

Sponne School



Dream **Believe** Achieve



SIXTH FORM PROSPECTUS



Sponne School is part of the Tove Learning Trust –
a highly successful and growing multi-academy trust

A young man in a red vest is playing a clarinet. In the background, another student is also playing a clarinet. The scene is set in a school band or orchestra.

Vision and Values

All that we do is aimed at enabling our young people to reach their goals. This was inspired by a previous student, Tom Hollick, who passed away just before his GCSE exams in 2017 but has left a legacy with us of a commitment to high aspirations and being inclusive of everyone in our community. We strive to enable students to believe in their potential futures, to be proud of what they do and to show respect to others. This enables us all to be motivated to achieve our dreams whilst celebrating achievements across the school.

Head of Sixth Form Welcome

Dear Parents, carers and students,

I feel I am in a real privileged position to be leading such a fantastic Sixth Form Team, here at Sponne. Our aim is to provide an environment that is professional, motivated and successful, whilst always supporting individual students to reach their full potential and next steps in life.

As young adults who are getting ready to make their own way in the world, it is important we support them not only academically but pastorally too, to become well rounded citizens, and this comes through knowing our students well. Our main focus has to be achieving strong individual outcomes, and this is more likely with personalised support and a sense of belonging to a strong community.

We ask all of our Sixth Form students to be role models, through community involvement and work with younger students.

We also offer a programme of support for next steps, whether that is university, apprenticeship or employment; we help each individual decide on the right future path for them and how to get there. High expectations, a strong community and personalised support will help each Sponne Sixth Former to be the very best version of themselves. It is our aim to create an ethos where our students can Dream, Believe and Achieve.

We look forward to welcoming you.

Hayley Mort

Hayley Mort

Head of Sixth Form



Hayley Mort
Head of Sixth Form



Iain Massey
Headteacher

Curriculum

A significant proportion of our Year 11 students continue their education into the Sixth Form and they are joined by an increasing number from other schools and locations.

Study options are varied; a broad range of academic and vocational choices are complimented by courses which deliver skills and understanding that may be applied in a variety of contexts. These combinations are intended to prepare students for their individual futures, whether that is entering the world of work or sitting Oxbridge entrance examinations.

Options are available to allow students to combine courses at different levels such as GCE 'A' Levels, BTEC, Cambridge Technical Qualifications and GCSE. The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is available as an addition to three subject choices.

Specialist teachers work closely with students to deliver each course and support each student's personal learning and progress. However, there is a strong focus on independent study and students are required to extend the material covered in class through further research and written or practical tasks.

Additional support is available during structured study sessions. Study visits are arranged where possible; these may include activities such as theatre trips, subject conferences or exploring art galleries.

Our designation as a Music and Science Academy reflects the excellence and achievement in these subject areas, from examination results to recognition at a regional and national level. The aim of the specialisms is to enhance teaching and learning in these areas and develop an ethos that inspires and motivates our students to become more confident, competent and enthusiastic independent learners.

Designation as a Music and Science Academy

The Science faculty offers opportunities for industrial visits to help develop the scientists and engineers of the future. The school promotes careers utilizing the scientific expertise within the wider community and provides opportunities for selected students to experience Science in the workplace, through curriculum-related industrial and higher education visits.


Music and Drama form a central part of each student's experience. From the presentation of small studio-scale productions to major productions such as 'Beauty and the Beast', 'Les Misérables', 'West Side Story' and 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. Sponne School has established a reputation for quality and the level of student involvement enjoyed by many, both on stage and behind the scenes.

Other ensembles and bands flourish at the school, offering different styles and levels of involvement in music. In recent years, the school Brass Band and Sponnaissance have regularly performed in the National Festival of Music for Youth finals at the Birmingham Symphony Hall and the Schools Proms at the Royal Albert Hall.

INTERNAL & EXTERNAL
students welcome

Students are required
to study **3 OR 4**
QUALIFICATIONS

Students require at least
6 GCSES at grade **9-4**
with at least **one grade 6**
(each subject has their own criteria).

