



TERM 4 NEWSLETTER - 2022

SPONNE NEWS

The official newsletter of Sponne School

Painting By Erin Taylor - Year 7



PFA Easter Raffle

Congratulations to the lucky winners of the PFA Easter Raffle. The prizes included a luxury hamper, Hotel Chocolat hamper and gift vouchers for Afternoon Tea at Whittlebury hall, Annual pass for Blenheim Palace, £25 meal voucher for the Saracen's head, meal for two and bottle of house wine at The Brave Old Oak and meal for two and bottle of house wine at The Watling Street Village. Huge thanks to our local business for their kind donations and support.



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... And much more!



Dear Parents and Carers

Many thanks for all the support that you have provided for your son/daughter(s) and to us as a school this term. It has been a particularly hard one for staff who have been covering for Covid absences whilst keeping the school open and lessons as normal as possible. I'd like to thank them in particular for everything that they have achieved and for their dedication and commitment.

For those students making their final preparations for examinations next term if there is anything that we can do to further support individuals please do not hesitate to ask. There are numerous activities happening during the Easter holidays and I'd like to thank my staff for the additional time that they have put in beyond scheduled lessons to help students to achieve in their learning.

I was once again over-whelmed by the musical talent on display on Tuesday at our Spring Concert. The level of performance and the variety of musical groups was outstanding. It is particularly impressive to see the engagement of so many students from across all year groups and to have over 80 students in our junior orchestra is testament to the depth and breadth of this talent. Thanks in particular to our music staff and peripatetic teachers but also to you as parents who support your children and these events. A special mention to the PFA who organise the raffles and interval drinks as part of their fund raising to support the school.

This edition of the newsletter demonstrates the fabulous range of activities that our young people have engaged with in the past 6 weeks and shows that they have not allowed the pandemic to affect their enthusiasm and drive. My congratulations to them all on their successes this term.

Can I take this opportunity to wish you all a relaxing Easter holiday and remind you that we return to school on Tuesday 19th April.

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

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

Music For Youth Festival

Well done to all of our musicians who performed brilliantly at the Northampton regional festival of Music for Youth.

Four groups from Sponne took part, each of which played well and received excellent feedback from the mentors from Music for Youth.

Our groups included Sponnaissance, Brass Band, Senior Strings and Jazz Orchestra. We are also aware of Sponne students performing in NMPAT County Youth Bands and Orchestras and for Towcester Rock School.

Well done to everyone!



Spring Concert

Congratulations to all of the fantastic Sponne musicians who took part in the Spring concert on Tuesday 29th March. The evening showcased the amazing musical talent of Sponne students with a wide range of different ensembles. Due to the pandemic this was the first Spring Concert for three years and it was great to be back!

Birmingham Symphony Hall

Members and helpers of our Junior Orchestra enjoyed a trip to Birmingham Symphony Hall on the 9th February to watch a fantastic performance of Natural World by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra.



Music News

Junior Choir

On Thursday the 10th March the Sponne Junior Choir took part in 'The Big Sing' at the Derngate Theatre in Northampton. They were one of about 15 choirs from around the county who had been brought together for this event by the Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts trust. They had 10 songs to learn - the theme this year was 'Disney through the ages'. Beth Hodgson the 'Head of Singing' at NMPAT had come into school and led the choir in some fun and entertaining workshops before the event.

It was a really exciting day - including an afternoon rehearsal and then an evening performance to a great audience. The students from Sponne were a credit to the school.



Music Results

Congratulations to Eliza Dickson-Lewis 8SDB for passing her grade three performance exam on the harp with a merit!

British Science Week

After an enforced hiatus last year, British Science Week (BSW) returned this month and as restrictions have eased, we have been able to provide a whole gamut of BSW activities.

The in-class 'unusual practical' sessions saw our students turning base metals into gold (well, ok, perhaps not quite, but a lot of copper coins went home plated in brass!), whilst others made disappearing worms from a special polymer that is often used in foodstuffs, others made ice cream, whilst some students developed and investigated invisible writing techniques, something which those who attend Science club excelled at, having already completed a variety of investigations earlier in the year.

