

SPONNE NEWS

The official newsletter of Sponne School

U18 County Cup Winners! - See Page 7



Parking Reminder



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.

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Music News

Music achievements

Other News

- Accelerated Reader
- Year 11 Art Trip

... And more!

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



SponneSchool



SponneSchool



Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to our first newsletter of the year, I hope that you enjoy reading about all the different activities that students have been involved in and find the other information useful. I would like to thank you as parents for your continued support in ensuring that your children can benefit from both the academic and enhancement opportunities that are available at Sponne and to my staff for all that they do above and beyond their roles as teachers and support staff.

In particular I would like to mention our open evening for Year 6 students and parents that took place on Thursday 5th October. This was a very busy and vibrant event with many of our current students helping out in subject areas or taking tours around the school. They were all fantastic and many prospective parents commented on how

engaged and enthusiastic they were with regard to their learning. I have no doubt that we will be over-subscribed again for September 2024.

I am pleased to hear from my staff that our new Year 7 students have settled in quickly. The transition from Year 6 to 7 can be a very daunting prospect for some but they have taken to the new routines really well and are already making good progress in their learning. At the other end of the spectrum Year 11 students are gearing up for their mock exams after the term break. I am aware of the increased workload that these students have with assessments being completed across most curriculum areas. If there is any support that your son/daughter needs at this time please do not hesitate to make contact with the school.

As well as the highlights mentioned in the newsletter I'd like to congratulate the Under-18 netball team on winning the County Cup and say well done to the many Year 11 students who have been on academic trips this term including the Art trip to London where they visited the National Gallery, two Geography residential field trips to Dorset and a theatre trip to Milton Keynes. In addition we send our best wishes to the many Year 10 and 11 students who are visiting Germany this week. It would seem that our extra-curricular trips and experiences are thriving and my thanks to you and to my staff for supporting students with these.

Thank you for your continued support in enabling the success of all of our students here at Sponne.

lain Massey

Headteacher

Music News

The Cory Band side by side scheme

Congratulations to Katie Skey who successfully auditioned to participate in The Cory Band side by side scheme. This is where you get to play alongside the band and meet the players. The Cory band is ranked the number 1 best brass band in the world and are based down in Cardiff. Philip Harper, world famous conductor and composer, approved Katie's audition and gave her the incredible opportunity to go down to Cardiff to play with the band, sitting next to Tom Hutchinson, principal cornet of Cory band and one of the finest cornet players in the world.

Well done Katie!



Sponne Musicians

Well done to all those musicians who performed on open evening, either in the jazz orchestra or as soloists. We had some lovely comments back from our visitors.

It will be a busy time for Sponne musicians in the weeks before Christmas, culminating with our Christmas Concert that will feature ALL of the music enhancement groups. This will take place on Tuesday 19th December at 7.30pm in the school hall. Tickets will be available on scopay after half term priced £7.

Further details regarding arrangements to follow.

Well done to Nathan Burt, Melody Powell and Lydia Game in reaching the final of the Nigel Cobb and Shirley Grant Music Fellowship award NMPAT county final. They gave fantastic performances for this highly competitive award and congratulations to Lydia who won the vocal competition.

Y11 Art Trip to the National Gallery London

On Tuesday 3rd October, our year 11 art students had the amazing opportunity to travel to London and go to the renowned National Gallery. Here our Y11 Artists had the opportunity to look closely at the paintings and have a talk/workshop by the National Gallery education team. After the workshop students were able to explore the gallery, looking at work to inspire their own projects.



















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

Sponne Equestrians

Our Sponne equestrians have been busy already this term representing the school in a variety of disciplines. Sponne had 6 riders representing the school at the NSEA Regional Qualifiers at Berkshire College of Agriculture on the 17th of September. They celebrated a team win in the show jumping as well as individual qualifiers in the Jumping with style which qualifies them for the National Championships at Addington from October 20-23rd. We wish all the girls the best of luck.

We also have a whole host of new starters who have joined the Sponne Equestrian team and they are next competing this month at the Bloxham Schools Eventer Challenge at Aston Le Walls.

Two of our members also competed at Blenheim International Horse trials on the 15th of September in the very prestigious Eventers Challenge. It was an amazing opportunity for the students to ride at such a big event. They both had a brilliant day and got to wear their Blenheim International competitor jackets.

If you are interested in joining the team or would like some more information please contact Miss Stone in the PE department.







U18 County Cup Winners



Huge congratulations to the U18 Netball squad who won the County Cup against some tough opposition. Fantastic performances from everyone who took to the court!

