



SPONNE NEWS

The official newsletter of Sponne School



Well Done Matt!

We're really proud to announce our talented executive chef Matt came fourth in the LACA School Chef of the Year 2021 awards last week - with only 1 point between him and first place!

Matt also received a commitment award for his contribution to the school food industry throughout the pandemic.

Well done Matt!

Other stories you might like:

World Mental Health Day #wearyellow

[Sports News](#)

One of the many desserts available in the canteen





Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to the first edition of our Sponne newsletter.

Young people really are amazing. Despite all the disruption that has happened to their learning they have returned to school this year really positively and with a definite can-do attitude, living our 'Dream, Believe, Achieve' culture.

Inevitably the uncertainty and added anxiety has affected some more than others and I would encourage you to make contact with our wellbeing and pastoral teams if this is something that you think might help your child.

A massive thanks to all my staff for the support that they have provided and, of course, to yourselves for your commitment and drive to ensure that your children succeed and flourish.

The, now not so new, Year 7 students have made a fabulous start and Year 8 and 9 students have really enjoyed getting out and about the school rather than being stuck in E Block. Our older students are very focused on their studies and preparing for upcoming mock exams. We have heard from the Department for Education that in the unlikely event that exams were cancelled again teachers would be expected to use evidence from assessments taken through the year to produce teacher assessed grades. Therefore it is vital that students prepare thoroughly for these. However, with numbers of positive cases at school slowly reducing, vaccinations having taken place and the continued twice weekly LFT testing we very much hope to see an improving picture later this year.

As restrictions have gradually relaxed it has been a real pleasure to see students at school again after lessons have been completed, doing sports, music and a range of other clubs. There is a definite sense that some normality has returned and that our children can begin to enjoy more freedom and experience activities that have not been able to happen for such a long period of time.

I hope that you and all your families enjoy the half term break and I look forward to the students returning on Monday 1st November. If you could ensure that your children carry out a lateral flow test on the Sunday evening that would be great and please do continue to let us know via the testing@sponne.org.uk where any confirmed cases will affect children returning to school on time.

My very best wishes to you all.

Jain Massey

Mental Health Week

A big thank you to all staff and students who wore yellow and contributed to our "Hello Yellow" mufti day for the charity Young Minds. We raised over £800!

Miss Hall from SEN made yellow ribbons for staff to wear. During the week, we had assemblies where the message was normalising discussing our mental health and how we can help keep healthy.

We are grateful to have a school community where we can celebrate all the little things we do for each other. Thanks to the 6th form student leadership team who decorated the yellow brick road (making it even more yellow) and spreading positive messages throughout the school.

Young Minds work with young people who are suffering with their mental health. Their website has lots to offer for students and parents.



Small Talks

Sunday 10th October was World Mental Health Day and YMCA England & Wales have launched the campaign 'Small Talks'. The campaign is designed to encourage us all to take small actions to break down the barriers around talking about mental health. Visit ymca.org.uk/small-talks for more info.



Sponne Sports

Charity Football Match for Cancer Research UK ends 22-20 after 4-hour marathon!

Students in Year 9/10 gave up their time, and donated very generously in aid of Cancer Research UK on Sunday 17th October, in a charity football marathon. The four-hour 7-a-side match, was played in very competitive fashion, with Ewan Barnes (9SJ A) captaining his side to a narrow victory. The total raised was £174 - a great effort from all involved!

Massive thanks to;

→ **Towcester Centre for Leisure** - for hosting us, and for use of the astro turf pitch

→ **Northampton Town Football Club** - for donating a pair of tickets to be raffled off (won by Nathan Bates!)

→ **Premier Towcester Convenience Store** - for donating a case of drinks to keep us going during the event

Netball Results

Year 7 girls were crowned district Netball champions last week.

Well done to all involved!



Check our website for after school sports clubs

[Click Here](#)

to find out more information



Year 9 Football

Our Year 9 footballers have continued to show outstanding commitment to school football, continuing to train in big numbers, on a weekly basis. Ewan Barnes, Devan Vara, Sammy Viccars & Ethan Walker are yet to miss a session, and they were amongst the ever-presents from last year too!