A photograph of two students, a young man and a young woman, in a chemistry laboratory. They are both wearing white lab coats and safety goggles. The young man is leaning over a desk, writing on a piece of lined paper with a pen. The young woman is standing next to him, smiling and looking at a piece of glassware (a conical flask) that is being heated on a Bunsen burner. The flask is held in a metal clamp attached to a vertical stand. The background features a large periodic table of elements on the wall. In the foreground, there are various pieces of laboratory glassware, including a funnel, a beaker, and a flask containing a pink liquid. The overall scene is bright and professional, suggesting a high-quality educational environment.

“ Sponne Sixth Form provides our students with many diverse opportunities to develop both academically and personally; Sponne prepares students for their future ”

Beyond the classroom

Although study forms the largest part of a young person's education at Sponne School, we know that opportunities beyond the formal curriculum also influence and shape the expectations and achievements of many students.

We encourage all students to participate in activities which will enhance their abilities, skills and perceptions. We also recognise that we need to prepare our students as young adults, ready to take their place in society as responsible and considerate citizens.

During our induction period, we encourage all of our Year 12 students to get involved in at least one extra-curricular activity promoted in our 'freshers' fayre'. Our wide range of activities include subject and tutor mentoring, a debating society, Law School Junior, numerous music ensembles and the opportunity to apply for World Challenge, to name a few.

Enhancement activities will form an important part of the 'personal statement', which students build up during their time in the Sixth Form and give valuable experience in order to help prepare them for the competitive world of higher education and employment.

The highly successful Sixth Form Debating Society holds weekly open debates. A wide range of intellectually challenging motions are considered, from humorous to serious, current affairs, to the purely hypothetical.

Several of the activities available are based on developing a sense of community. Currently our students are involved in projects such as mentoring younger students in tutor groups and subject areas, running the anti-bullying society, participating in student voice and fundraising for a variety of charities. For the past three years, Sponne has been part of the Bold Voices project. This involves students, staff and parents working together, led by a team of five student ambassadors, to challenge and end gender inequality and gender-based violence within our community

Sponne offers the 16-19 Bursary Fund in accordance with the government guidelines. Applications are made to the Sixth Form Team in term three. The 16-19 Bursary Fund is aimed at students who may face financial struggles and may contribute towards, for example, essential equipment, resources and trips enabling these students to gain the full benefit of being in the Sixth Form.





Preparation for the future

Almost as soon as you have joined us in Year 12, we encourage you to start thinking about what you plan to do when you leave us!

For many of our students, university will be the next stage in their education. Staff at Sponne School are highly experienced in guiding students towards the choices that are right for them as individuals.

Advice, guidance and support in completing their application forms for UCAS, apprenticeships and other post-18 options are available throughout Years 12 and 13.

You will have the opportunity to attend a UCAS Higher Education Fair, as well as personally attending the open days of any universities you are interested in or granted time to undertake job or apprenticeship interviews.

We work with outside agencies to provide mock interviews and inform students regularly about both employment and apprenticeship opportunities available in the local area. Teaching staff also support students preparing for the interview process, auditions or any of the other tasks required by universities, apprenticeships or employers during the application process.

- ✓ Apprenticeships
- ✓ University
- ✓ Higher Level Apprenticeships
- ✓ Degree Apprenticeships
- ✓ Employment
- ✓ Gap Year

UCAS SERVICE	CAREERS INTERVIEWS	1-2-1 SUPPORT	UCAS SEMINARS	OPEN EVENINGS	CAREER ADVISER
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Pastoral Care

Each Sixth Form student at Sponne School is assigned to a Form Tutor whose priority is the general well-being of the students in their care.

Tutors are the first line of contact and support as they take a holistic approach to the progress of each young person in their group. On a regular basis, tutors monitor subject data and have follow up discussions with students.

They know their students well, as they usually remain with the tutor group for both years of Sixth Form. Form Tutors liaise directly with either the Head or Assistant Head of Sixth Form. Together, they provide the key links between home and school. Additionally, the Sixth Form Team offers a range of activities via the tutor programme in order to support the needs and progress of students.