The Key Stage 3 poster competition, coordinated by Mr Fleming, produced some outstanding work from many students. This year's theme was "Growth", and any topic related to growth was a suitable one for a poster. Consequently, we had students presenting work on topics ranging from tadpoles and babies to technology growth and the development of the car. Prizes were awarded both within each class and for Y7 and Y8 overall, and there were runners-up and merit prizes aplenty. Winners' subjects were equally diverse, with topics from the lifecycle of the butterfly to growing plants in outer space.



Finally, and often considered the highlight of our BSW celebration, was the Science assembly. This year our theme was 'Rates of Reaction', to acknowledge the speed with which scientists around the world responded to the COVID-19 pandemic. Although the

pandemic isn't over, we took this opportunity to celebrate the tremendous scientific efforts of the last two years and celebrate that we have reached a stage in the UK, where life is beginning to feel more normal again. Led by Mrs Halling with help from Mr Woods and our superb



Science Technicians, every student in the school was treated to a 20-minute display of reactions; from the very slow to the very fast.

Each assembly included bright green whooshing flames, shrinking drinks bottles, roaring jets of propanol and, to the delight of students

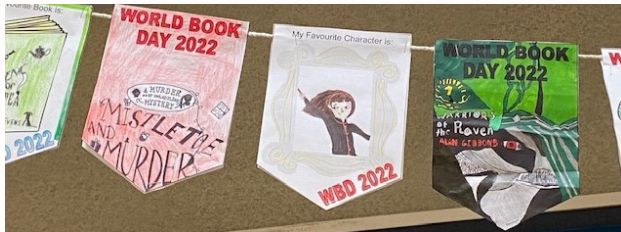
Mr Woods unintentionally spraying himself with Coca-Cola as he jammed Mentos into bottles of the fizzy drink, as well as a whole host of other exciting demonstrations intended to ignite students' interest in science. The assembly culminated in a display of coordinated foam rainbows in the colours of the NHS to celebrate the work of our Health Service.



LRC News

World Book Day

We celebrated World Book Day in the LRC on Thursday 3rd March with several book related puzzles for students to try to solve. We also asked students in Year 7 to help us decorate the LRC with World Book Day bunting. The results are amazing, with many students choosing to showcase their favourite book or book character. A huge 'Thank You' for all their effort!



Accelerated Reader

With Easter approaching, our Year 7 & 8 students have pulled out all the stops and quiz totals for many forms have passed the century mark, with 7SC managing a double-century of 202 quizzes. The top Year 8 form is 8CFD with 108 quizzes - so well done and keep it up!

It's amazing to see that since September our students have read and quizzed on a total of 63,641,174 words and many students have become 'word millionaires', including Charlotte Culley (7SC), Madison Gillard (7AE) & Taylor Weston (7RB), to name a few.

Well done, too, to Mai Barnett (7SC), Asa Griffiths (7MG), Michael Adjei (7MG), Charlie Gercs (7GB), Orna Lett (7SC), Thomas Hartley (8CFD), Ollie Holton (7SLB), Zak Habib (7MG), Finn Messina (7RHB), Scott Finney (8VL) & Tyler Ayre (8CFD), who have all impressed us with the number of quizzes they have passed since Christmas.

Our minions, too, are very 'egg-cited' by the fantastic progress being made - we'd like to thank Holly, Tom and Freya for volunteering their time to colour and decorate Easter eggs for the display.



LRC News

Carnegie Medal Shadowing 2022

We're looking forward to our Carnegie event on the morning of Friday 10th June, as this is the first time we've been able to hold it since 2019. The Carnegie Medal is one of the most prestigious children's book awards and the most sought after by children's authors. Our shadowing event involves students reading as many of the eight shortlisted books as they can and then coming together for a morning to discuss the books and vote for their favourite. We also hold a quiz on the books.

