



AUTUMN NEWSLETTER - 2022

SPONNE NEWS

The official newsletter of Sponne School

Autumn 2022



Remembrance Day

Several Sponne students chose to come to school in service uniform on Friday 11th November.

A minute of silence was observed by all students and the Last Post was played.



In This Issue:

Sports News

- Primary Sports Events
- Year 9 & 10 Football

Music News

- Christmas Concert
- Music Award

Other News

- Touch Typing Results
- Accelerated Reader

... And more!

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Term 2 Focus: Perseverance and Determination



Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to the first edition of the Sponne Newsletter for 2022, I hope that you enjoy the read.

I feel incredibly privileged to be the Headteacher of this great, community, comprehensive school. I firmly believe that as a school, we have a significant role to play in our local area and I am so grateful for the support that we get from you, our parents, and from many others in Towcester and the surrounding villages. These positive working relationships help to ensure that our students approach their learning with enthusiasm and determination and make teaching here extremely rewarding. My message to all students in their first assembly of the year was all about being ambitious and never to be satisfied with average or ordinary but to dream, to believe and to achieve.

Following two difficult years when students were either awarded centre or teacher assessed grades at GCSE and at A-Level we finally had external exams in the summer. Once again students at Sponne achieved excellent results. At A-Level almost all students gained places at their chosen University or career choice and at GCSE students of all abilities made significantly better progress than would be expected nationally. Despite all the disruption to their education that the pandemic has caused the young people, here at Sponne, have excelled. I would like to thank all my staff and you, their parents/carers, for the continued collaboration that enables our young people to achieve so highly.

You may be aware that recruitment and retention in teaching nationally is at a crisis point, however, I am pleased to be able to let you know that we are fully staffed in all teaching areas and have been very fortunate in attracting high calibre, qualified staff to fill all of our vacancies.

I am looking forward to another very successful year. There are so many positive things to look forward to as we return to normal operations including trips, concerts and sporting events. Our Year 7 students have made an excellent start and behaviour and uniform of all students has been almost perfect! I would encourage all parents to be involved in your son/daughter's learning as much as you are able so that we can maintain the outstanding educational experience that we have come to expect.

My very best wishes to you all.

Iain Massey

Headteacher

Parking outside of school

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.

Music Mark

Sponne School is proud to be a Music Mark school!

Congratulations to the music department and all the NMPAT peripatetic staff who support the music provision at Sponne.



Sponne Christmas Concert

Tickets are now on sale for the Christmas concert which will be held in the school hall on Tuesday 13th December and will start at 7.30pm in the school hall. This will feature all Sponne music enhancement groups. Two tickets are currently available for purchase for participating musicians via scopay. Please book early to avoid disappointment. Any spare tickets will then go on general sale at the end of November.

Music Results

Well done to Stanwick Martin on passing his drums exam with merit.!

Environment Poetry

Students have been writing poetry linked to the theme of the environment recently, in English. In conjunction with this, Greenpeace has launched the following competition. The competition is open to budding poets of all ages and there's still plenty of time left to put your poetry hat on and enter.

<https://nationalpoetryday.co.uk/poems-for-the-planet>

Here are just a few of the fabulous poems written by some of our students in years 7 and 8.

Praise The Earth

Sunlight glistens amongst the trees,
As the subtle winds are put to ease,
Waves lap against the shore,
Praise the Earth forever more.

But for as great as it can be,
Humanity makes impurity,
Forcing smoke in the air,
Tearing down forests, leaving them bare.

Something truly must be done,
To fight pollution until we've won,
All it needs is people's care,
If not all is left as despair.


The smog fills the Earth's nice clean air,
But seems like no one has a care.
Unrecycled litter blows along the street,
Covering the glory of Earth's heartbeat.

Pollution clogs the Earth's blue Sea,
Ruining the Marine life for you and me.
Trees being cut down on Earth's green land,
Choking the air that is out of hand.

Using Green energy to light the way,
Will give Earth's future a brighter day.
Earth can be saved by us all,
We must all try our hardest to not let
mother nature fall.

We need to save our planet,
Global warming is real,
Plastics are murdering our oceans
As sea levels are rapidly rising,
And creatures choke and die.


Glaciers more like tar,
As extinction lists expand,
Fossil fuels are burning
And drought consumes the land,
We need to save our planet.



POEMS FOR THE PLANET

Sign up and take part by 1 December 2022

For more info go to www.greenpeace.org.uk/poems-planet

GREENPEACE ×  National Poetry Day

Touch Typing

As part of our Computing curriculum, students are engaged in a touch typing program. Below are the performance tables by tutor group, across three categories; for overall engagement with touch typing lessons, speed (words per minute) and accuracy.

