



SPONNE NEWS

The official newsletter of Sponne School



Christmas Concert

Congratulations to the fabulous Sponne musicians for a fantastic performance in the Christmas Concert on Tuesday 14th December. Due to the current circumstances the performance took place in the Sports Hall rather than the main hall with various covid measures in place (social distancing/lateral flow test and face coverings for the audience).

This was the first full Sponne concert we have been able to have in two years and it is an absolute credit to the students that they pulled off a really accomplished performance showcasing all the music enhancement groups.

On Thursday 16th December a smaller group of musicians played open air for the residents of Malthouse Court. The residents were really appreciative of the performance.

Once again, our young musicians are a credit to the school.

A huge thank you to Rachel Fox for doing a reading on behalf of Sponne at the music concert on Thursday.

Other stories you might like:

- [Accelerated Reader Results](#)
- [Key Hero Stats](#)
- [Sports News](#)
- [Holiday Activities](#)
- [Parent Resources](#)



Dear Parents and Carers

We've reached the end of one of the most challenging terms that I can recall. The continued uncertainty and disruption to learning, when individuals need to isolate, has affected us all with seemingly no end in sight. However, despite all of this your children continue to thrive and demonstrate just how adaptable and resilient young people can be.

Amongst all the many examples of students and the school making the best of these times, two highlights stand out for me in particular. Firstly our sixth form student leadership team launching a new initiative called 'Bold Voices' which prepares and empowers young people to tackle gender equality as part of our Dream, Believe, Achieve culture.

Secondly being able, once again, to enjoy the beautiful music making of students at our Christmas concert, albeit in the alternative venue of the sports hall to allow for social distancing. I should also mention the positive attitudes of our Year 11 students who have completed their GCSE mock exams with no apparent detriment to their performance from having had their learning disrupted since Year 9.

Much of the successes of this term are built on the foundation that the strength of our community provides. Our young people must not underestimate the dedication and commitment of their teachers and we most certainly benefit from the tremendous support that you provide as parents. Whatever the New Year brings I have no doubt that we will continue to work together to ensure that the wellbeing and learning of all the children in our care is the best that it possibly can be.

My very best wishes to all your families for Christmas and the New Year and I look forward to seeing you all again in January.

Iain Massey

Iain Massey
Headteacher



Jacqui Goodall, Inclusion Support Manager, awarded BEM

Congratulations Jacqui Goodall - British Empire Medal (BEM)

Congratulations to Jacqui Goodall (Sponne Inclusion Support Manager) who received her British Empire Medal (BEM) at an awards ceremony with the Lord -Lieutenant on Thursday 9th December.

The award was for services to education in the Queen's Birthday Honours 2021.

Huge congratulations to Jacqui Goodall BEM

The British Empire Medal (BEM) (formerly British Empire Medal for Meritorious Service) is a British and Commonwealth award for meritorious civil or military service worthy of recognition by the Crown.



Jacqui's Background

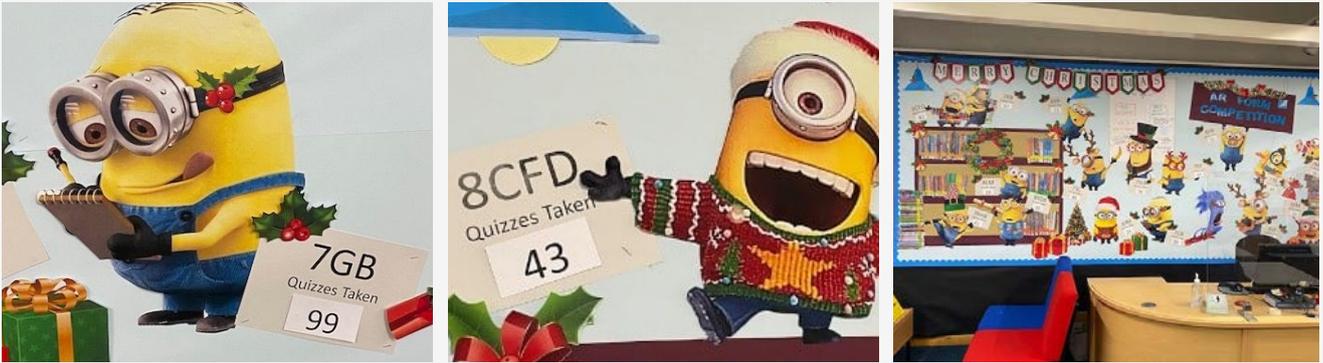
I joined Sponne School in September 2001 when we moved to the area from Yorkshire. I have had various roles within the school, supporting students; learning, behaviour, wellbeing, work experiences and college courses. I have had some wonderful experiences such as tractor driving and brick laying with some fabulous students.

