

# Sponne School



Dream **Believe** Achieve

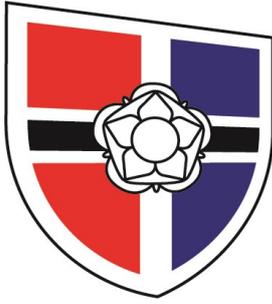


KEY STAGE FOUR

## Pathways Guide March 2024 Year 8 Into Year 9



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



# Sponne School

A Music & Science Academy

**TO: PARENTS / CARERS OF ALL YEAR 8 STUDENTS**

February 2024

Dear Parents / Carers

At Sponne, students follow a 5-year curriculum plan and receive a broad and interesting programme of study. We will now be building on the rich curriculum at KS3 and over this term and next your child will be asked to make a preference about which subjects they would like to study in KS4, where choices are offered.

This booklet sets out which pathways are available and contains details of all the subjects that students will be following in accordance with the demands of the National Curriculum and the school's own curriculum policies. Personal, Social and Health Education lessons have already been used to focus students' minds on the issues to consider when selecting courses alongside careers information and support from their form tutors and they have had an assembly outlining the process to them.

All students are asked to submit their individual Google Pathway Preference Form by **Thursday 21st March 2024**. The school will do its utmost to meet all requests, subject to staffing and resources as well as the choices being appropriate for long term career aspirations.

Following your **Parents' Evening** on **Tuesday 13th and Thursday 29th February**, there will be a **KS4 Pathways Evening** on **Thursday 7th March** to which Year 8 students and their parents will have the further opportunity to speak to subject teachers about subjects at Key Stage 4.

You will find it helpful to reference this Pathways Booklet when speaking to staff about the qualifications they offer and can click on the links in the content page to see more information about the subjects on offer.

With your support, we hope to ensure that your child will make appropriate and positive choices, whilst establishing high expectations for the future. If you require any further details or assistance, please feel free to contact either Ms Bhakta or Ms Turton.

Yours faithfully

**Ms L Bhakta**  
Assistant Headteacher

**Ms Turton**  
Progress Learning Leader for Year 8

---

# CONTENTS PAGE

---

## [Introduction](#)

## [The Choices to be made](#) .....

## [Making the choice and telling the school](#) .....

### **COMPULSORY SUBJECTS**

[English Language](#) .....

[English Literature](#) .....

[Mathematics](#) .....

[Science \(Combined Science and Separate Sciences\)](#) .....

[eSkills Computing](#) .....

[Physical Education](#) .....

[Religious Education](#) .....

[PSHE and Citizenship](#) .....

### **SUBJECT CHOICES** (click on the subject for more information)

#### ***GCSE Subjects***

[Art](#) .....

[Music](#) .....

[Classical Civilisation](#) .....

[Media Studies](#) .....

[French](#) .....

[German](#) .....

[History](#) .....

[Geography](#) .....

[Business Studies](#) .....

[Food, preparation and nutrition](#) .....

[Design and Technology](#) .....

[PE Exam Studies](#) .....

[Religious Studies](#) .....

[Statistics](#) .....

#### ***Vocational Subjects***

[BTEC in Travel & Tourism](#) .....

[BTEC in Creative iMedia](#) .....

[BTEC in Digital Information Technologies](#) .....

[BTEC in Performing Arts](#) .....

---

# INTRODUCTION

---

Welcome to the Key stage 4 pathways booklet. As part of a 5-year curriculum at Sponne, students follow an accelerated KS3 which promotes a broad and balanced curriculum and inspires a love for learning. This allows students to gain the knowledge and skills needed for their future learning and employment.

The curriculum aims to promote valuable learning experiences in a range of subjects and should be broad and balanced. It should meet all students' needs and aspirations and have the E-baccalaureate (EBacc) subjects at its core. The ambition is that the majority of students will follow the EBacc Pathway 1 and the curriculum blocks at KS4 are designed to enable students to easily select a humanities and a language subject alongside two further subjects. Students can select from a wide range of other choices though there are some restrictions to ensure that they do not narrow their curriculum.