YEAR 7 COMPUTING - TOUCH TYPING		
up to 21.10.22		
Most Touch Typing Completed	Fastest Touch Typists (wpm)	Most Accurate Touch Typists (%)
7JDG 1061	7OW 20.97	7ANS 93.66
7KAS 969	7NC 20.02	7PG 93.25
7OW 838	7KAS 19.74	7KAS 93.24
7PG 692	7RW 18.45	7AMT 93.14
7AMT 679	7JDG 18.45	7RW 92.95
7ANS 615	7ANS 17.54	7JDG 92.90
7RW 527	7PG 16.97	7NC 91.90
7NC 507	7AMT 16.67	7OW 90.57

Computing Department - Part of the Business & Innovation Faculty

YEAR 8 COMPUTING - TOUCH TYPING		
up to 21.10.22		
Most Touch Typing Completed	Fastest Touch Typists (wpm)	Most Accurate Touch Typists (%)
8SC 3527	8SC 30.28	8MG 93.31
8KP 3395	8RHB 26.04	8AAW 93.11
8MG 2937	8SLB 25.53	8RHB 92.88
8RHB 2855	8KP 25.00	8RB 92.13
8GB 2790	8MG 24.27	8SLB 92.13
8SLB 2630	8AAW 24.00	8SC 91.67
8RB 2410	8RB 23.71	8GB 91.09
8AAW 2333	8GB 21.88	8KP 90.00

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YEAR 9 COMPUTING - TOUCH TYPING		
up to 21.10.22		
Most Touch Typing Completed	Fastest Touch Typists (wpm)	Most Accurate Touch Typists (%)
9JH 3842	9NM 35.24	9JH 93.23
9VL 3656	9VL 32.59	9MM 93.05
9LM 3399	9JH 32.52	9VL 92.78
9NM 3377	9CJR 30.21	9DW 92.68
9CFD 3250	9CFD 29.64	9CFD 92.22
9DW 2980	9LM 29.33	9LM 91.95
9MM 2845	9MM 26.98	9NM 91.95
9CJR 2625	9DW 26.96	9CJR 91.06

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YEAR 10 COMPUTING - TOUCH TYPING		
up to 21.10.22		
Most Touch Typing Completed	Fastest Touch Typists (wpm)	Most Accurate Touch Typists (%)
10SJA 3384	10JPM 33.00	10PL 93.63
10JPM 3371	10EL 32.59	10ES 93.42
10RMS 3183	10HB 32.20	10TN 93.30
10ES 3032	10SJA 31.20	10HB 92.87
10HB 2712	10PL 30.54	10JPM 92.00
10PL 2645	10RMS 30.45	10EL 91.88
10TN 2614	10TN 29.73	10SJA 91.65
10EL 2502	10ES 29.48	10RMS 90.96

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YEAR 11 COMPUTING - TOUCH TYPING		
up to 21.10.22		
Most Touch Typing Completed	Fastest Touch Typists (wpm)	Most Accurate Touch Typists (%)
11AMG 3525	11AMG 37.53	11MS 93.41
11CRS 2903	11CRS 34.85	11HW 93.01
11OE 2417	11HW 31.90	11OE 92.86
11STW 2268	11OE 30.37	11CRS 92.81
11HW 2260	11JDF 30.14	11CML 92.19
11JDF 1971	11CML 27.90	11AMG 92.13
11CML 1679	11MS 27.40	11JDF 92.01
11MS 1259	11STW 27.30	11STW 91.69

Computing Department - Part of the Business & Innovation Faculty

KS3 Sponne Science Club

This year's Science Club has already encompassed the three disciplines of Biology, Chemistry and Physics, with students having done unusual and fun activities in each.

Initially we made fire writing - a technique based on secret messages and a chemical that, when ignited, causes paper to smoulder. Using this, students were able to reveal hidden initials and patterns simply by igniting the area of paper to which the chemical had been applied.

Students have created flying fish and then raced them, by making paper and card models and floating them on a cushion of air across the corridor.

We have also been studying the natural environment at a microscopic level, and have identified different shapes and styles of fungal spores, found the needles of a stinging nettles sting, and seen a plethora of wriggly things living in drain water !

Yr 9 & 10 Footballers

These year groups have combined training sessions on Thursdays; attendance and commitment has been excellent, with the students working really well together.

Highlight of the term was the 5-2 away win for the U14's away to Northampton Academy in the County Cup (their first win as a school team).

Our other three fixtures may have ended with defeat, but without exception, all students involved have done a fantastic job representing the school.