In 2008 the school recognised the need for an Inclusion Support department (known as The House) and I secured the role of the Inclusion Support Manager. I have a wonderful team who work endlessly hard to ensure they meet the needs of all the students.

The primary objective of the Inclusion Team is to ensure students get a consistent and positive experience by promoting positive behaviour and learning support to students who find it difficult to access a full curriculum. We work with students to build their social and emotional skills. The students recognise The House as a safe place where they can access support.

We work closely with the Senior Leadership Team, Pastoral and Faculty Learning Leaders to ensure that students get the support they need to make their time at Sponne successful.

Jacqui Goodall - Sponne Inclusion Support Manager



Our Year 7 & 8 students are continuing to do well with Accelerated Reader this term. Between them they have read an enormous 30,099,109 words and passed 755 quizzes. Our Minions on the Accelerated Reader competition board are beginning to get into the festive spirit - top forms for quizzing so far this year are 7GB with 99 quizzes and 8CFD with 43 quizzes - keep up the great work!

We have also just started our reading mentoring programme in the LRC, where a 6th Form student reads with a Year 7 or 8 student. Currently, we have 43 reading pairs who meet once a week to read together. We would like to say a big 'thank you' to all of them as they have made a fantastic start - we have already seen a total of 65 quizzes passed by these students. Special mentions this term go to Edward Wooldridge Smith (7GB) and Mai Barnett (7SC) who have passed 49 and 29 quizzes respectively.

We'd also like to give a shout-out to Tommy Andrews (7AE), Spencer Camper (7MG), Archie Sexton (7AE), Owen Prestidge (7RHB), Phoebe Knight (8CFD), Lillie Golding (8LM), Leo Farhead (8PP) and Kiera Preece (8SDB), who are all making fantastic progress with Accelerated Reader.

Don't forget, if you receive any books at Christmas, you can check if they have quizzes at www.arbookfind.co.uk.

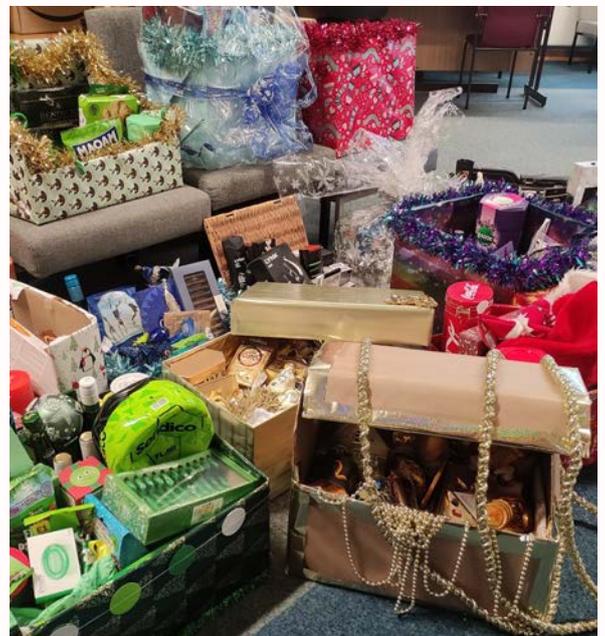
Have a Merry Christmas and keep on reading!

Christmas Hampers

Congratulations to the 16 lucky winners of the Spone Christmas Hamper raffle.

Our year 7 and 8 tutor groups did a fantastic job in creating these festive hampers and the PFA raised an amazing £2270.

Well done and thank you to everyone who supported this.



Sponne Sports

English School Cup Cross Country

Sponne took part in the County Round of the English Schools Cross Country Cup and performed really well. The first Sponne athlete in the Junior Boys event (Yr 7 and Yr 8) was Joseph Boyle, closely followed by Charlie Russel. The team finished in equal third position, narrowly missing selection for the regional round. The other two teams did manage to qualify, however!! The Junior Girls were led home by Joanna Mulreany, who was closely followed by Emily Kendrick. Dylan Mander was the first Sponne athlete in the Inter Boys (Yr 9 and 10) race and he was ably supported by Archie Miller, Callum Nottingham and Jack Kentish.

