



TERM 3 NEWSLETTER - 2023

# SPONNE NEWS

The official newsletter of Sponne School

## Year 10 Charity Fundraiser - Football Match



## Sponne Alumni - Music Release



Congratulations to Laurie Glass (Yr 13 A level music student) and Ross Baker/Ben Maxwell - Sponne alumni who have just released the first of two singles on spotify ahead of their forthcoming album release. Please check it out. We wish them every success with this venture.

Click [HERE](#) to listen on spotify.

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- U16 Netball
- Equestrian

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- Accelerated Reader

... And more!

Follow us on social media to stay up to date with latest news



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## Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2023. I hope you enjoy reading about all the fantastic activities and achievements of our students during the past 6 weeks.

As you can imagine this part of the academic year is the most important and busiest time for Year 11 and 13 students. Many subjects will be completing the teaching content in the run up to Easter and revision will be beginning in earnest. Many students find this quite stressful and struggle to understand the techniques that work best for them with regards to learning everything they need to know. Please do encourage them to seek our support and guidance if you recognise that this is an issue for your son/daughter. There are lots of intervention opportunities for the students and all our staff are happy to help them with organisation and revision. Our pastoral team are particularly experienced at providing this support and all members of the senior team are involved in mentoring individuals as required. I have no doubt that the vast majority of students will be

successful because they have worked hard throughout their school careers, despite the disruption that has occurred and because they are so positive and focussed in lessons at school.

Of course, school is not just about academic performance and we value the tremendous achievements that students gain in sport, music and many other areas as well as the contributions that many of them make to our community. You will be pleased to read that the U16 netball team has qualified for the national finals and there have been many other significant successes this term, well done to all those young people who have been involved.

Last week we had significant disruption to learning due to the NEU teachers strike. This dispute is mainly due to the erosion of pay since 2010 and the significant increase in workloads since the pandemic. Like nurses, no teacher chooses to strike lightly, but unfortunately the Government has failed to engage in meaningful, positive discussions so far. Further strike days are planned on Wednesday 1st, Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th March. It is likely that face-to-face teaching will be prioritised again for those students in Year 11 and 13 who are sitting their final exams in the summer but I will write to you after half term to clarify the arrangements.

Finally this weekend saw the return of the 'Last Night of the Proms' concert at Whittlebury Hall involving many students from Sponne, supported by the Kidlington Brass Band. Thank you to all those students, staff and parents who took part in this fabulous event.

My best wishes to you all for the half term break and I look forward to seeing students back at school on Monday 20th February.

Iain Massey

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 capitalized and prominent.

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 News

## Holocaust memorial day Service

Congratulations to the Sponne musicians who were once again fantastic ambassadors in representing the school at the West Northamptonshire Council Holocaust Memorial day service.

The event was held in the Guildhall in Northampton.

The beautiful performances were a reflective and poignant part of the service and were very well received by the attending congregation.



## Proms Concert

Congratulations to the fantastic Sponne musicians for an excellent Proms concert on Sunday 5th February at Whittlebury Hall. The concert showcased the Jazz Orchestra, Brass Band, Concert Band and Senior Choir along with a guest brass band, Kidlington Concert Brass. Several of our sixth form brass and percussion players were featured as soloists with Kidlington Concert Brass. The musicians were given a rousing standing ovation at the end of the performance by the 300 strong audience. The evening was a collaborative event with the Towcester Rotary club to raise funds for both the music department and the Air Ambulance.

Huge thanks to all those who supported the event.

## Other Music News

Congratulations also to Emily Underwood for a distinction in her grade 8 violin and to Katie Skey for a successful cornet audition with the National Youth Brass band of Great Britain. She is also joined by Melody Powell (Euphonium).

Well done to William Coventry for a distinction in Grade 7 Piano.



# GCSE English Literature: May 2023

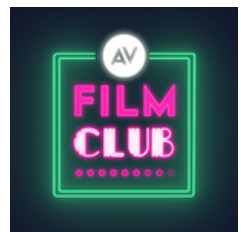
With the English Literature GCSE exams fast approaching for our Year 10 students, we wanted to share all of the fantastic opportunities which are available to our Sponne students to help them in reaching their full potential

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We will continue to offer our 'Brainy Breakfasts' to students on the mornings of their exams, including their mocks. These sessions are an invaluable opportunity to recap what students need to do in their exams and, in doing so, boost their confidence.

In the run up to the exam, we will be showing the film adaptations of each of our Literature texts, after school in W25 on Tuesdays, providing students with the opportunity to recap the plot and characters. We're currently showing the Royal Shakespeare Company's 2018 adaptation of Macbeth.



Each Tuesday, our English team will be offering intervention: for some this will be targeted, but all our welcome.