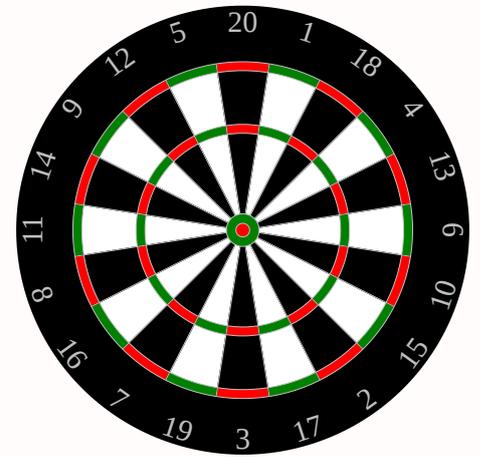
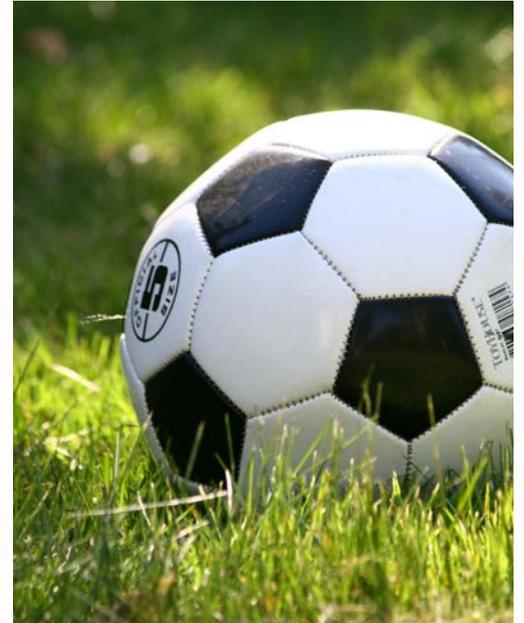
On 7th October, they played their first football fixture since Year 7, and narrowly lost 1-0 to Caroline Chisholm School, in a tough County Cup encounter. The first half was all CCS, but a man-of-the-match performance from Charlie Lane, 9ES in goal, kept the scoreline down to just a 1-0 deficit. Half-time changes, and a renewed desire and focus led to a much improved second half, but sadly the goal never game. A superb effort from the squad of 14 involved in the match, plus 4 others who assisted with the warm-up, ran the line and gave their support.

Darts Club is Back!

After a long, enforced hiatus, Darts Club is back on the list of enhancement clubs, in its traditional Thursday after school slot. The year started with taster sessions for Year 7 which proved extremely popular, but now students from all years are welcome, and it has continued to be very popular.

Students in Y8-10 have done a really good job organising games of n01, killer, round the world and more. The improvement in everyone's game has been amazing to see, over the course of just a matter of weeks!

For more information about anything darts at Sponne, please email darts@sponne.org.uk or visit www.sponnedarts.org.uk



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Other News

Cashless Finance

A polite reminder that we are not able to accept cash as payment of any items within school. This includes replacement badges, donations (including mufti-day), trips and catering money. All payments should be made using our cashless system Scopay. If you do not have access to this please email finance@sponne.org.uk and we will be happy to assist you.

Finance Team

Google Workspaces is for life not just Remote Learning!

Google Workspaces (formally Google Suite) is used across the entire school, by staff and students alike, in all Key Stages for a wide range of purposes.

It provides email (Gmail), document creation and collaboration (Docs, Slides, Sheets & Forms), online file storage (Drive), websites (Sites), organisation (Calendar, Keep), a virtual workspace for messages, files/ collecting work (Classroom) and so much more.

It is an extensive suite of IT-based tools. To support students, parents & carers make use of it effectitly, please see out Google Workspaces support site, accessible from bit.ly/SponneGSuite

This term, we have shared a video to support students (particularly Y7 students) with using their Gmail inbox and in particular, labels and filters.

We recommend bookmarking this support site and checking back regularly. We also remind you that the platform works best in a Google Chrome web browser. There are also mobile apps available on Apple & Android, for most of the apps within Google Workspaces.

In the meantime, if you have any particular questions about any aspect of Google Workspaces, please direct them to Mr. Cornelius on scornelius@sponne.org.uk.

Touch Typing: Fantastic Start made by Year 7

In Computing lessons, students have been encouraged to develop their efficiency and accuracy using a standard QWERTY keyboard, by using the Keyhero platform. On this website students engage in short typing exercises across a wide variety of topics, from topics found within the Computing Key Stage 3 curriculum, extracts from popular books and much more!

Year 7 students have made a very good start on this programme, and our leaderboard to date has 7SC top of the charts; for both number of lessons completed & fastest typing speed!

Students in all year groups have been provided with a login to this programme, and are encouraged to engage with it on at least a weekly basis.

<u>Y7 Form</u>	<u>Lessons Completed</u>	<u>Ave. WPM</u>
7SC	194	19.09
7RHB	185	17.79
7EF	180	15.41
7GB	178	14.49
7MG	175	16.07
7SLB	150	15.98
7AE	121	16.16
7RB	78	14.46



Accelerated Reader

Accelerated Reader is the reading programme we use to help Year 7 and 8 students improve their reading, vocabulary and comprehension skills. Almost all students have now completed their first reading assessment which establishes an optimum reading range for their learning. After they finish a book students answer questions about it by taking a multiple choice quiz and earn points for every quiz they pass.

Our Year 7 students have already amassed a total reading word count of 7,545,559 and have passed 157 quizzes between them. Notable achievements include Ousman Dampha (7SC) and Asa Griffiths (7MG), who have both passed 8 quizzes. Taylor Weston (7RB) has the highest Y7 word count of 510,410. Well done to them!