Participating in the shadowing event gives students the opportunity to extend their reading and experience books from genres they wouldn't normally choose. You can find out more about the shortlisted titles at <https://carnegiegreenaway.org.uk/yoto-carnegie-medal-shortlist-2022/>. If students would like to take part, please direct them to the LRC to collect a permission letter. Students should note that they will be expected to catch up on any lessons they miss.



Other News

Young Writer Competition

The Rotary Club Young Writer Competition is a well-established and successful competition. It is designed to support and encourage development of writing skills. This competition aims to encourage young people to use their writing skills and write with imagination and creativity.

This competition gave our students a chance to express themselves and get creative with the written word. After being given the theme of 'Environment', the students got extremely busy planning and writing their amazing poems.

Rotary club member Adrian Harrison stated "Our two judges for Young Writer were very impressed with the standard of the entries and it was such a close decision that we decided to award two equal third places."

Alice and Alfie won joint third place and received a prize of a £20 gift voucher.

Millie came second overall and won a £30 gift voucher.

A massive well done to all who took part this year!



Focus on DT - Let's get Organised...

Year 7 students have been learning to use the tools and equipment in our DT workshops.

For this recent project, students were required to design and make an Organiser for their chosen client.

Having researched the items that their client needed to organise, they set about drawing their ideas, making card models and finally making some great products.

Well done year 7, keep being creative!

Mrs Perks



Flour Babies

Our Year 10 Childcare class were tasked with making and looking after their own flour babies for two weeks as part of a new project. Working in pairs, the students created a profile for their flour baby (with some very eccentric names) and made a schedule between themselves, making sure their baby was not left unattended during the two weeks.

Students were to ensure they received five signatures every day from family or staff (or shop workers in some cases) otherwise Miss Ebbery of Sporne Social Services would have to intervene! Students also kept a log of their daily activities with their babies, with some attending football practice, some going shopping at the local Co-op and others had wholesome infant experiences such as gaming, watching Netflix and eating chips!

The project culminated in a final presentation with all students presenting their flour baby journey whilst referring to stages of development they feel their baby would have gone through had it been a real baby.

With students sitting their BTEC exam this Summer, this was the perfect opportunity for students to be reflective on the developmental stages of real infants. The flour babies have not yet made the natural transition to delicious cupcakes but we are so pleased that this project managed to involve students, teachers, parents and the community alike.

Thank you to everyone involved and a big well done to the whole class that worked so hard to ensure their babies were well taken care of.



Mental Health Awareness Day

As part of Mental Health Awareness Day in Northamptonshire, on February 11th Miss Ebbery and a Year 12 Psychology group took to the school field to discuss careers and barriers to good mental health.

The class took part in positive thinking exercises for how to maintain positive mental health over half term as well as practicing gratitude and mindfulness.

With the pandemic bringing about its own challenges over the past few years, it's always important to remember the small things we're grateful for.

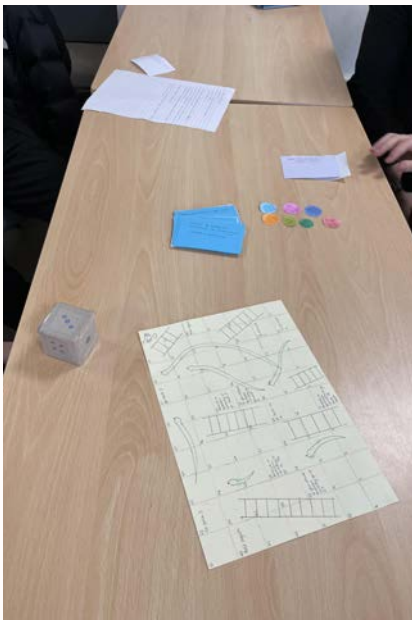
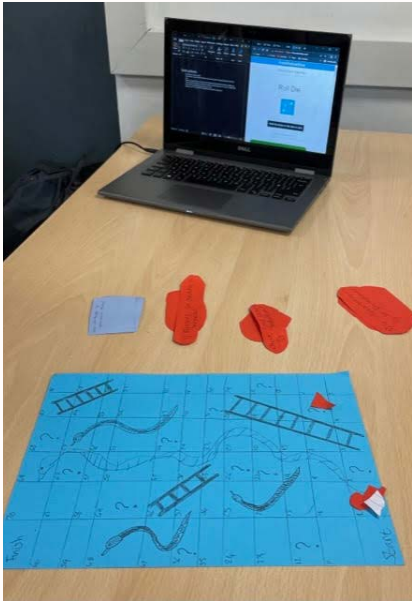