Both the JG and IB teams took part in the Regional round in Cambridge and performed really well, against some of the top schools in the East of England.

Sportshall athletics

Sportshall athletics comprises of several running, jumping and throwing events in the hall. In the last few weeks, Sponne has taken part in the Yr 7 and Yr 8 District Championships against the other 9 schools in the South Northants District and results have been truly fantastic.

All teams were resounding victors- the first time any school has completed a "clean sweep" in all age groups. Special mention needs to go to the Yr 8 girls, who competed despite being severely depleted by Covid. All girls had to do a large number of events but they rose to the challenge to win by over 40 points!!

Well done to all.

The teams will now go on to compete in the County Championships in March.



ESFA hosted Stage 2 regional trials

Simone Sherwood 10OE, has been selected to represent the North of England against the South in the final trial. If successful she will play for the England U15 Schoolgirls for the 21/22 season.

#ThisGirlCan @SponneSchool

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



Sponne Sports

Year 7 County Cup Football

I thought this was one of our toughest matches so far this season and in the cup, but we all battled and played really well and we wanted to win it. About 3 minutes in Joe Boyle on the right wing sends a ball to Max Churchman and he scores near the right post to make it 1-0 to Sponne.

Just a couple of minutes later CCS were through on goal and made it 1-1. Sponne kept the ball for 7 minutes but lost the ball and conceded a penalty. Luckily for Sponne the penalty was fantastically saved by Oliver Burton at the bottom left. About 5 minutes later Tom Andrews played the ball through to Rian Spencer and he made it 2-1.

Half time Sponne 2-1 CCS.

In the first 10 minutes in the second half, Sponne switched off and conceded two goals in that time so CCS made a comeback and the 3rd goal CCS scored was a good goal in the top corner. About 5 minutes later Rian Spencer played a ball through to Max Churchman and made it 3-3. 6 minutes later Sponne passed the ball round the back and a great ball by Harry Mason to Rian Spencer and then he flicked it to Tom Andrews and scored a stunning volley in the bottom left and made it 4-3. Right at the deck Sam Hannah gets into the box and scores into the top right corner.

Well done boys and keep up the winning streak.

Match report written by:
Rian Spencer - 7MG



Fixture Results



Fixture Results



Keyhero Touch Typing

All students are enrolled onto Keyhero, to develop touch typing on a standard QWERTY keyboard. It is used as a starter activity in Computing across Y7-9; but students may login to practice anytime!

Engagement

Form	Keyhero Attempts
7EF	568
7SC	549
7MG	498
7RHB	498
7GB	464
7AE	435
7SLB	331
7RB	240

Form	Keyhero Attempts
8JW	1740
8PP	1429
8CFD	1396
8VL	1391
8LM	1333
8FM	1119
8JM	1037
8SDB	875

Form	Keyhero Attempts
9JPM	2375
9JCR	2611
9SJA	2135
9ES	2083
9HB	1736
9PL	1707
9EL	1400
9TN	1271

Speed

Form	WPM Average
7SC	21.45
7AE	21.07
7EF	18.94
7RHB	18.43
7SLB	18.43
7RB	18
7MG	17.9
7GB	16.8

Form	WPM Average
8JW	27.98
8PP	26.7
8FM	25.55
8VL	25.36
8CFD	24.8
8LM	23.7
8SDB	21.42
8JM	20.89

Form	WPM Average
9EL	34.72
9JCR	33.72
9JPM	32.92
9HN	30.96
9PL	30.46
9SJA	30.21
9TN	27.34
9ES	27.1

Top Students

Reg	Name	Attempts
7SC	Zac Fewtrell	83
7GB	Abigail Scurr	80
7GB	Thomas Robotham	68
7SLB	Layla Mayne	56
7AE	Ben Halling	53
8FM	Moyo Stumpenhusen	171
8LM	Lexey Hawkins	154
8JW	Lily Riding	132
8CFD	Libby Bell	120
8SDB	Charlie Russell	119
9JCR	Rowan Smith	209
9JCR	Jovin San	195
9JPM	Charlie Bottomley	189
9SJA	Orla Blackburn	170
9PL	Oliver Ashton	166

Parents Resources

Free access to parent courses



The past few years have been difficult for everyone, as we deal with the ongoing impact of the pandemic. At Sponne, we have noticed a significant increase in concerns reported, including anxiety, self-harm and eating disorders, and we know that as parents many of you have struggled to access support.