Training continues in term 2, starting with training matches on Monday 31st October, 3.15-5.45pm..... and then continue each Thursday, 3.15-4.25pm.

All students in Year 9 and 10 are most welcome; only requirement is you attend with FULL Sponne PE kit.

Mr. Cornelius & Mr. Radford



Primary Sports Events

A fantastic start to the year with two very successful Primary School Sports events hosted at Sponne by our amazing sports leaders team - Y5/6 football and Y3/4 & Y5/6 Tag Rugby!
Thanks to everyone involved for making it happen!

"Best day of Sport I've ever had" **Y4 Greens Norton Primary**

Results

Y5/6 Football A team tournament winners-Towcester Primary
Y5/6 Football B team tournament winners-Nicholas Hawksmoor
Y5/6 Tag Rugby A team tournament winners-Towcester Primary
Y5/6 Tag Rugby B team tournament winners-Towcester Primary
Y3/4 Tag Rugby Skills Festival

Congratulations to all the children that have participated from Blakesley Primary, Greens Norton Primary, Towcester Primary and Nicholas Hawksmoor Primary, over 240 children and over 60 Sponne Leaders!



Eloise Feely - England Regional Golf

One of our sixth form students, Eloise Feely, has been selected to train and play with the England Regional Golf squad based at the home of England golf in Woodhall Spa.

Excellent news and we wish her the best of luck!



Sonny Briggs-McKellar - Athletics

Well done to Sonny Briggs-McKellar who competed at the UK Athletics Youth Development League National Finals in Manchester on Saturday 3rd September. Sonny went on to win two silver medals in the 75m hurdles and in the 4 x 100m relay.

Sonny's previous hurdles PB of 12.95s was smashed by finishing in 12.13s, just 0.03s behind the winner in what was a photo finish. This is a fantastic achievement having only started competing in April!





Sponne PE want to hear from You

pestudentachievements@sponne.org.uk

Lets 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.



Accelerated Reader

Accelerated Reader is the reading programme we use to help Year 7 and 8 students improve their reading, vocabulary and comprehension skills.

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 5,501,160 and have passed 170 quizzes between them. Our star readers this term are Bella Packham-Hayes, Rory Castle, Emily Webb, Lacey Humphries, Evie Barford and Tillie Dunkley.

Year 8 students, who have only had one LRC lesson this term, have read a total of 3,585,530 words and passed 96 quizzes. Year 8 star readers are Alex Kerr, Edward Wooldridge Smith, Taylor Justice, Zac Fewtrell and Mai Barnett.

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.



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 complete quizzes on the books they read - they can check their form's score on the AR display board in the LRC.

German Residential Visit

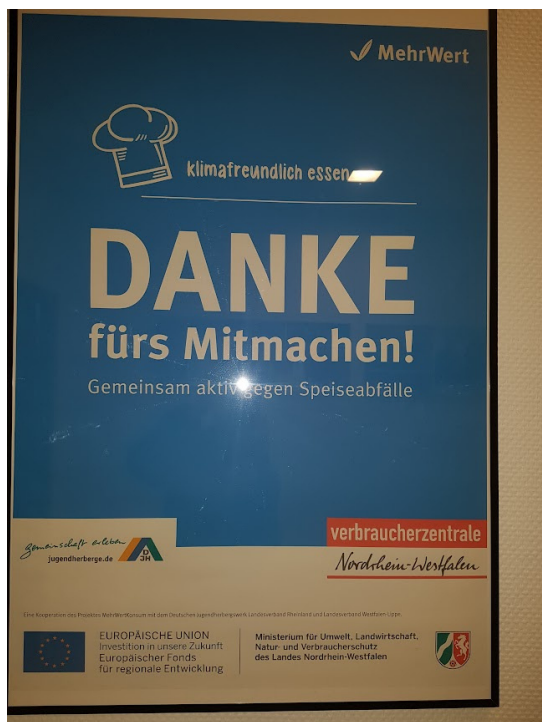
In the last week of term, 44 Yr 11 and 2 Yr 12 Sponne students went on the German residential visit to Cologne and Bonn.

We departed from Sponne at 3 am, flew from Stansted airport to Cologne and then spent three nights in the youth hostel in Cologne, taking part in various activities, day trips and visits.

We all had to order our food and drinks in German (scary for some !) and enjoyed living the life as a German person for three days - travelling on the public transport system, shopping and talking with the Germans !

A brilliant experience, we will never forget

Mr Gercs, Ms Whitbread, Mr Trusler and Ms Stone



Sponne Safeguarding

Dear Parents/Carers


I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and the Safeguarding Team. I joined the school in September as an experienced DSL having previously held roles in the state, independent and primary sectors. I have been warmly welcomed into the Sponne school family by staff, students and parents and I would like to thank you for your continued support.