Business Games

The year 9 and 10 Business students took on the challenge this term of creating revision games that could be used by GCSE students. They created some fantastic games; some creative concepts and some adapting existing games to make them relevant to the target audience and brief.

They then had the opportunity to play each other's game, having to answer many business questions and learning along the way.

Here are some of the great work the students achieved:



Eliza Fundraising



My name is Eliza Dickson-Lewis, I am 13 years old and I am in 8SDB. I am one of the youngest of the 36 young people from Northamptonshire Scouts who have been selected to attend the World Scout Jamboree that will be held in South Korea in summer 2023.



I attend the 1st Byfield Scout group and I need to raise £4000 to pay for this amazing adventure. One of the things I am doing is collecting used print head ink cartridges. Ink cartridges are usually thrown away and end up in landfills, but they are not biodegradable and as a result have a significant impact on the environment. Used printhead ink cartridges contain all of the clever bits of a printer within the ink cartridge. They can be efficiently recycled and reused and by collecting them I can raise money towards my Jamboree trip.

I will leave a collection box in the school staff room for staff and another will be located in student services for any used cartridges to be deposited.

I am aware that 40,000 Scouts travelling across the globe to Korea will have a significant impact on the environment. Recycling is a good way to offset some of my carbon footprint for this trip, I also hope to buy and plant trees as a further part of compensating for the carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere during my flights there and back.

Thank you for your help

Kind Regards

Eliza

Ukraine Donations

A big thank you to students, parents/carers and staff for the donations for Ukraine! Well done to some of our sixth form students who organised this and dropped off the donations.

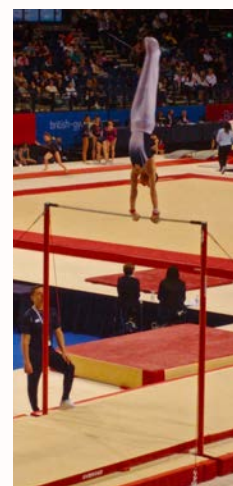
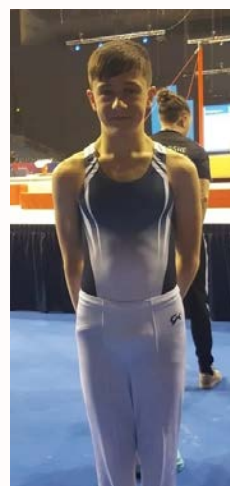


Sports News

Gymnastics super star!

We are super proud of our very own Max Gardner who competed in the British Gymnastics Championships, in Liverpool! What an amazing achievement, with years and hours of dedication paying off to compete at this level.

Well done Max!



County Sports Hall Athletics Finals

Fantastic performance from all our Year 7 & 8 students at the County Sports Hall Athletics Finals.

Year 7 Girls - 1st

Year 7 Boys - 2nd

Year 8 Girls - 1st

Year 8 Boys - 1st



other results

Yr 8 rugby team District champions
Yr 7 rugby team District champions
Both representing South Northants
in the county finals.

For more Sponne sports news
and fixture results,
Follow [@SponnePE](#) on twitter
[Click Here](#)



Girls U16 Netball Success

Wow, what a day, our first nationals experience, such a young squad, 100% we will be back next year, these girls held their own and turned heads finishing 16th in the country (top state school in the country)

Thanks to all the Sponne supporters who showed their support.

U12s County Cup Final

On Thursday 24th March we played our County Cup football final against Northampton Academy. Sponne have come home victorious holding the County Cup trophy up high.