We have subscribed to a package of online courses for our parents and staff, as we feel this might provide some comfort and support during these difficult times. There are currently over 102 parent courses available for free - and range from 5 minute videos, to 75 minute more detailed sessions, covering everything from supporting your child with an eating disorder/ self-harm/ study skills.

To access the courses, please use this link to register: [**Click Here**](#)

As always, if you are struggling, or worried about a child, please make contact with Miss Harris - Designated Safeguarding Lead, or your child's Progress Learning Leader.

What is safeguarding?

Safeguarding ensures that every child, regardless of their age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation, has right to equal protection from harm.

Safeguarding is the steps that people take to protect children and vulnerable adults from harm.

How can you help?

If you have any concerns about a child, please do not wait before passing this on. You are not causing problems but it could allow support to be put in place and save a child from unnecessary harm.

Within school hours, please contact either the child's form tutor, Progress Learning Leader, one of the safeguarding team or the Designated Safeguarding Lead - Miss Harris.

The safeguarding team can also be emailed on studentsupport@sponne.org.uk

Outside of school hours, if you need to pass on a safeguarding concern please contact the Northamptonshire Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub:

[**Click Here**](#)

Telephone: 0300 126 7000

If a child is in immediate danger, left alone or missing, contact the police and/or ambulance service directly on 999.

Students seeking support can access the Google Classroom wellbeing page for the appropriate year groups. Parents seeking advice can access guidance on the following sites:

[**Young Minds**](#)

[**CamhsLive**](#)

Parents Resources



'Holiday Activities and Food' funded school holiday clubs return to Northamptonshire this winter

During the 2021 school summer holidays, 18,900 places were booked by children and young people on to a programme of funded free holiday clubs in Northamptonshire. The government's 'Holiday Activities and Food' (HAF) programme, known as 'HAF Northants' locally launched this week for the Christmas school holiday period.

Public Health Northamptonshire and North and West Northamptonshire Councils have commissioned local charity Northamptonshire Sport to deliver the programme, continuing their work during the summer. The winter programme offers 11,000 places at 70 activity clubs across the county, plus virtual/online activities.

The HAF programme is available to eligible children across every local authority in England and aims to relieve the pressure some families experience during school holidays. In particular, increased costs to cover childcare and food during holidays can cause stress. Research also shows at holiday times, children from disadvantaged families are more likely to experience social isolation and 'unhealthy holidays' in relation to nutrition and exercise.

HAF Northants responds to the issues faced by some families by providing a programme of consistent and easily accessible enriching activities, providing nourishing food and involving children and parents in food preparation. The holiday clubs are free of charge for young people who qualify for free school meals and those considered to be vulnerable.

For more information on the HAF scheme in Northamptonshire please email: haf@northamptonshiresport.org or visit www.holidayactivities.org.

Online Safety

Online Challenges

Online challenges circulate fairly regularly and whilst many are innocuous, some can be concerning or dangerous. We have been made aware recently that young people are being encouraged to take part in challenges on social media linked to the new, extremely popular, Netflix series 'Squid Game'. The concept of the programme is that adults compete to win money by taking part in a range of childhood games, but the punishments for losing are gory and violent.

Although the programme has an age rating of 15+, a lot of information and promotional material is circulating online that children are likely to encounter, even if they don't watch the programme itself. The #SquidGame hashtag has been viewed more than 22.8 billion times (as of October 2021) and various clips of the show being shared on TikTok so children and young people are inadvertently viewing gory, explicit scenes from the programme.

There is an app related to Squid Game called the 'Squid Game Challenge App', for both smartphones and tablets. The challenge is also referred to as the 'K Game Challenge'. The app can lead young people to inappropriate sites beyond the app and has in-app purchases. At the moment we are encouraging parents to be vigilant as we continue to monitor the situation and keep you up to date.

It is important to encourage children and young people not to share challenges online and to think critically. The advice Northamptonshire Online Safety Advisor regularly gives out to young people and parents during sessions is highlighted below:

- Stop – if a young person is accessing disturbing material or engaging with challenges online, calmly tell them to come away from the phone, tablet or TV.
- Think – they should try not to think about what they have seen in great detail, and remind themselves there is no immediate danger and they are safe.
- Talk – encourage young people and children to talk about what they have seen online with a trusted adult rather than other young people.

