



TERM 5 NEWSLETTER - 2023

SPONNE NEWS

The official newsletter of Sponne School

Spring 2023



Junior Athletics



Fantastic performances by the Junior Girls and Junior Boys Athletics Teams on 16th May. Both teams finishing 2nd in the Northants & Bedfordshire Track and field Cup!

In This Issue:

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- Music

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- Accelerated Reader
- Letter to Malala
- St Omer French Trip

... And more!

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



[SponneSchool](#)



[SponneSchool](#)



Dear Parents and Carers

Thanks you for taking time to read about the events and successes of our students over the past term; I hope you enjoy reading through the articles.

The good weather has arrived at last, at the same time as our older students begin their GCSE and A Level examinations. This is a very busy time at school with additional enhancement revision sessions, many just prior to the actual exam and so far the hard work and commitment seems to be paying off, as students have spoken positively to us about their exam papers so far; may they continue to do their best. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my staff for the additional time and effort they have put in this term to support students in their preparation for these exams. Please do not hesitate

to make contact with us if there is anything more we can do in what can be a very stressful time for students and our best wishes to all students sitting exams during this period.

Beyond exams there have been a multitude of other activities that students have been involved in and demonstrated the high levels of commitment and achievement that we have come to expect here at Sponne. Massive congratulations to all the members of our String Orchestra for being selected to play in Birmingham at the National Festival of Music for Youth in July. There have been lots of fantastic performances in athletics competitions this term and continued support of our primary cluster schools by our sports leaders who have been organising and running numerous events. I'd like to thank the staff that have enabled these groups to flourish.

As you can see there continue to be many opportunities for students get involved beyond their academic curriculum. After the term break the LRC once again hosts a Carnegie Medal event on 16th June and I very much look forward to seeing the GCSE and A Level Art exhibitions later in June. Please do pop in to look at the work the students have produced and I would encourage you to take every opportunity to continue to be involved with the school; thank you for your support.

I hope you have a good Spring bank holiday and I look forward to seeing the students back in school on Monday 5th June.

Iain Massey

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Iain Massey'.

Headteacher

Parking outside of school

Just a polite notice regarding parking in and around school if you are dropping off/picking up or attending a school event/meeting;

- If you are parking on Brackley Road, please be considerate; do not block residents' driveways or access points.
- Parking along the zigzag lines outside of school is prohibited.
- Please do not pull onto the school site to wait in the entrance or alongside the GUTP building.

A reminder that if you are collecting a student during the school day, you will not be admitted onto school site during break, lunchtime or when the school buses are here. Please park off site and come to the pedestrian gate.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Music News

Sponne Strings

Congratulations to Sponne Strings in being selected to perform in the National Festival of Music for Youth on Saturday 8th July in Birmingham Town Hall - this is a tremendous achievement.

Sponne Choir & Soloists

Sponne Choir and soloists are also working towards a lunchtime recital at St Lawrence Church on June 15th at 1pm. Sponne Jazz musicians are also preparing for a performance at Towcester Mill 2pm -3.30 on Sunday 18th June.

Both of these engagements are part of the Towcester Midsummer Music Festival.

National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain.



Congratulations to Thomas Judge who represented Sponne at a national level during the Easter break as a member of the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain. Tom spent a week in Leicester rehearsing with the full orchestra on "The Firebird" with Conductor Andrew Gourley. The orchestra also worked with The Kings Composer of Music, Judith Weir and American composer Jessie Montgomery on their new works.

The week concluded with a concert tour starting with the Royal Festival Hall in London and finishing in Saffron Hall near Cambridge. As part of this, Tom did an interview for the BBC focussing on Jessie Montgomery's work "Source Code". The concert was broadcast on

25th April on BBC 3 and some of the music recorded was used for the King's Coronation in May (as requested by Queen Camilla who is the orchestra's Royal Patron).

The orchestra then spent 2 days touring schools and playing for over 1,400 school children as well as doing creative workshops. In Summer, Tom will again be playing with the National Youth Orchestra doing another concert tour of the UK which includes performances at Birmingham Symphony Hall and in various other cities, finishing off by playing at the BBC Proms at the Albert Hall in London on the 5th of August.