Our squad of thirteen students arrived in their school uniform all smart ready to win the county cup. It was a difficult game but we battled for every ball and fought for every tackle as Mr Hollamby and Mr Trusler told us in our pre match talk we would go home as champions. We had a strong pre game warmup, intense and we worked hard in the training before the match. Then Mr Hollamby called us to head back to the changing rooms for a pre match talk. Our team had their heads held high after the good results in the cup run.

Then it was time we walked out, the lads got their positions in the line ready to walk out onto the pitch for what was the school's biggest game in 16 years. At the game, there were about 100 fans watching. With the sun glaring down onto the lovely 3G pitch we walked out onto the pitch while the fans were cheering, we shook Northampton Academy players hands and then we put the ball on the spot and our captain Rian Spencer won the coin toss so that means Sponne have the kick to undergo the first half.

The first couple of chances came from Sponne by Max Churchman as he hit the outside of the right post and then he hit the bar. After these chances Northampton Academy had 2 very powerful shots but Ollie Burton had a very strong hand to deny them. Then at the other end Rian Spencer had a low driven shot into the right corner to make the game 1:0. The celebrations were electric. Sponne managed to keep Northampton Academy out for the first half. Early into the second half Northampton Academy played beautiful football and struck it home to make the game 1:1.

Sponne managed to keep Northampton Academy out for the rest of the game but they were piling on the pressure towards the end when Sponne got a corner in a dangerous position. Joe Boyle swung the ball in, Tommy Andrews missed the header and fell down to Sam Hannah and he slotted it home to make it 2:1 to Sponne with 4 minute left to go. Northampton Academy had two more chances before the full time whistle but Sponne managed to keep them out until the final whistle. The celebrations were amazing and everything was a dream come true, 16 years waiting and we finally broke the deadlock.

Match report written by Max C, Joe B, Harry M & Tommy A

Final Score: 2-1 win

Goals: Rian S and Sam H

Assists: Max C and Tom A

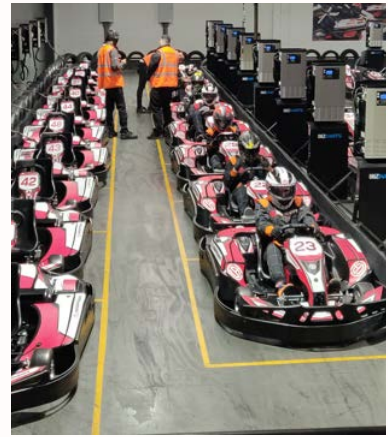
Final Squad: Tommy A, Joe B, Oliver B, Max C, Aiden C, George G, Sam H, Max K, Rylan K, Harry M, Ewan R, Rian S © & Dillon W

U12 Boys Football: Road to County Cup Glory

R1 Guilsborough (h)	4-2 win
R2 EWS North (h)	10-0 win
QF CCS (h)	5-3 win
SF Campion (a)	6-1 win
F Northampton Academy (n)	2-1 win

British Schools Karting Championship

Following on from the Practice session back in February, Sponne went into the Local Finals full of optimism. The Local Final in Watford would see 6 Teams, consisting of three drivers, compete in 6 races, two for each driver. Points are awarded based on the race results, with the three teams with the most points, progressing forward to the Regional Finals in May. The maths was simple. 3 Teams would go through, and for the other 3 Teams the journey would end here tonight. On average, each driver needed to finish third in each race to progress forward to the Regionals. The Sponne Team were confident as Mia took to the Wheel for the first race.



Of the three drivers, Mia, Guy and Monica, Mia had the worst draw. Her first race saw her start third on the grid. The circuit is tight, slippery and difficult to overtake, meaning the starting track position can have a big impact on your race. The race ebbed and flowed, with Mia making up positions, and then later falling back again. Mia fought well, to take the flag in third, meaning the first hurdle was cleared.