- Pitsford School 15-1 win
- NSG 24-4 win
- Prince William School 17-7 win
- Wellingborough School 15-2 win
- Oundle 13-9 win
- Bishop Stopford 12-6 win.

Next round Regionals in the New Year!

National Schools Chess Championship

On Wednesday 11th October, six representatives from Sponne Chess Club competed as a team in a qualifying event for the National Schools Chess Championship.

The team members were as follows: Will Tollervey (playing board 1 as our top player), Ed Mold, Jacob O'Mahoney, Daniel Thomas, James Brown and James Turner-Pim.



Our opponents were two teams from Stowe School and one team from Wycombe Abbey. This is the first competition that Sponne has taken part in, so nerves were definitely on display a little. We narrowly lost in the first round to Wycombe Abbey but went on to beat Stowe B and draw with Stowe A in the subsequent rounds.

At the time of writing this piece, we still don't know if we've managed to qualify but did achieve second place overall on the day - a fantastic achievement for a club that has only been in existence for 12 months.

The final results were as follows:

Round 1: Sponne 2.5, Wycombe 3.5

Round 2: Sponne 4, Stowe B 2 Round 3: Sponne 3, Stowe A 3

U12 Girls Football

What a fantastic day for football! Our U12 Girls smashed their first County Cup game 5-0 on Tuesday 17th October. A brilliant all round team performance.

Next round after half term.

Thanks to Gab, Arianna and Amy for being the match officials and Jess for being assistant coach.



U16 Girls Football

On Monday 16th October, our U16's played in the County Cup Football Competition. After leading for most of the first half, it was a great game to finish 2-2 so on to penalties it was!

After a nail biting shoot out it just wasn't our night and we finished 2-4 down. Unlucky girls but you did us proud!

Thanks to Gab, Sam & Ollie for officiating the game.



Y3/4 Tag Rugby District Finals

What a great day on Wednesday at Towcestrians Rugby Club. Our fabulous leaders did an amazing job refereeing the Y3/4 Tag Rugby District Finals!

Congratulations to the overall winners, Syresham Primary

Thanks David Hanson and Northamptonshire Sport for the opportunity!







Y7&8 Girls Dodgeball Tournament



On Thursday 5 October, 14 Year 7 & 8 girls went to CCS to take part in The School Games Dodgeball tournament. They all did brilliantly, but a special congratulations to the Year 8 team who have qualified for the Level 3 finals!









KS2 Boccia Tournament

On Thursday 12 October we hosted the KS2 Boccia tournament. The leaders were brilliant and the pupils had such a good time they just wanted to play more!

Congratulations to Flore Primary School who were the winners!











SEND Sports Day

On Friday 13th October, 12 students went to Daventry Sports Club to take part in a fun inclusive sports day. They tried different activities: athletics, cricket, table tennis, visually impaired guide running, and football.

What a brilliant day had by all!

























Other News

Student Breakthrough



On Wednesday 27th September, Sam Moinet (founder of Student Breakthrough), gave an assembly to Year 9 on how to best support their mental health. The students learned new ways to listen to themselves and others to improve their overall wellbeing. He also led a workshop to around 20 of our Year 9 students, with very practical advice and techniques for dealing with mental health difficulties.

Student Breakthrough has impacted the lives of thousands of students through their coaching techniques which skyrocket mental health, confidence and motivation of young people. Sam has very kindly offered further support to our students through his website and course. If you are interested in getting support for your son/daughter please do look at the website below or get in contact with Sam. Student Breakthrough also offer training for parents/carers in coaching techniques so that you can better support your child.

For more information on their services:-

E: sam@studentbreakthrough.com W: www.studentbreakthrough.com



Anti-Bullying Ambassador Training



On Tuesday 3rd October, we took a small group of our antibullying ambassadors on a training day with The Diana Award in Rugby.

Our pupils solidified their knowledge of key LGBT+ terms and the different types of bullying associated with this. We then 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







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 5,387,950 and have passed 188 quizzes between them. Our star readers this term are **Harry Adams**, **Mia Bottomley**, **Claire Sopko and Tabitha Turnham**.

Year 8 students, who have only had one LRC lesson this term, have read a total of 3,158,661 words and passed 78 quizzes. Year 8 star readers are **Rory Castle, Lilly-Mae Loasby, Erika Haynes and Imogen Clarke**. 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.

Inter-form AR Quiz

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 'just keep quizzing' on the books they read - they can check their form's score on the AR display board in the LRC.