At Sponne School we take our Safeguarding responsibilities very seriously. As Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) my role is to ensure students feel safe, happy and supported in school. I work closely with Jacqui Goodall who is our school's senior Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead. Together we take action to support children by protecting them from all forms of harm. Working together with the Safeguarding Team to support, help and advise students' parents and carers regarding all safeguarding matters, enabling children to thrive and achieve at school.

In close partnership with our families, professionals or external agencies, any discussion or action is always taken with confidence and respect. Sometimes families may experience difficulties. Family life can be challenging and parents or carers may need someone to talk to, support them or guide them to access specialist help and advice. I would like to introduce Mrs Ana Lopes as our new Parent/Student Support Advisor. Ana has worked at Sponne School for the last 5 years in various roles, in particular, our SEN department. This experience has given Ana a strong foundation allowing her to develop trusting relationships with the students of the Sponne Community. Ana is looking forward to her new role working with our parents.

It is important to note that we are here to support all members of our school community and encourage parents to contact us to share successes, worries or concerns, please see our information poster for details about our team.

Sponne School Safeguarding Team



Ms Rebecca Chapman - Designated Safeguarding Lead, she is also Assistant Headteacher. Her office is in student services, internal extension 500 or you can email rchapman@sponne.org.uk

Mrs Jacqui Goodall - Senior DDSL and Inclusion Support Manager, she is based in 'The House' her office is just inside the main door, email jgoodall@sponne.org.uk


Mrs Kerry Finch DDSL - Safeguarding Support, she is non-teaching and shares the DSL office in student services, kfinch@sponne.org.uk

Mrs Indira Broschat is our School Counsellor, she works with all year groups and is based upstairs in 'The House'.

Mr Iain Massey is the Head Teacher DDSL and oversees all aspects of Safeguarding for the school. He is on the gate each morning and has an office near main reception, email imassey@sponne.org.uk

Miss Kirsty Whitmore is DDSL/Head of Sixth Form working alongside Mr Owain John Deputy Head of Sixth to support KS5 students, her office is located in the Sixth Form area

If a child is in immediate danger call 999. If you have a concern about a child you can visit www.northamptonshire.gov.uk or call MASH directly on 0300 126 7000 (option 1)



Any Concerns...
Speak to your tutor or a trusted adult.
Send a message via the Wellbeing page on the student dashboard or email studentsupport@sponne.org.uk
Drop into the DSL office behind student services or see your PLL.
We are here to support you.