This year has also seen the launch of our Masterclasses: designed to develop students' conceptualised responses to the texts studied. These sessions are targeted at our students who are expected to achieve grade 7 and above.



Additionally, the students have a whole host of revision materials instantly available on the GCSE English Revision classroom on Google Classroom. Here they will find practice questions, knowledge organisers, revision guides and videos, and much more.

## Date for the diary

The next mock is on Tuesday, 21st February  
"Macbeth" and "A Christmas Carol"





# 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.





## U16 Regional Netball Success

After the high of 2022 when the Sponne School U16 Netball team reached the National School Netball Finals, the 2023 squad were hopeful to match this success by qualifying yet again at this year's regional competition. There was much anticipation on the day, especially with the knowledge that in the first round, (a round-robin within a group of five) Sponne would be facing the team they lost to in the previous year. This, however, did not stop Sponne and after winning all matches but one, a place had been secured in the semi-finals. This was a must win game to ensure qualification. The next 14 minutes of netball were certainly nerve-wracking for the many supporting parents, coaches, and team mates on the sidelines. Several times Sponne drew level with the fierce competition but ultimately Sponne emerged victorious; a 10-8 win, earning the team a place at the U16 National Schools Netball Finals for the second year running!

On the 11th of March, the Sponne School team will be heading up to Oundle School again, for an unforgettable experience competing amongst the top 18 teams in the country.

Phoebe Boyle (captain) said "I am truly in awe of the effort I know we all put in to earn our place at Nationals. After missing out on the U14 Regionals and Nationals experience due to the pandemic, we knew we had to take this chance and run with it. I am so proud of the team for working together and leaving everything on the courts in order to achieve our joint goal!"

Coaches Miss Stone and Mrs Wade mentioned "The cohesion and togetherness the team showed throughout the competition was outstanding, every player fulfilled a role and played a part in their success. Players dedication and determination leading up to the competition was admirable and we congratulate the team on this. We look forward to supporting you in preparation for nationals! Thanks also to staff and parents who have supported us all on such a fantastic day".





# School Equestrian Team Success



On Sunday 22nd January we had 8 Sponne Students representing their school at the NSEA County Qualifiers at Bury Farm! The 70cm team (Lucy A, Annabelle R & Grace W) came 4th overall and have qualified for the NSEA County Championships at Hickstead in May. Annabelle R & Charlie O were highest placed Northants individuals in the 80cm, 90cm & 100cm so also qualified!

Other Sponne members who also completed were Yasmin B, Faye O, Bess W, Sienna B, Ava P.

Well done to all the team members who competed. We look forward to hearing about future success this season and wish those qualified the best of luck for the championships.

If you are interested in joining the equestrian team please speak to Miss Stone in PE.





# Other Sports News

## Year 7 Boys Sportshall Athletics

The year 7 boys took part in the district sportshall athletics championships and did themselves and the school proud!

Ollie Sharpe ran superbly to take 2nd position in the 2 lap A race, whilst Aarain Smith competed really well in the 4 lap race. It was in the field, however, where Sponne did really well.

Thomas Doughty recorded an outstanding 77 for victory in the speed bounce and Ollie Sharpe fell one centimetre short of victory in the vertical jump.

An excellent team performance which means that Sponne boys qualify for the County Championships in February.

## U14 Girls Football Success

A Fantastic win for our U14 Girls Footballers Captained by Ava  
3-1 v KBA

Brilliant team effort with a solid defence, great distribution from midfield and speed, skill and great strikes from our strikers!

## Goal Scorers

Leah = 2  
Amy = 1

Players player = Leah  
Coaches player = Ava



## MotoGP Success

Sam Gardner 7ANS races in the FAB Racing Championship and competed in 2 minimoto classes this season- the LC40Elite class and the AC40 Pro class. He competed across 8 rounds with 3 races per round per class gaining points depending on where he finished.

His points total meant he finished 2nd in the championship for the AC40 Pro class, for which he received his trophy this month.

We wish him the best of luck for the 2023 season which will see him competing again in the LC40Elite minimoto class and the MK Mini GP50 class which is a step up to a bigger bike.



# Other Sports News

## Primary Schools KS2 Inclusive Festival

It was a wonderful afternoon with so much cheering and smiling, it melted my heart! The children were fabulous and my Leaders thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

We tried lots of new inclusive activities; Boccia, New Aged Kurling, Archery, Target Games and Indoor rowing - it was so inclusive even the teachers got to join in!

Well done to everyone who came and to those that made the magic happen!





# Other Sports News

## Year 10 Charity Fundraising

Year 10s organised a charity football match, lead by Dylan Mander, before Christmas, which was a great success and played in great competitive spirit.

Well done to all that played and contributed, as well as supported.