Year 8 students, who have only had one lesson so far in the LRC, have read a total of 813,118 words. The highest quizzing Y8 students are Isabelle Grimes (8CFD), Harrison Beddows-Leach (8JM) and Finley Everson (8CFD), with 2 quizzes each. All students who achieve 100% in a quiz and who meet their AR points targets receive Sparks rewards. To find out if any of your books at home have an AR quiz, go to www.arbookfind.co.uk.

We have also just launched our inter-form AR quiz for this year. Prize boxes will be given at the end of the year to the top Year 7 and Year 8 forms for most quizzes passed. So, please encourage students to complete quizzes on the books they read - they can check their form's score on the AR display board in the LRC.





Music News

Sponne School is very proud to announce that Thomas Judge (Yr 12 A level Music Student) has been successful in his double bass audition for the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain. Huge congratulations to Thomas on this tremendous achievement. On receiving the news Thomas said "I am completely honoured to accept my place into the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain in the Double Bass section! To say I am excited for what the next year or so has to offer would be an understatement. From performing live at the BBC Proms at the Royal Albert Hall in summer to doing various concert tours of the UK and overseas, it's safe to say the next two years are going to be extremely busy. I'm particularly looking forward to working with the incredible film composer Danny Elfman (whose work includes: Batman, Nightmare before Christmas and the Simpsons) and performing in the world premiere of his new work, which was written especially for the NYO

I applied for the NYO in April this year and was fortunate enough to get moved straight to the 2nd round of auditions. After months of preparation, I was finally invited to the Royal Academy of Music in which I had a weekend assessment, consisting of various creative workshops and as you can imagine A LOT of playing! A couple of weeks later I got an email confirming I had gotten the position.

The NYO has an outstanding reputation of being the world's leading orchestra for young people and thanks to the help of our phenomenal Chief Executive and Artistic Director, Sarah Alexandra OBE, the orchestra has become well linked with some of the greatest musical influencers and organisations in the industry, and has performed to many thousands of people as well as regularly performing for members of the Royal Family.

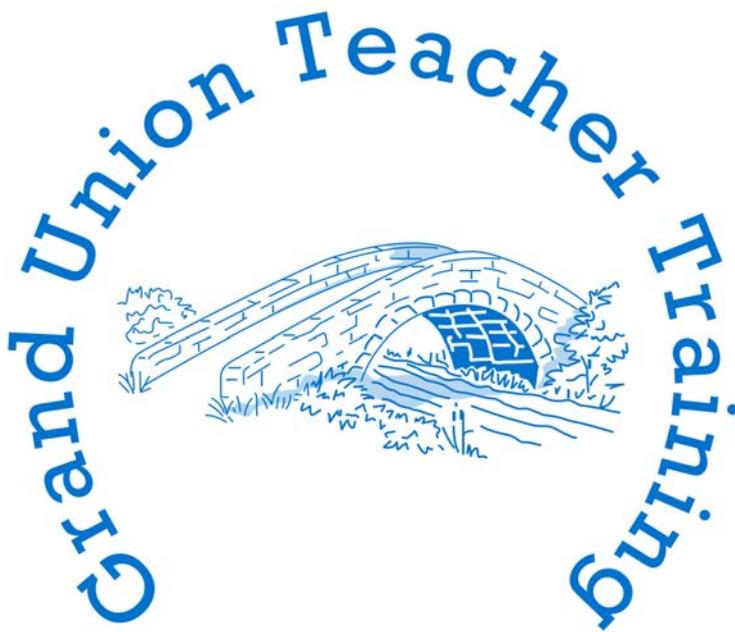
I am incredibly happy to have been given this amazing opportunity and I am very proud to get the chance to represent Sponne School on a National level."

Check our website for music clubs

[Click Here](#)

to find out more information





Are you a graduate and interested in a career in teaching?

If so, The Grand Union Training Partnership would like to invite you to come to our open evening

Monday 1st November 2021
5pm-7pm

The GUTP Training Centre
Sponne School
Towcester
NN12 6DJ

Check our website for further details www.gutp.co.uk

To register email Kate Martin with your subject of interest and mobile phone number: gutprecruitment@sponne.org.uk

Tel: 01327 350284 ext. 253

Useful Dates

Friday 22nd October

Sponne INSET day

25th – 29th October

HALF TERM BREAK

2nd – 5th November

Year 13 Geography field trip to Cumbria

Thursday 4th November

Year 13 parents evening

Thursday 11th November

Year 12 parents evening

Friday 12th November

MAT Training Day

15th Nov – 3rd December

Year 11 mock exams

Tuesday 19th November

Year 12 & 13 Maths Inspiration trip

7th & 9th December

Geography field trip to Birmingham

Friday 17th December

End of term

20th Dec – 3rd January

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Tuesday 4th January

Sponne INSET day

Wednesday 5th January

School reopens