LRC Book Group



The LRC Book Group has now begun for this year. Our first meeting was on 13th September and our next meeting will be on Friday 15th December. We meet at lunchtime on the penultimate Friday of every term to discuss our favourite books, any topical issues around reading and we also have a short book quiz, where students can win book prizes. All year groups are welcome to join.

Did you know?

36 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions could be prevented by saving food from our bins in UK homes.

https://www.lovefoodhatewaste.com/take-action-save-food/our-planet-your-food

In the UK we use 7.7 billion plastic bottles a year - 117 per person!

https://www.recyclingbins.co.uk/recycling-facts/

In the UK we use 1.2 billion metres of cling film per year - enough to go around the world 30 times!



https://beebeewraps.com/blogs/news/what-is-the-problemwith-cling-film



The average person throws away 7x their body weight each year

https://www.recyclingbins.co.uk/recycling-facts/

Packed Lunch Alternatives

Taking a packed lunch to work or school every day is becoming increasingly popular during the cost of living crisis. However, this can generate a large amount of rubbish, most of which gets sent to landfill if not recycled correctly.

Here are some ways to either recycle where waste cannot be avoided, or reduce waste in the first place, which can even save you money:

- Using cling film every day can generate a lot of landfill waste- why not switch to a reusable substitute such as beeswax wraps?
- Plastic is one of the main culprits, with much of it being single use. However, there are cheaper, more convenient solutions that also reduce waste such as:
 - Switching to sturdy reusable water bottles
 - Bringing your own cutlery from home
 - Buying food in bulk or from refill stores, for example, The Green Machine who operates locally and can even deliver
- Where waste cannot be reduced, be sure to recycle as much as possible. More and more ways to recycle are becoming available locally, such as:
 - Drop-off points in local supermarkets for flexible plastics such as crisp packets
 - Terracycle programmes are available locally where a wide variety of packaging can be recycled

Mum and dad are arguing all the time and it's affecting me.

Need someone to talk to?

The student I sit next to is making inappropriate comments to me.

I'm worried about my friend, they're sad all the time. What should I do?

Something has happened online and it doesn't feel ok.

Feeling worried about someone or something?

Wellbeing Drop-In



Where: LRC

Time: Lunchtime

When: Monday to Friday

I feel angry all the time and I don't know why?

My friend has told me something and I need to talk to someone.

I'm feeling overwhelmed with school.

Do you want to report something but don't know who to tell?

I feel anxious, what can I do to help myself?

Not sure what support is available for students?

Sponne PFA News

Last year Sponne Parents' & Friends Association had a great fundraising effort, raising £13k towards the Sponne Minibus Appeal, as well as paying for equipment for various departments in the school to enhance the experiences of our students at Sponne. This year again, we have a big target to reach our goal of £30k towards the new lightweight minibus that is needed by the school.



Wreath Making Workshop

We have many fundraising events planned for the year, starting off with a Wreath Making Workshop on the evening of Tuesday 28th November at Harefields Cidery, Duncote. Further details will be shared shortly, but please email sponnepfa2@gmail.com to register your interest, as spaces will be limited.

Treasure Trove

Treasure Trove will be running again this year, with 13 draws throughout the year with the chance of winning £30. Tickets are currently on sale on SCOPAY for the bargain price of £12 for the year, or £50 for 5 years. At time of writing, we have only sold 63 tickets, so we would love to sell some more tickets before sales closes on 20th October. Once sales are closed, numbers will be allocated, and winners will be shared via the school website / newsletter and the PFA Facebook page each month.



The PFA AGM will be held on Monday 30th October at 7pm in the LRC. Please join if you are interested in knowing more about the PFA or would like to get involved in any way.

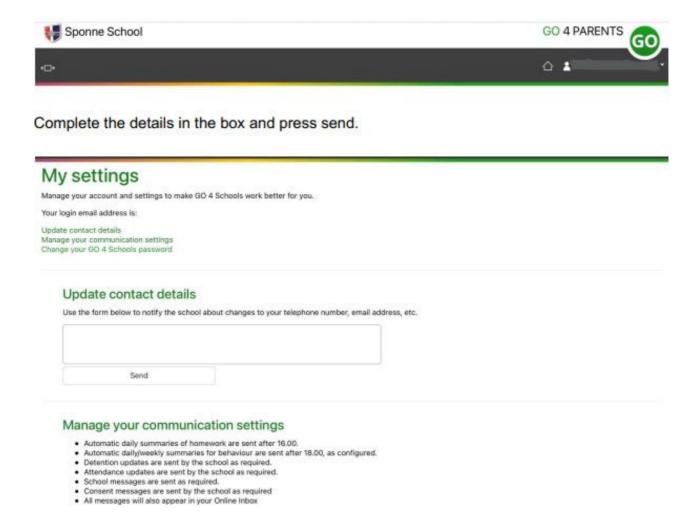
Email sponnepfa2@gmail.com for more information on the PFA or to get involved.

