



SPONNE NEWS

The official newsletter of Sponne School

Congratulations - U16s Netball Team!



Paralympic swimmer Visits Sponne

We were honoured to speak to Paralympic swimmer Will Perry, joined by BBC Look East.

Will met with our students including the Anti-bullying group and the 6th form Bold Voices team to talk about the abuse he has suffered.

Will is passionate about educating people about his condition and the impact negative comments have on those with disabilities.

View the full article [HERE](#)

In This Issue:

- Music Results

Congratulations to Elizabeth Dickson-Lewis - Merit Grade 3 on Harp

- Science Block Work

The new Science Extension is progressing well with lots of trades busy labouring on the internal works.

- Sports News

Y7 Girls Futsal Champions - School Games

- Parent Resources

Online safety - What parents and carers need to know about Fortnite Chapter 3



Dear Parents and Carers

We have just come to the end of our first face-to-face parents evening in two years and it has been a real pleasure to welcome Year 8 parents and students to the school. I know that many of you have commented on the convenience and smooth running of the virtual evenings and we may continue to have these in some years. However, for Year 7 and 8, when we are able to split the evenings in year halves, meeting face-to-face will enable parents to get to know the school and teachers as their children arrive at Sponne.

We were very fortunate to receive a visit from Will Perry at the end of January who came to talk to some of our students about dwarfism and the difficulties that this has caused him, particularly when he was growing up.

He has gone on to represent Great Britain at the Paralympic Games and wants to raise awareness amongst young people of how they can support those with disabilities at school and in our communities. This very much builds on the work of some of our sixth form students who are 'Bold Voice' ambassadors and links with our ethos to 'Believe' and to promote acceptance.

I hope you enjoy reading about some of the fantastic successes of our students this term. They continue to achieve highly in music, sport and across the curriculum despite the circumstances of the last two years and they are to be congratulated on their determination and resilience.

I am pleased to report that the numbers of positive cases at school amongst students and staff has been decreasing in the last week and I look forward to this continuing and the removal of the remaining restrictions in the near future.

I hope you and your families enjoy the half term break and I look forward to seeing students back on Monday 21st February.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Iain Massey". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Iain" and "Massey" being larger and more prominent.

Iain Massey
Headteacher

Science block extension

The extension was due to be completed by December but due to supply chain issues we are now on target to complete the build at the beginning of April.

The new Science Extension is progressing well with lots of trades busy labouring on the internal works.

The Science Prep room has been fully refurbished and kitted out with a newly modernised space for the Science Technicians.

The Science block toilets have been refurbished to provide a clean and functional facility for our students with floor to ceiling cubicle doors.

Please keep an eye out for further updates.



Paralympic swimmer Will Perry

We were honoured to speak to Paralympic swimmer Will Perry, joined by BBC Look East.

Will met with our students including the Anti-bullying group and the 6th form Bold Voices team to talk about the abuse he has suffered. Will is passionate about educating people about his condition and the impact negative comments have on those with disabilities.

It was a pleasure to meet him, he was inspirational. He was very impressed with our students!

Click [HERE](#) for the BBC Look East Interview.



Remembering people, not numbers.

Throughout the later weeks of November last year, I had the privilege of taking part in a learning journey that will stay with me forever. I, along with three other sixth form students from Sponne, was involved in the online "Lessons from Auschwitz" project - hosted by the Holocaust Educational Trust to be delivered to a limited number of students nationwide.

This opportunity captured me. I could finally learn the truth about the Holocaust, remember its victims and try to understand the reasoning behind those who were in charge. During our three online lessons, we covered several topics ranging from pre-war life in the Jewish community, to the contemporary relevance of the Holocaust today. In depth, we also studied the role of the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp and the experiences of the 1.1 million Jewish men, women and children who lost their lives there.

Anti-semitism had been drilled into European society well before the start of the Second World War. Jewish persecution and discrimination was allowed for centuries across Europe (in which they were shunned from society) as a result of Jesus' death. Superstition and scapegoating created damaging stereotypes of the Jewish community, particularly relating to money as they were forced to be tax collectors. More specifically to the Holocaust, however, certain ideas about human evolution led to the belief that Jewish people were biologically different and an inferior race - a threat to the 'aryan' race that Hitler wanted.