National Youth Brass Band

Congratulations also to Melody Powell and Katie Skey who representing the school in the National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain during the Easter holidays, attending a residential course in Repton conducted by Stephen Cobb. They also had the opportunity to work with the conductor of the Salvation Army band, and featured soloist Philip Cobb who is Principal Trumpet of the BBC Symphony Orchestra and has played in famous movie soundtracks such as Shrek.

The band performed in 2 concerts, one in Stoller Hall, and another in Ruddock hall alongside the Royal Marines.

Overall it was a very challenging yet enjoyable week and Melody and Katie are both looking forward to the summer course in Norwich.



English News

Letter to Malala

Students in Year 7 have recently been reading Malala's autobiography. The following example of a student's work demonstrates the powerful impact that Malala's story has.

Dear Malala,

I would like to take this opportunity to write to you and tell you that you are amazing. You inspire not just me, but many other people from all across the world. Your actions are brave and you are a bold, independent leader. As well as this, you are a true warrior and even though you have been shot, you still continue to fight, and it is amazing. Words cannot express how important you are to millions of people. We all wish you the best as you continue to inspire.

The tale of a trailblazer

This story of truth and passion takes you on Malala's journey to where she is now. We get to follow her as she reflects on her past and builds her future all while inspiring many in the process. The way she perseveres and stays strong shows how powerful you can become if you really believe in something.

It gives people an insight into everything that she went through, how hard it must have been and lets them know that even if you feel trapped you can still break down the walls that surround you with hard work and a little bravery.

Malala showed us every version of herself: the girl who was 'a hopeful person', the girl whose fear was 'not as strong' as her courage and the girl who believed that if 'people were silent nothing would change'. This is the girl who was never scared 'just curious' and put others' lives before her own. Her book is an emotional journey that makes you feel empowered. I think everyone should get to read how one girl could change the world.

By Rhiannon Keevill



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.



Sports News

U14 Boys County Rugby Final

A valiant effort was made in the u14 county rugby final. Despite their best efforts in a very tight battle at Bugbrooke rufc, the year 9s were losing finalists. However, their attitude and quality of performance were a credit to the school "



NGL Girls County Champion



Congratulations to Eloise Feely, who is NGL Girls County Champion!

Winning by 9 shots over 36 holes at Wellingborough Golf Club, she will now go on to represent Northamptonshire in England Golf County Champion of Champions at Woodhall Spa in September.

Cobbler for a Day



It was a glorious day with Y8 & Y9 Girls at Sixfield Stadium for a Football Talent ID event.

We had a tour of the stadium and went "backstage" to see where the players work out, get treatment and a sneaky peek into the locker room!

Then after walking through the tunnel, the girls enjoyed skills sessions and matches on the main pitch with Northampton Town FC coaches!



Rugby Leadership training

Sixteen Year 9 girls went to Daventry Rugby Club for Rugby Leadership training. They had a brilliant day (despite the rain) and learnt warm ups, skills and how to referee touch rugby and tag rugby ready for a District U12 Festival they will be running after half term. Thanks to David Hanson for running the day and EWS for being our partners on the day!



Other News

Police Cadets

At Police Cadets, Ethan was nominated for and was the overall winner of a good conduct award. He was presented with this at the Emergency Services Cadet Awards evening. Well done Ethan, what a fantastic achievement- we are very proud of you



GenerationJuice

New drinks by
GenerationJuice

Bring a reusable bottle

Choose from **6 different**
flavoured waters

ONLY 55p
per 250ml portion

 Sponne School
A House & Science Academy

On the 2nd of May we launched Generation Juice at Sponne School! This will greatly reduce our plastic use and encourage reusable bottles at school.

The drinks are mixed to order and then dispensed into your own reusable bottle. They are vegan, gluten free, without sugar and use natural ingredients!

Here are the six different flavours on offer...

- Raspberry Peach
- Summer Fruits
- