop you receiving unwanted emails, and to help protect you against malicious emails many mailbox providers deploy the following methods to filter out messages:

- Spam protection - sends spam emails directly to the Spam folder and can block them in future.
- Filters - automatically sort incoming messages to different folder.
- Block Addresses - stop email from email addresses or domains that you select.
- Safe Sender - for email addresses or domains that you select.
- Image blocking - prevents spammers from knowing you opened their email and protects you from looking at images you don't want to see.
- Word of mouth - if recipients tell a mailbox provider an email is spam this will impact the sender's reputation and can cause future emails from the domain entering spam filters.

From time to time spam filters put legitimate email into your spam folder, which may be because other users have marked similar emails as spam. If you seem to be missing emails or you haven't got an email you were expecting, check the Spam folder first. And make sure the sender email address is included as a safe sender.

How can we avoid being treated as Spam?

The nature of how email is used within schools means emails are generally sent in large volumes over a very short space of time (e.g. the schools closed/ here's this week's newsletter).

From time to time this can cause issues with mailboxes treating the email as spam. Depending on the policies of the mailbox filtering and users' preferences this can do 1 of 2 things; Send the email to Junk or directly delete the email. Where issues are reported to us that emails have not reached parents, we will escalate this to SIMS InTouch who in turn will contact the respective mailbox provider (e.g. Microsoft, Google, BT etc.). However, there is only so much we can do to resolve the solution. Instead the resolution often requires the cooperation from the affected recipient parent as we do not hold a customer relationship with the mailbox provider.

Hints and Tips on reducing Spam

- Please add us as an approved sender, our bulk emails will arrive from 9414004@sims-communications.co.uk
- emails sent directly from a member of staff will be from <their first initial and surname>@sponne.org.uk
- Please check spam/junk folder for any school emails you may have missed – if they are in spam/junk folders please mark as safe.

Continued

Adding InTouch as a Safe Sender

To stop emails from SIMS InTouch being categorised as spam you can manually add your school SIMS InTouch email to your mailbox "safe senders" list.

Below details how to add an email to your safe sender list for some of the most common mailboxes. Please note, the guidance below is subject to change and we would refer parents to their mail provider for the latest guidance on how to manage their safe sender rules.

Outlook/ Hotmail

1. At the top of the page, select Settings > Mail.
2. Select Mail > Accounts > Block or allow.
3. To add an entry to Safe Senders and Recipients, enter the email address or domain that you want to mark as safe in the Enter a sender or domain here text box. ...

BT Email

1. From the Settings tab, select the Safe senders" folder and click on the Add button
2. Add the email address you want to mark as safe and click Save
3. After a confirmation message the email address will be added to your list of safe sender

Apple Mail

1. Open the email from the sender you would like to add to the safelist.
2. Click on the sender's email address at the top of the email
3. A list of options will appear on a drop down
4. Click on "Add to Address Book"
5. Your sender will be automatically added to your Apple Mail safe senders list.

Gmail

1. On your computer, open Gmail
2. On the left, click More.
3. Click Spam.
4. Open the email.
5. At the top, click Not spam.

Users can also manage their personal contacts list in Gmail. When a user adds an external address to their contacts list, Gmail won't mark messages from the external address as spam.

Yahoo! Mail

1. Click on the address book icon under the Yahoo! mail logo. (When you mouse crosses it, it will say Contacts.)
2. Click New contact.
3. Provide a suitable name and type (or copy and paste) the email address:
4. Click Save.



Assessment Only

Route to QTS

Are you an unqualified teacher/
TA/HLTA meeting the teaching
standards but yet to achieve QTS?

WE OFFER THE ASSESSMENT ONLY (AO) ROUTE TO QTS

If you have at least **2 years experience teaching** at either
primary or secondary level, The GUTP may be able to help
you gain QTS via our Assessment Only route.

Please visit our website for further details or email
gutprecruitment@sponne.org.uk

www.gutp.co.uk

**Did you know
you can train
to teach
locally?**

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Training
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Train to become a Secondary School Teacher

Our Lead School is the Outstanding Sponne School in
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Science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics) and PE

Bursaries available in some subjects

www.gutp.co.uk



What is safeguarding?

Ensures that every child, regardless of their age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation, has a right to equal protection from harm.

Safeguarding is the steps that people take to protect children and vulnerable adults from harm.

How can you help?

If you have any concerns about a child, please do not wait before passing this on. You are not causing problems but it could allow support to be put in place and save a child from unnecessary harm.

If you need to pass on a safeguarding concern please contact the Northamptonshire Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub and share any information with school via safeguarding@sponne.org.uk

<http://www.northamptonshirescb.org.uk/worried-about-a-child->

Telephone: 0300 126 7000

If a child is in immediate danger, left alone or missing, contact the police and/or ambulance service directly on 999.

Students seeking support can access the Google Classroom wellbeing page for the appropriate year groups.

Parents seeking advice can access guidance on the following sites:

<https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/for-parents/parents-helpline>

<https://www.nhft.nhs.uk/camhslive>

Essential School Equipment



All students should have the following equipment...

- A Pencil Case (this must be transparent for students taking exams)
- Black Pens (at least 3, not gel)
- Blue Pens (at least 3, not gel)
- Purple Pens (at least 2, not gel)
- Pencils (at least 2)
- Pencil Colours
- Pencil Sharpener
- Rubber
- Ruler
- Maths Set (Compass, Protractor)
- Scientific Calculator
 - Recommended Casio fx-83GT PLUS or fx-85GT PLUS
- 3.5mm Wired Earphones

If you have any issues with this please speak to your form tutor!



Please remember to bring a reusable water bottle to school with you



Drinking water :

- Improves energy levels and brain function
- Improves concentration and focus
- Prevents headaches
- Is healthy for joints and teeth and helps circulate blood!

Stay Hydrated!



Sponne Uniform

Blazer

All students should wear a black blazer with the school logo sewn onto the left hand pocket. **No hoodies are allowed.**

Jumper

Students may wear a plain black, V-neck jumper under their blazers. The jumper should not be worn instead of the blazer.

Trousers

Black tailored trousers (e.g. not skin tight/skinny, jean or leggings style, or showing the outline of the leg). Trousers must be worn around the waist (above hips - no underwear should be on show.) Buttons and zips should be functional. Belts - Optional but must be plain black.

Skirt

Black skirt length should be knee length and pleated. Lycra, mini or tight skirts are not permitted. Skirts should be worn with black/flesh coloured tights or socks.

Shirt

Shirts should be plain white and tucked in. If you wish to wear a white T-shirt underneath you can, but this should not be visible.

School Tie

Top button to waist in length. Clip ties are compulsory for students in years 7 and 8 with standard ties for year 9, 10 and 11 and are available for purchase from the school shop.

Shoes

Shoes must be plain black and flat. No logos/branding, boots, trainers or canvas shoes/pumps (ie Converse, Vans or similar)

Jewellery and accessories

Two small stud earrings in each ear and a watch. No other jewellery is permitted. Body piercings, ear spacers, nose studs, lip or tongue piercings, 'Bling' or pearl, hooped or dangly earrings are not allowed. **The use of plasters to cover items of jewellery is not acceptable, nor is flesh/clear coloured jewellery.**

Following the uniform consultation which took place in July, it has been decided that skirts must be pleated and knee length.

Below, are links to the **ONLY** skirts which are permitted in school, from September 2023.

[M&S Slim fit permanent pleats](#)
[Asda permanent pleats school skirt](#)
[M&S Crease resistant school skirt](#)
[Tu Permanent pleat plus fit skirt](#)
[Next Pleat skirt](#)
[Matalan Long box pleat skirt](#)

Reminder - Headphones

3.5mm earphones or headphones should be part of standard pencil case equipment.

Year 7 - 9 all have projects in Computing lessons where being able to listen to audio resources is essential.

Please make sure you always have a pair of headphones with you.



Allergy Notice

Please refrain from bringing in nuts as part of snacks/packed lunches to avoid any complications for students who may be severely allergic.



Student Gmail

Students are responsible for accessing and engaging with their school email mailbox at least twice per week.

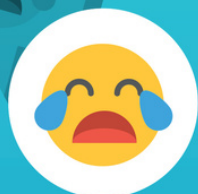
Email accounts are provided for school and educational purposes.

Students in Y7-9 are supported with this, in time allocated at the end of Computing lessons.

Should students want help and assistance with making use of their school email account (including settings, labels & filters) students should visit D16 during a lunchtime.



Suggestion - Get into the habit of reading and engaging with emails every Sunday afternoon, to prepare you for the week ahead.



'Sadfishing' is described as a behavioural trend where people make exaggerated claims about their emotional problems to generate sympathy and attention. The term was created at the beginning of the year by a blogger using the term to describe certain celebrities who embellish their emotional difficulties to generate sympathy and gain more followers. The term has now gained traction and is seen as a growing trend on social media. The challenge with sadfishing is that sometimes real problems can become overlooked or young people can even be bullied for having shared their problems online.



What parents need to know about SADFISHING



ATTENTION NEEDING

This is sometimes also called attention seeking. The urge to belong is universal. Everyone seeks attention. The feeling of belonging and knowing that others are thinking about you is part of what it is to be human. As the use of social media has grown, the opportunity for attention is enormous but this sometimes comes at a price. Positive interactions (such as someone liking your tweet) trigger the same kind of chemical reaction (dopamine) that is caused by gambling and recreational drugs. This reaction reinforces a behaviour and for minimal effort, a young person is rewarded with dopamine and attention.

SHOWING VULNERABILITY

Being vulnerable and oversharing can sometimes lead young people open to being groomed online, offering predatory social media users an opportunity to gain their trust by offering sympathy. A Digital Awareness UK report includes the case study of a teenage girl who, after posting about her depression online, was approached by a friend of a friend who shared their experiences and later ended up pressuring her to send him explicit pictures.



OVERSHARING

Oversharing is the act of revealing too much personal information. When young people share too much about their feelings or problems they are often desiring very much to connect and belong. In order to gain more attention and likes a young person might be tempted to overshare their feelings beyond a normal face to face conversation. The challenge with this is that the young person is sharing personal thoughts and feelings with people they do not know and the support they gain back is 'unregulated' and might be very unhelpful.



BULLYING AND DISAPPOINTMENT

According to Status of Mind report by Royal Society for Public Health UK, social media platforms are a useful tool to maintain or build on real world relationships, improving mental health and wellbeing. When young people do share their feelings and worries online, they are seeking emotional support from others. However, whilst some friends may comment and like a post to be helpful, other friends may accuse the post of 'sadfishing' and trying to gain attention, ultimately making the situation and feelings about themselves worse.



Safety Tips For Parents

A CULTURE OF OPENNESS

Maintain and commit to having a culture of openness at home where your child can express their feelings without judgement, and you acknowledge their world and current difficulties. Support your child to navigate growing up in a world with social media and their developing sense of self.



ASK MORE THAN ONCE

Being a parent of a teenager means a constant negotiation between keeping them safe and letting them go. If their behaviour has changed or they have a prolonged bout of low mood or stress, let them know you are there for them when they are ready to talk. Sometimes this may mean asking them more than once. This gives them the message that you are there for them and that they are not alone.



POSITIVE ATTENTION

Provide opportunities during the week for time together. Teenagers sometimes prefer side by side conversations like going out for walk, at the dinner table or driving in the car somewhere. Regularly commit time to a family evening together where you can share time and/or an experience together like a home movie and popcorn, a game (even an online game which may be suitable), shopping or cooking.



PROMOTE HEALTHY FACE TO FACE RELATIONSHIPS

Where possible, help your child maintain healthy relationships with friends who are helpful and supportive. This may mean inviting them over regularly, providing transport to and from activities with the group of friends, or helping your child organise activities. Spend time helping to encourage healthy, supportive face to face relationships.



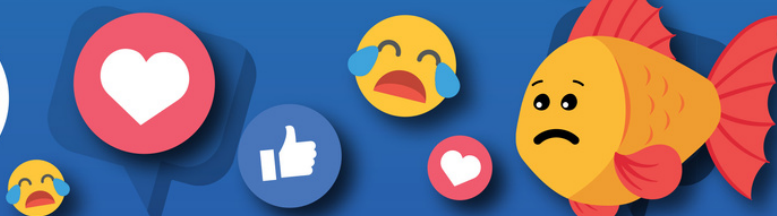
TALK ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF BOUNDARIES

Discuss the consequences of oversharing, particularly on social media. Maintaining a healthy privacy outlook is important when we are perhaps sharing our feelings with people who are not known to us. But as friendship and trust develop, it is healthy to share more information and talk more openly.