The Holocaust is defined by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance as the murder of six million Jewish men, women and children by Nazi Germany and its collaborators

during the Second World War. Roughly 1.1 million of these victims were killed at Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp - the largest of six camps in Poland. Prior to the German invasion, the town of Oswiecim (Auschwitz) was home to a close-knit Jewish community which made up 58% of the town's population. The town was a melting pot of culture which had the 'Great Synagogue' at its heart, acting as a hub for the vibrant community.



It was originally planned that 11 million Jews were to be transported to various camps across Europe during the war, the first train arriving at Auschwitz from Slovakia in March 1942. Most were forced to pay for their own one-way tickets and were sectioned immediately upon arrival into men: women and children. Those who were considered unfit to work were taken away for "disinfection" where they were killed. It is difficult to imagine the cramped, filthy and disease-ridden conditions that up to 90,000 people at a time would experience. Nothing more than large wooden shelves, beds were meant to hold six people each. Winters would be freezing cold whereas summers would be boiling hot, the barracks had no toilets or hygiene facilities which created a disgusting stench.

Auschwitz-Birkenau, like all other concentration camps, was chaotic at every level. Despite their circumstances, the Jewish people often took part in spiritual resistance in the camps. People had been stripped of their identities - taken away from their synagogues and homes yet the community still managed to pray and share Jewish ideas together. In particular, women used to share recipes of which cookbooks were composed.

Continued...

Resilience seemed like the only thing that people could have, the hope that Judaism would survive and that they could face their final moments in unity, prayer and song in hope that their identities would not be forgotten.



In the second live lesson, we had the immeasurable privilege of hearing a first-hand testimony of Holocaust survivor Mala Tribich - her full testimony can be found [here](#). In addition, we had a tour of Auschwitz-Birkenau using virtual reality which showed us the camp today - the exact same as it was 80 years ago. The living conditions were intended to make it impossible to survive - an estimated 3-4 months maximum of not living, but existing.



It became clear as the course progressed that we must try to humanise and understand the perpetrators of the Holocaust just as much as the victims. The Holocaust was a conscious choice that certain humans made and there is a great variation in the term "perpetrator". We cannot know that a train driver to Auschwitz, or a housing manager in the pre-war Ghettos did not have a guilty conscience about participating in the Holocaust as they had their own families to provide for.

What we are certain of, however, is that nobody was forced into participating - nor were there consequences for those who refused. Over half of Holocaust victims did not die in concentration camps, it was an expansive and systematic process that did not just take place in the places we most commonly associate it with.



At the beginning of the course, I found it difficult to comprehend and humanise the figure of "six million". Statistics become completely impersonal when discussing the Holocaust; I believe that we can achieve a greater understanding of the Holocaust by listening to survivor testimonies and case studies. Behind every statistic lies stories which are far too powerful to be represented by a number, which only undermines the significance and uniqueness of each personal struggle during the Holocaust. For me, the Holocaust is such an integral part of modern history that we cannot ignore. It shows to us what can happen when we leave racism and prejudice unchallenged - some of which still exists today. Approximately 1,168 anti-semitic attacks took place in Britain in 2020 which only proves that anti-semitism is still a prevalent issue that must be addressed.

It is vital that by sharing and understanding the realities of the Holocaust we deliver justice and tell the stories of those who cannot, in order to preserve their legacy, dignity and identities. The word "victim" never once felt right to use when referring to the Jewish community, as their strength and hope was nothing short of admirable even in one of the darkest times that history has seen.

Jessica-May Elliott - Year 12

U16 Regional Report

With two years of pandemic-filled disruption since their last tournament, the newly reformed U16 Sponne School regional netball squad were determined to make up for lost time. Travelling to Oundle School to play against nine of the best teams in the East Midlands, they were sure to come across some fierce competition. After completing the first round, (a round robin within a group of 5) Sponne had won all matches but one, consequently finishing second in the group; this was enough to earn their place in the semi-finals.

