



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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Iain Massey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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.

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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.

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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  
ME?

AND  
ME!

**POEMS FOR  
THE PLANET**

Sign up and take part by 1 December 2022

For more info go to [www.greenpeace.org.uk/poems-planet](http://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	7DW	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	8RHB	26.04	8RHB	92.88
8RHB	2855	8SLB	25.53	8RB	92.13
8GB	2790	8KP	25.00	8SLB	92.13
8SLB	2630	8MG	24.27	8SC	91.67
8RB	2410	8AAW	24.00	8GB	91.09
8AAW	2333	8RB	23.71	8KP	90.00
		8GB	21.88		

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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	10PL	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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:rchapman@sponne.org.uk)

**Need to talk?**



**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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

**We are here for you!**

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



**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

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**Mrs Helen Turton**  
Y7

**Mrs Casey Fox & Mr Jamie Hollamby**  
Y8

**PLL's KS3**

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**Mr Peter DeBoo**  
Y9

**Mrs Hayley Mort**  
Y10

**Mr Simon Trusler**  
Y11

**PLL's KS4**

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**Mr Owain John**  
Y12 & 13

**Miss Kirsty Whitmore**  
Y12 & 13

**PLL's KS5**

**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](mailto:studentsupport@sponne.org.uk)

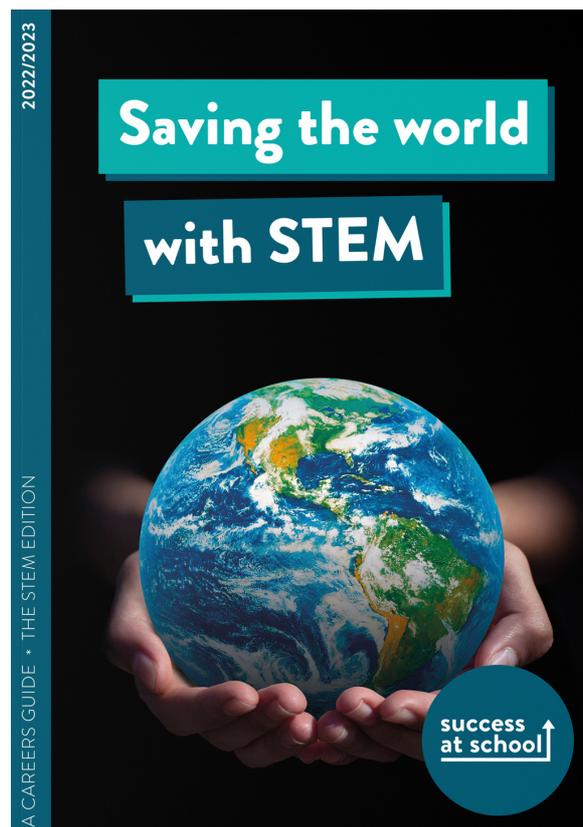
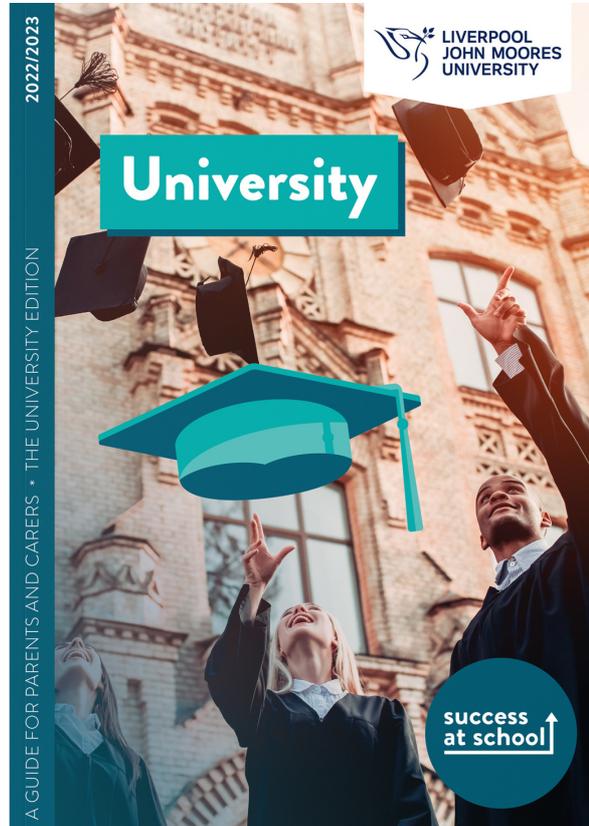
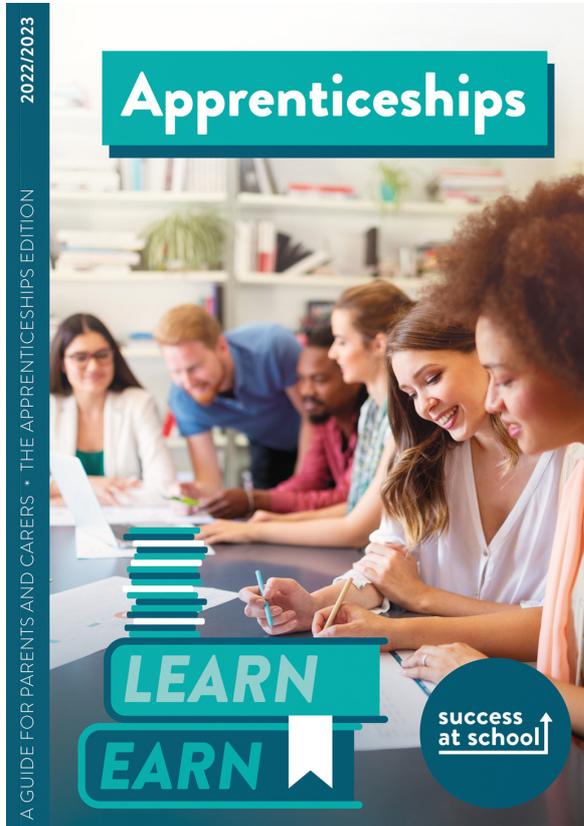
Drop into the DSL office behind student services or see your PLL.

**We are here to support you.**

# 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](mailto: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](mailto: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

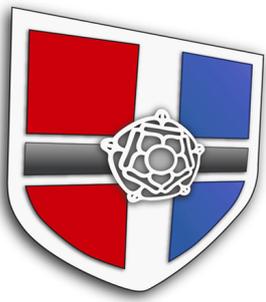


Drinking water :

- 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