Next up was Guy, who would be starting in 2nd. The front three broke away, fighting all the way through nose to tail. Few opportunities were available for anyone to make a move, testing the nerves of many watching the race. Eventually, Guy managed to sneak past to take the lead, to only be pressed hard for the remainder of the race as he now had to defend. Good use of back markers gave some breathing space until the chequered flag, which provided much needed relief for the spectators.



For the final first round race, Monica had the benefit of starting on pole, close behind her in second, was James with whom Monica has raced with before. The start was a clean get away, with the front three breaking away again. James pushed Monica for the whole race, but wasn't able to force an error which would allow him to take the lead. As they came up the ramp, it was Monica who arrived first, and would hold the lead to the flag.

Going into the second half of the night Sponne were on a high. Two wins, and a third place, put them in the lead, and feeling comfortable. However, the second half was going to get tougher. There was little to separate the leaders, circling the track bumper to bumper. As they approached the end of the lap, it looked like the front pair tripped over each other as they jostled for position, with Mia close in to make the most of the situation. As they collided and blocked the track, the red flag came out to halt the race.

The Track Steward handed down an 8 second penalty to Mia, which seemed a little unjust at least from the vantage point from the Spectators gallery. This set Mia back at the race restart, but she got her head down to make up the deficit. Unfortunately, despite her good pace, there just weren't enough laps left for her to pull back the time, meaning she finished 5th.

Continued...

Guy's second race saw him start at the back. It was a solid race from Guy, as he progressed up through the field. However, once you get near the front runners, the circuit is just too tight to offer many chances to overtake. Guy worked hard, finishing the race in 2nd, and a great result from the starting position.

Monica's final race, was the last of the night. She was starting in the middle of the pack, with James once again behind her. The first half of the race went well, with Monica making her way up to 2nd, with James close behind. They had caught up to the back of 1st place with Monica looking for a way to get past. A tactical error down the back straight trying to pass on the outside, left the door open on the inside for James to pass Monica, leaving Monica back in third.. This is how the race positions remained up to the final chequered flag.

All the Teams gathered round the podium as the results were called out. In 6th place..... well we weren't 6th, nor 5th. As the team that finished 4th was announced, our hearts were in our mouths, hoping it wasn't Sponne. IT WASN'T! We had made it! Third place went to Sponne School, with the top three Teams separated by only a few points.

This means Sponne will be progressing on to the Regional Finals on 11th May in Reading and a chance for the Team to get through to the National Finals!

Great to see the Sponne Team on the podium, bringing a bit of balance and diversity to the top three steps. Bring on the Regional Finals.

Sponne Karting Team!



Dates for your diary

Easter 2022

School closes Thursday 31st March 2022

Training Day Friday 1st April 2022

TERM 5

School opens Tuesday 19th April 2022

May Day 2022

School closed Monday 2nd May 2022

Summer Half Term

School closes Friday 27th May 2022

TERM 6

School opens Monday 6th June 2022

Last day of term Thursday 21st July 2022

Queen's Platinum Jubilee Bank Holiday

School closed Friday 22nd July 2022

Summer Break 2022

Friday 22nd July 2022 - 30th August 2022

Results days

A Levels 18th August 2022

GCSEs 25th August 2022

ASK SEND WEEK 4th - 9th April

The events are for any student, parent/guardian, or any person working with young adults. The events include a short introductory talk about apprenticeships, employability tips, and conversations with real-world employers, all to benefit future career seekers and upskilling for staff members! To register click on the links below:

Monday 4th April

9:00am - [An Introduction to Level 2/ 3 Apprenticeships and Traineeships - Morning Tickets, Mon 4 Apr 2022 at 09:00 | Eventbrite](#)

1:30pm - [An Introduction to Level 2/ 3 Apprenticeships and Traineeships - Afternoon Tickets, Mon 4 Apr 2022 at 13:30 | Eventbrite](#)

Tuesday 5th April

9:00am - [Taking the first step: Searching for Apprenticeships/Traineeships -Morning Registration, Tue 5 Apr 2022 at 09:00 | Eventbrite](#)