An intense 14 minutes of netball later, Sponne had won their semi-final 12-10, earning them a place at the U16 National Schools Finals which will be held at Oundle School on the 12th of March. Emily Underwood (captain) said " I cannot stress how proud I am of every single player, all of whom gave 100% effort throughout the day to reach the goal of nationals, towards which some of us have been working towards for over 3 years" The coaching team, led by Fiona Wade said " This squad of netballers have been so supportive of one another both on and off the court, they have shown maturity way beyond their years, and worked so hard to achieve their goals. Nationals is new ground for us and we are excited to watch the girls perform amongst the country's finest teams"



East Midlands Regional Results

Sponne V Oakham - **7-12**

Sponne V Chelleston Academy - **11-5**

Sponne V Nottingham Girls HS - **13-7**

Sponne V QEQS Horncastle - **10-7**

Semi Final

Sponne V West Bridgeford - **12-10**

Final

Sponne V Oakham - **8-17**

Final Position - 2ND

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



Other Sports News

U12s Football County Cup

Fantastic performance from our U12 Footballers in the Semi-Final of the County Cup with a 6-1 victory over Campion. Next up, The Final!! Well done Lads.



U14s Girls Football County Cup

Another Semi-Final Win, this time from the U14 Girls Football team. 1-1 at full time and 4-1 on Penalties, Top performance from Chloe who saved 3 penalties earning herself Player of the Match!



U17 Athletics Championships

Preparations are going well for Hayley Dimond in 11RW for the forthcoming England U17 Championships in February with two personal best performances last weekend at Lee Valley. 13.94m in the Shot Put and 9.01sec in the 60m Hurdles.

Keep it up Hayley.

Equestrian Regional Championships

some fantastic final positions. Charlie O Individually 6th, Bess W and Annabelle R Individually 2nd. Well done

Year 7/8 Girls Futsal

Congratulations to the Year 7/8 Girls Futsal Team - CHAMPIONS!!

British Schools Karting Championships

The BSKC starts off with the first event which is a practice session. This is where the competing teams get a chance to try out the circuit and the race format, before that local finals race on March 15th. The event is made up of teams of three students, with each driving in a 15 minutes practice session, then a final session which is a practice race. There was one other team waiting as the Sponne team of Monica, Mia and Guy arrived. We were a little concerned, as a couple of the other teams drivers have competed with Monica at Daytona Milton Keynes. We assumed that there might not be other teams entering. How wrong we were, as one school arrived entering a total of 4 teams. As we casually chatted with the schools Headmaster, it transpires that they are a local school, with many of their drivers clearly familiar with the circuit. Things had suddenly become serious, and we were all inwardly thinking that this adventure might be over before it had begun.



The practice started with Monica taking the wheel. The heats would be 6 karts on track, one Sponne driver, one from the first school, and 4 others from the local school. Monica was taking a while to warm-up, but managed to get her lap time down under 1 minute, but not yet her personal best. The most worrying aspect is that Monica was only third fastest out of the 6. Next up was Guy. He did well, finding a quick line and also getting down to around the 1 minute lap time, but yet again was third in his heat. Last up was Mia, who was spurred on early in her practice session by a bold overtaking move, to set her personal best time and round out her session in second place. It looked like we were going to struggle to find a competitive edge and do our efforts justice.

The next stage was the final practice session, which was run in a race format, again between six drivers. Monica started off again in the first race, in the middle of the pack in third. The start was hectic, with Monica spinning at the second corner causing a red flag. From there she tried to hold on to 4th, but slipped backward to 5th. However, Monica's race craft and experience stood her in good stead. With one driver given a Black Flag and having to take a drive through penalty, then the leaders tripping over each other into the penultimate corner, Monica was able to fight her way back into 2nd. From there she reeled in 1st place and was able to hold on to win her race. She was rightly happy with her performance.

Things were looking up.

Continued...

Next up was Guy. After a close opening couple of laps Guy and James Bruce, one of Monica's fellow Daytona racers, had broken away. Guy harried James and eventually got past him for the lead. James kept him honest through the remainder of the race, but Guy kept his cool, and James only served as a distraction up to the chequered flag.