Students should follow a pathway that includes:

Core Subjects	Non-examined subjects	Four subject choices
<b>English Language</b> <b>English Literature (examined at the end of year 10)</b> <b>Mathematics</b> <b>Science (combined or separate)</b>	<b>PSHE</b> <b>PE</b> <b>eSkills Computing</b> <b>RE</b>	<b>Pathway 1</b> Two EBacc subjects (Humanities and a Language) and two additional subjects <b>or</b> <b>Pathway 2</b> One EBacc subject (Humanities or a Language) and three additional subjects <b>Or</b> <b>Pathway 3</b> Alternative Curriculum Pathways - some students may be directed towards a more vocational or a reduced curriculum*

To support students making the right choices, year 8 students will take part in an virtual employer event to explore careers aspirations, have careers lessons in PSHE and will have the opportunity to discuss their choices with their tutors during registration times. Further careers links can be found on our website.

# THE CHOICES TO BE MADE— example

Details of all subjects appear by following the links on the content pages

All students will take courses in the following core subjects at Key Stage 4

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Physical Education
- eSkills Computing, PSHE and RE
- Combined science or Separate Sciences (Biology, Chemistry and Physics)

Select 4 Subjects – one from each Block below

All students must choose at least one of the subjects **INDICATED IN BOLD** as **one of their four choices**.

BLOCK 1		BLOCK 2	
<b>German</b>		<b>French</b>	
<b>History</b>		<b>Geography</b>	
Design and Technology		BTEC Performing Arts	
Classical Civilisation		Music	
PE Exam Studies		Media	
BTEC Travel & Tourism		BTEC Digital Information Technologies	

BLOCK 3		BLOCK 4	
<b>French</b>		<b>German</b>	
<b>History</b>		<b>Geography</b>	
Art		Business Studies	
Business Studies		BTEC Creative iMedia	
Design and Technology		Religious studies	
Food		Statistics	

**NB:** Students should try to ensure they make choices that will give them a balanced range of subjects.

- \* Due to the changing landscape of KS4 qualifications these courses could change to alternative accredited qualifications differing from those detailed in the booklet.

---

# MAKING THE CHOICE and TELLING THE SCHOOL

---

## PROCESS

### Tick list

1. Tutors and students discuss the pathways process in registration time.
2. Students can find the booklet on the google classroom and on a dedicated Year 8 [pathways website](#).
3. Students to talk to tutors and subject teachers where further information is required. They can access subject information by following the links on the contents page.
4. Students can speak to Ms Turton or Ms Bhakta as required.
5. Parents, students and teachers discuss performance at Parents' Evening on Tuesday 13th and Thursday 29th February 2024.
6. KS4 Pathways Evening on Thursday 7th March 2024.
7. Google forms to be completed by Thursday 21st March 2024.

### Some Advice to Students

#### DO

- Choose a subject because you like it, not because it is the "least worst"
- Choose a subject you have an interest in
- Choose a subject which might help you with a particular career
- Choose a balanced range of subjects
- Be aware of any coursework involved
- Remember IT IS YOUR CHOICE so take your time and find out

#### DO NOT

- Choose a subject because your friends are doing it
- Choose a subject because you like the teacher (there may be a different one next year)
- Choose a subject because it looks easy
- Rush into anything - REMEMBER TO FIND OUT AND SEEK ADVICE

---

## **GCSE and VOCATIONAL SUBJECTS**

---

*Select ONE choice from each block*

### **Subjects**

#### **BLOCK 1**

**German**

**History**

Classical Civilisation

Design and Technology

PE Exam Studies

BTEC Travel & Tourism

#### **BLOCK 2**

**French**

**Geography**

BTEC Performing Arts

Music

Media

BTEC Digital Information Technologies

#### **BLOCK 3**

**French**

**History**

Art

Business Studies

Design and Technology

Food

#### **BLOCK 4**

**German**

**Geography**

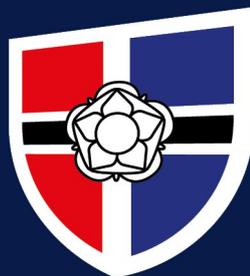
BTEC Creative iMedia

Business Studies

Religious Studies

Statistics

# Sponne School



**TOVE**  
LEARNING TRUST

Part of the Tove Learning Trust

Sponne School, Brackley Road, Towcester, Northamptonshire, NN12 6DJ

t: 01327 350284 e: [info@sponne.org.uk](mailto:info@sponne.org.uk) [www.sponne.org.uk](http://www.sponne.org.uk)  SponneSchool  SponneSchool

[www.tovelearning.org.uk](http://www.tovelearning.org.uk)  ToveLearningTrust  ToveLearningTrust

Registered company no: 07525820