1:30pm - [Taking the first step: Searching for Apprenticeships/Traineeships Afternoon Registration, Tue 5 Apr 2022 at 13:30 | Eventbrite](#)

Wednesday 6th April

6:00pm - [Helping my child with an Apprenticeship: A seminar for Parents & Carers Registration, Wed 6 Apr 2022 at 18:00 | Eventbrite](#)

Thursday 7th April

9:00am - [Writing a winning CV: A CV and Application writing workshop - Morning Registration, Thu 7 Apr 2022 at 09:00 | Eventbrite](#)

1:30pm - [Writing a winning CV: A CV and Application writing workshop - Afternoon Registration, Thu 7 Apr 2022 at 13:30 | Eventbrite](#)

4:00pm - [SEND specific CPD : A talk for Teachers & Staff Registration, Thu 7 Apr 2022 at 16:00 | Eventbrite](#)

Friday 8th April

9:00am - [What are your Strengths? A Skills & Strengths Workshop - Morning Registration, Fri 8 Apr 2022 at 09:00 | Eventbrite](#)

1:30pm - [What are your Strengths? A Skills & Strengths Workshop - Afternoon Registration, Fri 8 Apr 2022 at 13:30 | Eventbrite](#)

Saturday 9th April

9:30pm - [Helping my child with an Apprenticeship: A seminar for Parents & Carers Registration, Sat 9 Apr 2022 at 09:30 | Eventbrite](#)



Nutmeg Easter 2022 Soccer School For Girls & Boys Aged 4-12

Date: 12th - 14th April 2022

Venue: Yardley Gobion FC, School Lane, NN12 7UL

Times: 10am - 3pm

(9am early drop off and 4pm late pick up also bookable online)

£56 - 3 days, £39 - 2 days or £21 - 1 day

Full refunds given if event cancelled due to COVID19

ALL COACHES ARE DBS CHECKED

Book online at www.nutmegss.co.uk

E-mail: contact@nutmegss.co.uk



INTERESTED IN A CAREER IN TEACHING?

JOIN OUR OPEN
EVENING

26th April 2022
17:00 - 19:00

University of Northampton

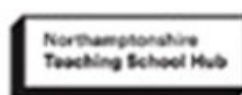


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training providers offering Primary and
Secondary routes into teaching across
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HOWKINS &
HARRISON

We're proud to be supporting Sponne School with our 'For Schools' programme.

On completion of every house sale made through the programme, we will give Sponne School £500.

How can you take part?

- If you're thinking of selling your home get in touch with us for your free, no obligation valuation
- Mention the For Schools Programme and Sponne School
- We will market and sell your home
- On completion of the sale, we'll donate £500 directly to Sponne School

Howkins & Harrison, investing in our future and local community.

Call Martin Broadbend (former Sponne pupil) for more details; 01327 353575
or visit [howkinsandharrison.co.uk/about-us/supporting-local-communities](https://www.howkinsandharrison.co.uk/about-us/supporting-local-communities)

Howkins & Harrison LLP, 98a Watling Street, Towcester NN12 6BB





South Northants
Youth Engagement



Towcester Recreation Ground

Play & Activity

Day

Wednesday, 6th April
11am-3pm

**Free
Entry &
Activities**

Football Soft Archery Bungee Run
Tricky Trail Mountain Biking Drumming
Face Painting Space Hoppers
Picnic Area Rodeo Bull Smoothie Bike

Refreshments available at an extra cost
(pizza & ice cream)

Visit the SNYE Facebook page for more details



West
Northamptonshire
Council



Northamptonshire
Community Foundation
Giving back to our county



The
National
Lottery®



Service, Compassion, Responsibility

If you are worried about debt, benefits, housing
and anything else.....

Drop in to see an advisor

Every Tuesday between 12 noon – 2pm
St John Ambulance Hall, Islington Road, Towcester, NN12 6AU

*Come along and have
a confidential chat
over a cuppa*



Call us on: **07724 832043** and leave a message
Email us at: **info@towcester.foodbank.org.uk**
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Charity No: 1157338