That's two wins from two. This put Mia under some pressure, but in truth, had this been the actual Local Race Event, Sponne would be looking at an easy event win, albeit as long as Mia didn't come last. Mia's race started well, she was fighting well in 2nd. Unfortunately 3rd and 4th were closing. In an aggressive tussle, Mia was squeezed out and come off worst out of the three racers. Sometimes that's how the chips fall when you need a bit of luck. For much of the race Mia held the second fastest lap and a significant improvement on her personal best lap time. Mia did well keeping in touch with the leading pack, and stayed with them on the lead lap and finishing overall 4th.

This was a great team result for Sponne and sets them up well for the Local Race in March. They can come away from the practice event with their heads held high and with a psychological edge on the other teams. Our main worry now is the local school with 4 teams. They have a strategic performance advantage going forward. The team configuration doesn't need to be declared until the start of the race. This allows them to select their 3 fastest drivers from the 12 present.

Our top trump is that we have set down the marker, with three great performances. We are the team that they need to beat.

Careers

Thames Valley Police Invites You Students & Parents Career Guidance



Details: **2nd March 2022**

Time: **6:00 – 7:30pm**

Location: **Online**

Registration: [Click Here](#)



THAMES VALLEY POLICE

The Rt Hon. Dame Andrea Leadsom DBE MP Member of Parliament for South Northamptonshire Apprenticeship 2022/2023

Are you interested in Politics?

It's that time of year again when I start looking for my next apprentice to join my busy constituency team. I've been exceptionally lucky to have had ten fantastic local school leavers in the role since I started the scheme when I became the MP for South Northants, and they have all gone on to further study or into full-time employment within politics.

The role is full time, salaried and lasts for 13 months from the beginning of August. As an integral part of Team Leadsom, my Apprentice Caseworker is responsible for engaging with constituents and dealing with some of the correspondence I receive each day, as well as supporting the wider team in ad hoc projects. The successful applicant will be based in my Towcester office, with regular opportunities to work in Westminster and to get fully involved in all aspects of parliamentary life.

To apply to be my 2022/2023 Apprentice Caseworker please send me your CV, cover letter and a 1-page researched essay on what you think are the three key challenges for South Northamptonshire and how you might tackle them. The deadline for applications is 31st March. Please email me at andrea.leadsom.mp@parliament.uk or write to me at my constituency office address – 1 Victoria House, 138 Watling Street, Towcester NN12 6BT.



www.andrealeadsom.com

andrea.leadsom.mp@parliament.uk

01327 353124



Students & Parents Guidance



Free Online Safety Guide

What parents and carers need to know about Fortnite Chapter 3

Fortnite is one of those rare titles which breaks through from the gaming world to create a wider cultural impact. This success was swiftly monetised, of course, leading to Fortnite action figures, plush toys, branded clothing, stationery, bedspreads and the like. The nature of these products hints at a sizeable proportion of the game's fans being below the recommended age limit of 12.

So how much of a danger does Fortnite pose to its younger players? For starters, the game is fundamentally about using an array of weaponry to eliminate a stream of enemies. As our #WakeUpWednesday guide outlines, however, on-screen violence is far from the highest concern – with potential issues over in-app purchasing, scams and toxic behaviour from other players.

Read on to access your free guide!

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

FORTNITE

CHAPTER
3

AGE RATING
PEGI
12

First released in 2017, Fortnite has become one of the most popular games in the world. It currently has around 350 million registered players. Developed by Epic Games, it began life exclusively as a 'battle royale' contest, where up to 100 online player characters would fight – with weaponry including rifles, handguns and rocket launchers – to be the last one standing. Today, it features multiple modes which each offer something different (although some modes, such as 'Save the World', are only available on certain platforms).

IN-APP PURCHASES

Not all of Fortnite is free. Save the World mode, for example, can become quite costly. An in-game currency called V-Bucks is used to buy items such as cosmetics, which are not a necessity to play the game. It can feel like buying them is essential, however – even for adult players. Making sure no payment methods are linked to the game's store is a good idea when children are playing Fortnite.

REPEAT SUBSCRIPTIONS

Fortnite now offers a monthly repeat subscription which costs £9.99 (or equivalent). This package offers different non-essential benefits every month – including fancy cosmetics, rare weapons, V-Bucks and special bonuses. Signing up, therefore, can be tempting for dedicated players. However, subscriptions cannot be paid for with V-Bucks earned in the game, only with real-world money.