With competition for both university and employment rising, it is vital that young people have a range of skills to give them a chance of securing their chosen course or profession. We offer the opportunity to apply to the World Challenge Programme, the Uganda Youth Conference and Lessons from Auschwitz Project. Sponne School is also an officially licensed centre for the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme at bronze, silver and gold level.

The Sixth Form Study Centre is for the exclusive use of Sixth Form students and provides a pleasant and quiet place to work, with computer facilities, toilets and lockers. The Sixth Form Office has an open-door policy and is accessible directly from the study centre.

We have a designated Study Support Mentor, who monitors the structured study sessions and is available for support and advice.

All students have fortnightly assemblies and PSHE lessons. This is an opportunity for students to explore a number of themes and issues in preparation for adult life. PSHE lessons are delivered by both teaching staff and visiting professionals, offering a range of specialist knowledge on a variety of different topics. In addition, Life Skills is designed to help young people develop the skills they need for the 21st century workplace. Sponne follows a programme of LifeSkills, helping our students build in confidence, create a CV and prepare for interviews.

We recognise that our students have a diverse range of interests, talents and abilities and that they have many different ambitions. For all our students, whatever their choices, we aim to provide an effective foundation to the next stage in their lives.



“ An effective foundation for the next stage in your life



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How To Apply

There are **three pathways** which will determine a programme of study in the Sixth Form:

PATHWAY A:

Two year course
studying
4 x A-levels
or **equivalent**

PATHWAY B:

Two year course
studying
3 x A-levels
or **equivalent**

PATHWAY C:

Two year course
studying
3 x A-levels
or **equivalent**
with either
English OR Maths
GCSE re-take

Students can either choose to study A-levels or a combination of A-levels and vocational courses. Please note that vocational courses cannot be chosen as standalone options.

Choosing your pathway:

- Using your predicted grades you can select the most suitable route into the Sixth Form for you. If you need help with this a member of the Sixth Form Team will be happy to offer advice
- When you have decided which route you wish to follow, choose the correct number of subjects from the list. We will try to give you your first choice of subjects depending on your ability to meet the entry criteria set by the Sixth Form and faculties
- Entry criterion to Sponne Sixth Form is 6 GCSEs at 9 - 4; one of which must be a Grade 6. One of these 6 GCSEs must be Grade 4 or above in English and/or Maths

Confirmation of your place:

- Your application should be made via the online Google Form
- All applications must be received by **Thursday 8th February 2024**
- All applications will be acknowledged by an automated Google Form confirmation message. Please do not contact for confirmation unless you do not see this message
- Students may be offered an interview if any clarification regarding their application is required
- The courses currently offered may be withdrawn subject to student/staffing numbers. Students will be informed at interview if this is a possibility based on their study choices

Checklist, you should have:

- Read the subject/course descriptions available in the booklet and on the website
- Considered the grades that your subject teachers have predicted and the careers advice that you have received
- Made careful assessment of your aspirations and personal strengths
- Taken your time to find out about all the subject/courses that interest you and that they are relevant to your possible career
- Picked subjects/courses that you enjoy, that you are good at and that will lead you to a career that you are interested in
- Logged on to **www.ucas.com** and selected **course search** to check you have chosen the correct A-levels for your chosen career path

EXTRA-CURRICULAR

All students will be required to contribute to the school community via extra-curricular/enhancement activities (approximately 1-2 hours per week).



An extensive range of opportunities are provided through our enrichment programme

Course Entry Requirements

In order to obtain a place at Sponne Sixth Form, students are required to achieve:

- At least **6 GCSE Grade 9-4** (or equivalent)
- A minimum of a **Grade 4** (good pass), in **English and/or Mathematics**, however Grade 5 is preferable
- At least **one Grade 6** in any subject
- All students are also required to **meet the additional subject grade requirements** detailed on the table.

If you do not achieve these subject requirements IN ADDITION to the overall requirements then you will not gain a place in Sixth Form.