Resources

Internet Matters has an information page about safety on TikTok. It's also important that we are encouraging young people to report dangerous challenges online which again is highlighted in the guidance from Internet Matters as well as our YouTube videos regarding TikTok especially. The Education People have also put together some really useful resources, as well as LGfl (click link to access poster).

If you are concerned or are worried about games or online challenges, please refer to guidance from The Department for Education (DfE), the UK Council for Child Internet Safety and Samaritans. You can also report harmful or disturbing content online through Report Harmful Content and Northamptonshire Police.

For more information around online safety you can email Northamptonshire's Online Safety Advisor at onlinesafety@northamptonshire.gov.uk, or follow them on Twitter and Instagram @NCCcybersafe. If you are concerned about a child at Sponne, please contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead Miss Harris

Country Lines / Drug & Knife Crime



County Lines is where illegal drugs are transported from one area to another, often across police and local authority boundaries (although not exclusively), usually by children or vulnerable people who are coerced into it by gangs. The 'County Line' is the mobile phone line used to take the orders of drugs. Importing areas (areas where the drugs are taken to) are reporting increased levels of violence and weapons-related crimes as a result of this trend.

Exploitation of young people is a common feature of county lines, dealers will frequently target children and adults, who often have mental health or addiction problems themselves, to act as the drug runners or move cash so they can stay under our radar.

Sometimes they may take over a property, normally one of a local vulnerable person, and use it to operate criminal activity. This is known as "cuckooing".

Unfortunately for these victims, physical, mental and sexual abuse is all too frequent, as well as other serious offences such as people trafficking, as people are moved a long way from home to work in the "drug dealing business".

Unfortunately children and vulnerable people may not see themselves as the victims, and often neither do the public.

The Police cannot fight this battle alone, we need your help, we need the intelligence from you, the community. So speak out if you have concerns:

Some signs to look out for include:

- An increase in visitors and cars to a house or flat
- New faces appearing at the house or flat
- New and regularly changing residents (e.g different accents compared to local accent)
- Change in resident's mood and/or demeanour (e.g. secretive/ withdrawn/ aggressive/ emotional)
- Substance misuse and/or drug paraphernalia
- Changes in the way young people you might know dress
- Unexplained, sometimes unaffordable new things (e.g clothes, jewellery, cars etc)
- Residents or young people you know going missing, maybe for long periods of time
- Young people seen in different cars/taxis driven by unknown adults
- Young people seeming unfamiliar with your community or where they are
- Truancy, exclusion, disengagement from school
- An increase in anti-social behaviour in the community
- Unexplained injuries

So what do you do if you have concerns? Crucially you need to trust your instinct, please report if you feel something is not right. You can contact the Police on either 101 or 999 if someone's life is in imminent danger. Do not forget you can also report via our online services [northants.police.uk](https://www.northants.police.uk)

If you wish to remain anonymous you can report to the charity [Crimestoppers](https://www.crimestoppers.org.uk) or 0800 555 111.

If you are a young person, and worried about your involvement, or that of a friend it is best to speak to an adult who you trust about your concerns. You can go to [fearless.org](https://www.fearless.org), or ring a charity like Childline 0800 555 111. Or you could seek help from the local organisation called CIRV, details can be found at [cirv-nsd.org.uk](https://www.cirv-nsd.org.uk), for non-judgemental support.

The Grand Union Training Partnership are recruiting



If you are a graduate interested in training to teach at secondary level, gaining valuable in school experience while working towards your PGCE and QTS, then please get in touch.

We offer a range of subjects as follows: Maths, English, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, MFL (French, German, Spanish), Design Technology including Food, History, Geography, Business Studies, Computer Science and PE.



We also offer an Assessment Only route to QTS:

Are you an unqualified teacher/TA/HLTA meeting teaching standards but yet to achieve QTS?

Have you at least 2 years of experience teaching at either primary or secondary levels?

If yes, The GUTP may be able to help you to achieve QTS on our 12 week Assessment Only route covering Milton Keynes and Northamptonshire.

For either route and to ask any questions, please contact Kate Martin on gutprecruitment@sponne.org.uk

It is also possible to arrange remote face to face meetings if you would like to have an initial conversation to find out more.



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)

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