COMPETITIVE COMMUNITY

Fortnite isn't purely a competitive experience (some modes prioritise cooperation) but the rivalry aspect remains central. Battle Royale is an especially ruthless mode, where the last player or squad left standing wins. Games can become heated, and players' desire to win can often cause excessively aggressive or "toxic" behaviour towards others – via the game's audio chat, for instance.

POSSIBILITY OF SCAMS

Popular games like Fortnite are often targeted by unscrupulous individuals trying to trick or exploit genuine fans. In Fortnite, scammers have been known to offer children free V-Bucks or vast amounts of V-Bucks in exchange for rare items – often asking the player to click a particular link. These scammers are seeking access to your child's account, personal information and payment details.

USER-CONTROLLED CONTENT

Some elements of online video games can't be rated for age appropriateness because the developer doesn't have control over them. In Fortnite, for instance, things like voice or text chat, usernames, trades and other player-generated content may not always be suitable for children. It also means that the makers aren't liable for anything a stranger might say to young Fortnite players online.

Advice for Parents & Carers

STAY AWARE OF SPENDING

Free-to-play games (that is, ones without up-front costs) can still be big financial drains. In Fortnite, for example, the Battle Pass – a set of rewards to improve players' experience in the game – can be either earned through playing or bought with real money (with additional incentives for the latter). With supervision, however, this can be a great lesson in money management for young people.

TALK ABOUT TALKING

Communication is key in the squad-based Fortnite modes, and children will quickly realise that talking with team-mates online helps to increase their win rate. It's a good idea, therefore, to chat with your child first about speaking to strangers online, trading, scammers and other potential risks. Remind them that they can always come to you for help if they run into problems online.

ENCOURAGE BREAKS

Gaming sessions can reach marathon lengths, especially when your child is on a winning streak and doesn't want to stop. Sitting in the same position for hours isn't healthy, of course, but it's an easy habit to form. Encouraging young ones to break regularly for drinks and so on will help them stay hydrated, rest their eyes and release some of the tension from competitive gameplay.

DISCUSS OTHER APPS

Games like Fortnite can lead on to third-party apps (Discord, for example) where players can join a voice, text or – in some cases – video chat about the game. Certain add-ons also let children talk with other players from their local area, which clearly presents a potential risk. When discussing Fortnite with your child, you might also want to ask them about other apps they use while playing.

Meet Our Expert

Clare Godwin (a.k.a. Lunawolf) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunawolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.



NOS
National
Online
Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday

Dates for your diary

Friday 11th February

Break up for Half Term

Monday 14th - Friday 18th February

HALF TERM

Thursday 24th February

Year 8B Parents Evening

Friday 25th February

Year 7 & 8 Form Photographs

2nd - 23rd March

Year 11 Mocks

Thursday 3rd March

Year 10 Parents Evening

Thursday 10th March

Year 8 Options Evening

Monday 14th March

Local Governing Body Meeting

Thursday 31st March

Break up for Easter Holidays

Friday 1st April

INSET TRAINING DAY

4th - 18th April

EASTER HOLIDAYS

The Grand Union Training Partnership

Train to Teach with
The Grand Union Training Partnership



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 PGCE courses with QTS in the following subjects: Business Studies, Computing*, Design & Technology (including Food)*, English, Geography*, History, Maths*, MFL (French, German, Spanish)*, Science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics)* and PE (*Bursaries available)



The GUTP would like to invite you to come to one of our

OPEN EVENTS

on Thursday 24th March 2022

We are holding a coffee morning between 10am – 12pm
and an open evening between 5 – 7 pm

Both to be held at The GUTP, Sponne School, Brackley Road, Towcester, NN12 6DJ

Choose the event most convenient for you and register your attendance by emailing Kate Martin with your chosen event and subject of interest: gutprecruitment@sponne.org.uk

Check our website for further details www.gutp.co.uk



Feb 2022 Half Term Soccer School For Girls & Boys Aged 4-12

Dates: 15th to 17th February 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 for 3 days. £39 for 2 days or £21 for 1 day

Full refunds given if event cancelled due to COVID19.

ALL COACHES DBS CHECKED

Book online at www.nutmegss.co.uk

E-mail: contact@nutmegss.co.uk





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