BTEC/VOCATIONAL SUBJECT	GCSE MATHS GRADE	GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE GRADE	ADDITIONAL SUBJECT GRADE REQUIREMENTS
BTEC Business (Level 3 Extended Certificate)	4	4	-
Food Science and Nutrition (Level 3, Diploma)	4	4	Grade 4 in Food Technology
IT - Cambridge Technical (Level 3 Introductory Diploma)	4	4	Grade P2 in IT (if taken) Grade 4 in Computer Science (if taken)
Digital Media – Cambridge Technical (Level 3, Extended Certificate)	4	4	Grade P2 in iMedia (if taken)
Mathematical Studies (Core) (Level 3, Certificate)	5	4	Grade 5 in Maths or Higher Level/Grade 4 with teacher recommendation
Science (Applied) (BTEC, National Extended Certificate)	5	4	5/5 in Combined Science

GCSE RE-TAKES

Under current government requirements and with the new grading system, all students in the Sixth Form must continue to study English Language and Mathematics until they achieve a grade 4. Should the Department for Education requirement change then we will inform parents/carers and students.

English GCSE re-take	Grade 3 in English
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Mathematics GCSE re-take	Grade 3 in Maths
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If students achieve a grade 3 in either English or Mathematics then they must retake the relevant GCSE in addition to their 3 subjects. This will then determine the route a student can take and will be decided after the final GCSE results are known.

A-LEVEL SUBJECT	GCSE MATHS GRADE	GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE GRADE	ADDITIONAL SUBJECT GRADE REQUIREMENTS
Art	4	4	Grade 5 in Art
Biology	6	6	Grade 6 in Biology or 6/6 in Combined Science with a 7/7 in Biology
Business	5	5	Grade 5 in Business (if taken)
Chemistry	6	5	Grade 6 in Chemistry or 6/6 in Combined Science with a 7/7 in Chemistry
Drama & Theatre Studies	4	5	Grade 5 in Drama / Grade 4 in English with teacher recommendation
Economics	6	6	-
English Literature and Language	4	6	Grade 6 in English Literature
English Literature	4	6	Grade 6 in English Literature
French	4	4	Grade 6 in French
Further Maths	8/9	4	Teacher recommendation
Geography	5	4	Grade 5 in Geography
German	4	4	Grade 6 in German
History	4	6	Grade 6 in History (or Grade 6 in English if no History GCSE taken)
Mathematics	7	4	-
Media	4	4	Grade 4 Media (if taken)
Music	4	4	Grade 5 in Music and/or minimum Grade 6 instrumentalist/vocalist
Philosophy	5	5/6	Discussion with Humanities on results day
Photography	4	4	Grade 5 in Art (or an ability to demonstrate a natural flair in the subject)
Physics	6	5	Grade 6 in Physics or 6/6 in Combined Science with a 7/7 in Physics
Physical Education	4	4	Grade 5 in PE/M2 in Sport (teacher recommendation), Grade 6 in Science
Product Design	4	4	Grade 5 in Design & Technology
Psychology	6	5	Grade 5 in Science
Sociology	5	5	Grade 4 in Science

If you do not achieve these subject requirements IN ADDITION to the overall requirements then you will not gain a place in Sponne Sixth Form.

Application Process

Applications to Sponne School Sixth Form are made online, which can be accessed through the 'Sixth Form' section of our school website.

Closing date for applications is **Thursday 8th February 2024.**

Scan here for more information and to apply



DECEMBER 2023 - JANUARY 2024

Year 11 assembly and tutor time. Students find out about sixth form and the application process during form time and assembly

18TH JANUARY 2024

Year 11 into Year 12 Sixth Form Open Evening 6pm - 8pm

THURSDAY 8TH FEBRUARY 2024

Deadline for application submission

MARCH- MAY 2024

Year 11 Post-16 discussions. Students may be offered an interview if any clarification regarding their application is required

AFTER EASTER 2024

Conditional Offer letters to all students

MAY - JUNE 2024

GCSE exams – Good Luck!

8TH & 9TH JULY 2024

Year 11 into Year 12 Induction Days. Students attend taster sessions, get to know the school and staff and meet their Form Tutor

22ND AUGUST 2024

GCSE Results Day – come and meet the Sixth Form Team/Senior Leadership Team to confirm your final option choices

4TH SEPTEMBER 2024

Join Sponne Sixth Form and start your exciting adventure



How to apply

Visit - www.sponne.org.uk

Sponne School



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