A close game with a 1-0 win to the 'A half'

An extra massive well done to Dylan Mander 10JPM for organising it and for Mr Cornelius and Mr Radford for their managerial efforts.

Dylan also ran 10k to raise money too which combined all went to Children in Need.

**Total raised: £131.19 - MASSIVE WELL DONE**







## Accelerated Reader

Our Y7 & 8 students have started the New Year in fantastic fashion, managing to pass a total of 496 quizzes between them since their return in January! The top quizzing forms this term are 7KAS, with 67 and 8RB, with 27. Our top quizzing student is Keira Willsman, who has passed a marvellous 25 quizzes.

Other special mentions this term go to Daisy Stone, George Russell, Lily Brennan, Noah Caldwell, Lottie Clarke, Jack Bowman, Will Rayment, Nathan East, Isla Fellows, Jake Leatherland, Billy Holt, Ellie Payne, Angus Cockerill and Sam Hannah, who have each passed multiple quizzes this term and are making impressive progress.

Don't forget, you can check to see if any of your books at home have quizzes at

**[www.arbookfind.co.uk](http://www.arbookfind.co.uk)**



## World Book Day - 2 March 2023

We're looking forward to World Book Day on 2nd March. We will be sending out a book quiz to all English groups and the LRC will host a special book quiz in the LRC for any students who would like to participate.

**There will be prizes!**



# Sponne School needs a minibus!



## Can you help the PFA raise £20,000?

This year is a big year of fundraising for Sponne PFA!

A minibus is a vital part of school life, providing transport to sports fixtures, trips and community events. The school is in need of a new lightweight minibus to continue providing these opportunities for the students.

The Parents and Friends Association are taking on the challenge to raise as much money as possible towards this in 2023.

We need your support to help us hit our target.

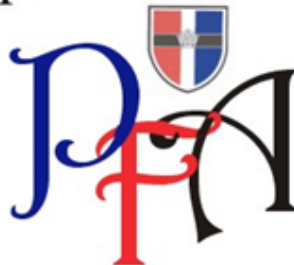
Especially we want to hear from:

- Local companies interested in sponsoring a school minibus.
- Knowledge/connections in minibus/van sales.
- Anyone with a brilliant idea for fundraising.
- Anyone in a workplace that offers match funding for charity fundraising.

We also need you to support our events this year. Look out for announcements from the PFA and join in!

Please contact [sponnepfa2@gmail.com](mailto:sponnepfa2@gmail.com) if you can help.

Sponne School



Registered Charity No: 285714

# QUIZ NIGHT

**FRIDAY 3RD MARCH** **7PM**  
**SPONNE SCHOOL**

Join us for a family quiz night, hosted by 'Quizmaster Gercs', and enjoy wood fired pizza from Milandy Pizza, in aid of Sponne PFA Minibus appeal.

**MILANDY  
PIZZA**



**Entry £5**

**Pizza £10**

**Licenced Bar**

Prize for winning team. Max team size 8 people.  
No unaccompanied U16s. Purchase tickets on SCOPAY  
or email [sponnepfa2@gmail.com](mailto:sponnepfa2@gmail.com) by 27th Feb'23.





# TRAIN TO TEACH **VIRTUAL OPEN EVENT**

## **Thursday 23rd February 2023**

**Online Open evening 5pm - 7pm**

Please email [gutprecruitment@sponne.org.uk](mailto:gutprecruitment@sponne.org.uk) with your name and subject of interest to register your attendance. Online meeting details will be shared in advance.

### **WE OFFER PGCE COURSES WITH QTS IN:**

- Business Studies
- Computing\*
- Design & Technology\* (including food)
- English\*
- Geography\*
- History
- Maths\*
- MFL\* (French, German, Spanish)
- Science\* (Biology, Chemistry, Physics)
- PE

\*Bursaries available. Please visit our website for further details

**[www.gutp.co.uk](http://www.gutp.co.uk)**

# 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



# Dates For Your Diary

## **Spring Half Term**

School closes Friday 10th February 2023

## **TERM 4**

School opens Monday 20th February 2023

## **Year 8B Parents Evening - Remote**

Tuesday February 21st 2023

## **Parents Meeting for St. Omer trip (School Hall)**

Tuesday February 28th 2023

## **6th Form trip to European Parliament UK Event**

Wednesday March 1st 2023

## **Year 8 Pathways Evening (PM)**

Thursday 9th March 2023

## **Year 8 Silverstone Industry Day**

Thursday 23rd March 2023

## **Spring Concert**

Tuesday 28th March 2023

## **Year 10 Parents Evening**

Thursday 30th March 2023

## **Easter Half Term**

School closes Thursday 30th March 2023

## **TERM 5**

School opens Monday 17th April 2023

Please see our website for a full list of events and term dates.

**<https://www.sponne.org.uk>**