Sponne PFA Committee

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.



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!



Week commencing 5/11/2023 27/11/2023 18/12/2023 08/01/2024 29/01/2024 19/02/2024 11/03/2024 01/04/2024 22/04/2024 13/05/2024 03/06/2024 24/06/2024 15/07/2024

CLASSIC HOT & HEARTY

CLASSIC MAIN MEALS

Monday

Beef & Tomato Ragout with Wholegrain Pasta & House Salad

Tuesday

Kung Pao Chicken, Wholegrain & White Egg Fried Rice with Carrot & Sesame Salad

Wednesday

Glazed British Roast Gammon or Lemon & Thyme Roast Chicken with Crisp Roasties, Roasted Roots & Gravy

Thursday

Authentic Chicken Biryani with Tomato, Red Onion & Coriander Salad

Friday

Chip Shop 'Fryday', Fish, Pizza or Fishcake with Chips , Peas & Tartare Sauce

VEGETARIAN MAIN MEALS

Monday

Plant Based Ragout with Wholegrain Pasta & House Salad (VE)

Tuesday

Asian Vegetable, Soya Bean & noodle Stir Fry with Carrot & Sesame Salad

Wednesday

Baked Macaroni in our Cheesy Sauce with a Crunchy Topping (V)

Thursday

Authentic Vegetable Biryani with Tomato, Red onion & Coriander Salad (VE)

Friday

Jamaican Squash Pasty, Sweet Chilli Sauce & Chunky Chips (VE)

DESSERTS

American Style Pancake Bar with Fruit

Manager's Special

HOMEMADE SOUP & FRESHLY BAKED BREAD **Available Daily**

JACKET POTATOES

Topped with a Choice of: Cheese, Tuna or Beans Available Daily









Monday

Tuesday

Greek Souvlaki Chicken

Buffalo Cauliflower Wings on Salt & Pepper Wedges

Korean Crispy Fried Chicken

Wednesday

Thursday

Mei Goreng Indonesian Fried Noodles

Manager's Special

Friday

NATURALLO

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Moroccan Cous Cous& Falafel Bowl

Vegan Bean & Jalapeno Burrito (VE)

Spiced Paneer & Red Onion Naan (V)

The Big Plant Burger (VE)

Vegan Singapore Noodles (VE)



Tomato & Basil Pasta

Tuesday

Manager's Special Pasta

Mozzarella & Tomato Pizza Or Spicy Sausage Pizza

Wednesday

Loaded

Jamaican Jerk Chicken Burger

Wednesday

Manager's Special Pasta

Thursday

Sri Lankan Fried

Chicken

Mozzarella & Tomato Pizza

Or Piri PiriChicken Pizza

Friday

Manager's Special

Cucina

WEEK 2

Week commencing 23/10/2023 13/11/2023 04/12/2023 15/01/2024 05/02/2024 26/02/2024 18/03/2024 08/04/2024 29/04/2024 20/05/2024 10/06/2024 01/07/2024 22/07/2024

CLASSIC HOT & HEARTY

CLASSIC MAIN MEALS

Monday

Traditional Sausage & Mash, Peas, Carrots & Onion Gravy

Tuesday

Ramen Bar, Choose Your Toppings

Wednesday

Hand Carved Roast Turkey, Roasties, Roasted Roots & Gravy

Thursday

American Style Ground Beef & Macaroni Hash with Slaw & Garden Salad

Friday

Chip Shop 'Fryday', Fish, Pizza or Fishcake with Chips , Peas & Tartare Sauce

VEGETARIAN MAIN MEALS

Monday

Vegan Sausage & Mash, Peas, Carrots & Onion Gravy

Tuesday

Ramen Bar, Choose Your Toppings

Wednesday

Mature Cheddar, Broccoli & Leek Quiche with Roasted Roots or Garden Salad

Thursday

Smashed Butternut Squash Mac & Cheese with Slaw & Garden Salad

Friday

Crispy Onion Pakora Burger with Mango Chutney, Chips & Peas

NATURALLO

Monday

Fork Friendly

Kebab

Monday

Lebanese

Cauliflower

Khobez

Tuesday

Onion Bhaji

Naan

Tuesday

Chinese Style

Vegan

Wednesday

Vegan Soya Bean & Vegetable Ramen

The Big Plant Burger

Vegan Bean & Jalapeno Burrito

Friday

DESSERTS

HOMEMADE SOUP & FRESHLY BAKED BREAD **Available Daily**

JACKET POTATOES Topped with a Choice of: Cheese, **Tuna or Beans Available Daily**