Meet our expert

Anna Bateman is passionate about placing prevention at the heart of every school, integrating mental wellbeing within the curriculum, school culture and systems. She is also a member of the advisory group for the Department of Education, advising them on their mental health green paper.



HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM PHISHING



1

BE VIGILANT! IS THE WEBSITE YOU ARE VISITING **SAFE**?

2

USE A DIFFERENT **UNIQUE** PASSWORD FOR EVERY ACCOUNT.



3

MAKE SURE PASSWORDS ARE **TOUGH**. USE A PARAPHRASE INSTEAD OF A WORD.

4

DO NOT CLICK ON ANY LINKS OR DOCUMENTS IN AN UNSOLICITED EMAIL, **NO MATTER WHAT!**

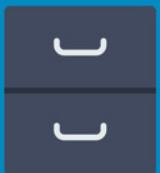


5

KEEP **SCHOOL** AND **PERSONAL** ACCOUNTS **SEPARATE**. DO NOT SHARE YOUR SCHOOL DEVICES WITH FAMILY OR FRIENDS.

6

DO NOT WRITE PASSWORDS DOWN OR KEEP THEM ON POST-ITS. NO REALLY STOP!



7

MAKE USE OF GOOGLE CHROME'S **PASSWORD MANAGER**. LET IT REMEMBER ALL YOUR PASSWORDS.

8

DO NOT ACCESS SCHOOL ACCOUNT|S ON OTHER PEOPLE'S DEVICES OR PUBLIC COMPUTERS.



9

IF YOU ARE UNSURE, **ASK**. THE IT TEAM WILL HAPPILY CHECK THE VALIDITY OF A SITE OR EMAIL.

SCAN TO TAKE THE PHISHING QUIZ



Merry Christmas

- As we come to the end of the year we want to remind you of the services that will be available throughout the Christmas period. Please enjoy Christmas with your loved ones safely. We look forward to seeing you all when we return.



- The NSPCC are here to help 24/7 and children can call their Childline number on 0800 111
- Help for adults concerned about a child can call 0808 800 5000
- Shout is a 24/7 text service, free on all major mobile networks, for anyone in crisis anytime, anywhere. It's a place to go if you're struggling to cope and you need immediate help. Text 85258

Merry Christmas

Family and Domestic

- Family Life (help and support for parents): 0808 800 2222
- National Domestic Violence Helpline: 0808 2000 247
- Mankind (supporting male victims of domestic abuse or violence): 01823 334244
- National Victim Support (helping people cope with the effects of crime): 0800 1689 111

Other useful numbers

- Northamptonshire Police: 101 or 03000 111 222
- Citizens Advice Bureau (legal, money and other problems): 0800 223 1133

- Shelter (housing and homelessness): 0808 800 4444
- Samaritans (confidential emotional support): 116123
- Salvation Army (homelessness): 0845 790 9090
- National Bullying Helpline: 0300 323 0169 0845225 5787
- Crimestoppers (call anonymously with information about crime): 0800 555 111

For Children and Young People

Childline (confidential helpline for children and young people): 0800 11 11

Kooth: www.kooth.com (Online chat, resources and direct help for 10-25yr olds)



This time of year can be tough if you need support please see - <https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/cost-living-support>

Financial

- National Debtline (debt advice): 0808 8084 000
- Payplan (debt advice): 0800 280 2816

Dates For Your Diary

Christmas 2023

Monday 25th December 2023 - Friday 5th January 2024

TERM 3

Monday 8th January 2024

Year 12 Parents' Evening (remote)

Thursday 11th January 2024

Year 13 Heath and Social Care Exam

Monday 15th January 2024

Year 13 Lang/Lit Rock 'n' Roll Trip

Thursday 25th January 2024

Year 10 Poetry Live

Tuesday 6th February 2024

Whittlebury Last Night of the Proms

Sunday 4th February 2024

Year 11 & 13 Year group and individual photos

Monday 12th February 2024

Year 8 Parents' Evening A Half (remote)

Tuesday February 13th 2024

Spring Half Term

School Closes

Friday 16th February 2024

Half Term Break

Monday 19th - Friday 23rd February 2024

Please see our website for a full list of events and term dates.

<https://www.sponne.org.uk>