Mrs Kelly Notley DDSL Assistant Headteacher

Mrs Suzanne Brookbank DDSL Wellbeing and pastoral support co-ordinator

Mrs Sarah-Louise Johnston DDSL Wellbeing and pastoral support co-ordinator

Mrs Yvonne Farrell DDSL SENCO

PLL's KS3

Mrs Helen Turton Y7

Mrs Casey Fox & Mr Jamie Hollamby Y8

PLL's KS4

Mr Peter DeBoo Y9

Mrs Hayley Mort Y10

Mr Simon Trusler Y11

PLL's KS5

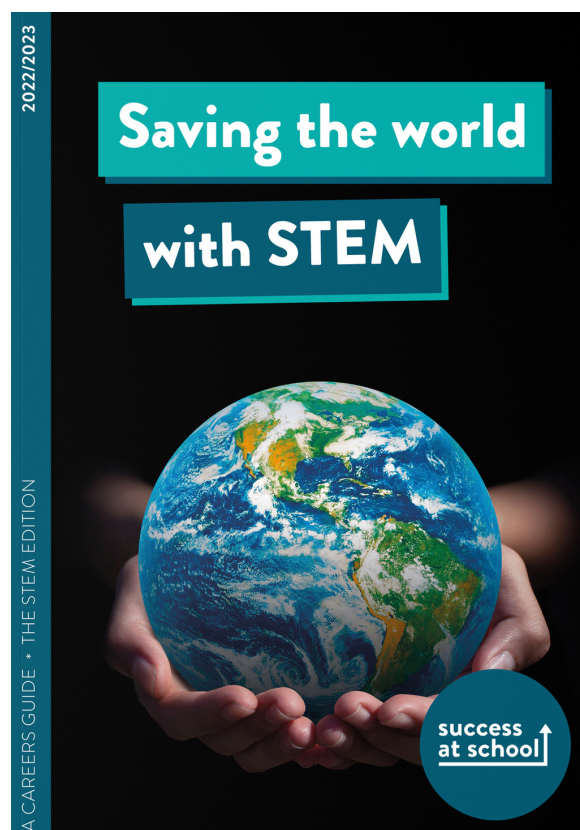
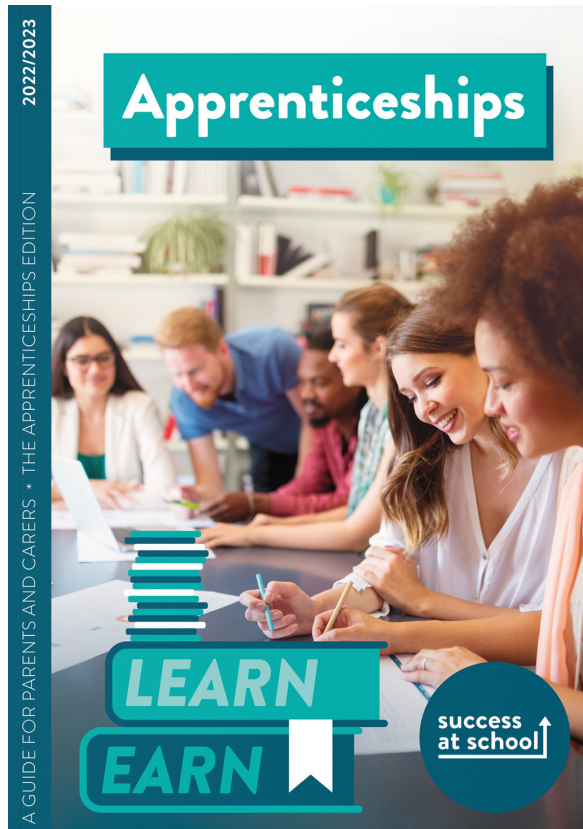
Mr Owain John Y12 & 13

Miss Kirsty Whitmore Y12 & 13

Careers - Parents Guides

New 2022/23 Parents guides to university and apprenticeships will be released digitally next week. They will be available for parents and carers to access for **FREE** and will be sent directly to your inbox with a free bonus STEM careers guide

Register here: <https://mc.successatschool.org/guides22>



Sponne PFA

The Sponne Parents and Friends Association (PFA) will hold it's AGM on Monday 14th November at 7pm in the LRC. All are welcome to attend.

The PFA exists to arrange fundraising events to raise money for additional school equipment. We are currently looking for more committee members to join our friendly team. No previous experience is necessary and it does not take up much of your time. If you are interested, please come to the AGM, or contact any of the PFA members for more details (sponnepfa2@gmail.com).

Grand Union Teacher Training Partnership



Applications now open!

Apply to The Grand Union Teacher Training Partnership (Sponne School) via <https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-teacher-training>

Bursaries available as follows:

£27,000 for Chemistry* Computing* Maths* and Physics*

£25,000 for Geography, French* German* and Spanish*

£20,000 for Biology and Design Technology (including Food)

£15,000 for English

For any help with the recruitment process, please email gutprecruitment@sponne.org.uk

* Scholarships also available - apply to relevant scholarship body



Dates for your diary

Year 11 and 13 Theatre visit	17 Nov 2022
6th Form Geography visit - Tectonics Conference	18 Nov 2022
Year 10 English theatre trip -Stratford (Evening)	22 Nov 2022
Y12 Health & Social Care trip to Birmingham	01 Dec 2022
A Christmas Carol performance by Ginificent.	01 Dec 2022
Maths Inspiration visit - Year 12	06 Dec 2022
YEAR 11 PARENTS' EVENING - REMOTE	08 Dec 2022
Christmas Concert	13th Dec 2022
Carol Service -St Lawrence Church	14th Dec 2022 - 2.00 pm

School Closes

School Opens

16th December 2022

4th January 2022

Year 12 Parents Evening	5th January 2022
Into 6th Form Evening	12th January 2023
Whittlebury Proms	5th February 2023
Year 10 Poetry Live Theatre Trip	7th February 2023
Year 8A Parents Evening - Remote	7th February 2023
6th Form Art and Photography visit to London	9th February 2023

School Closes - Spring Half Term

10th February 2023

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

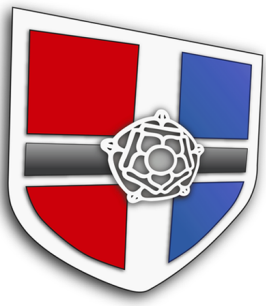


Drinking water :

- Improves energy levels and brain function
- Improves concentration and focus
- Prevents headaches
- Is healthy for joints and teeth and helps circulate blood!

Stay Hydrated!





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