Pasta

Manager's

Special Pasta

Tomato Pizza Spicy Sausage Pizza

Wednesday

Manager's Special Pasta

Mozzarella & Tomato Pizza Piri PiriChicken Pizza

Thursday

WEEK 3

Cucina

Week Commencing 30/10/2024 20/11/202311/12/202301/01/202422/01/202412/02/2024 04/03/2024 25/03/2024 15/04/2024 06/05/2024 27/05/2024 17/06/2024 08/07/2024

V – Vegetarian VE - Vegan

CLASSIC HOT & HEARTY CLASSIC MAIN MEALS

Monday

Pasta Bar -Your Choice of Tomato & Pesto, Pepperoni or Alfredo Sauce with Crunchy Toppings

Tuesday

Lebanese Chicken & Tomato Curry, Pilau Rice & Fattoush Salad

Wednesday

Roast Shoulder of Pork or Roast Salt & Pepper Chicken with Crisp Roasties, Roasted Roots & Gravy

Thursday

Mexican Birria Beef Stew with Cilantro Lime Rice

Friday

Chip Shop 'Fryday', Fish, Pizza or Fishcake with Chips , Peas & Tartare Sauce

VEGETARIAN MAIN MEALS

Roast Stuffed Peppers filled with Quinoa Roasted Tomatoes & Feta Cheese

Tuesday

Aubergine& Chickpea Curry, Pilau Rice & Fattoush Salad

Wednesday

Roasted Butternut Squash & Edamame Beans Wellington, Crisp Roasties& Gravy

Thursday

Mexican Style Vegetarian Chimichanga & Black Bean Salad

Friday

Beetroot Bhaji & Wilted Spinach Flatbread, Harissa Houmous & Minted Yoghurt









Friday

Monday Louisiana Dirty Tuesday Wednesday

Mozambique Peri PeriChicken

-Minced Beef & Pepper Loaded Wedges

Wednesday

Gnocchi with Mushrooms, Spinach & Pest

Thursday

Manager's topped with Crispy Onions & Shaved Cheese

HATURALLY

Monday Tuesday

Moroccan Cous Cous& Falafel Vegan Bean & Jalapeno Burrito

Indian Spiced Rice & Paneer

Thursday

Friday

The Big Plant Burger

Manager's Special Pasta

Vegan Singapore Noodles

DESSERTS

Sponge & Cinnamon Custard

HOMEMADE SOUP & FRESHLY BAKED BREAD **Available Daily**

JACKET POTATOES

Topped with a Choice of: Cheese, **Tuna or Beans Available Daily**



Manager's Special Pasta

Mozzarella & Tomato Pizza

Spicy Sausage Pizza

Mozzarella & Tomato Pizza

Piri PiriChicken Pizza

Our Vegetarian and Vegan recipes are approved by the Vegetarian Society.

Pasta











TRAIN TO TEACH

OPEN EVENT

Wednesday 1st November 2023

Open evening 5pm - 7pm

GUTP House, Sponne School, Towcester, NN12 6DJ

Please email gutprecruitment@sponne.org.uk with your name and subject of interest to register your attendance

WE OFFER PGCE COURSES WITH QTS IN:

- Business Studies
- Computing
- Design &Technology (including Food)
- English
- Geography
- History
- Maths
- MFL (French, German, Spanish)
- Science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics)
- PE

Bursaries to be announced shortly



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



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

Dates For Your Diary

Autumn Half Term

School closes Thursday 19th October 2023

Training Day Friday 20th October 2023

Half term break

Monday 23rd October to Friday 27th October 2023

TERM 2

School opens Monday 30th October 2023

Y13 Parents' Evening

Thursday 2nd November 2023

Geography A-Level Trip

Tuesday 7th November 2023 to Friday 10th November 2023

Year 7 Pastoral Evening

Wednesday 15th November 2023

Year 11 Mock Exams

Mock exams start Monday 20th November 2023

Y11 Parents' Evening (remote)

Thursday 14th December 2023

Christmas Concert

Tuesday 19th December 2023

Christmas 2023

School closes Friday 22nd December 2023

Christmas break

Monday 25th December 2023 to Friday 5th January 2024

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

https://www.sponne.org.uk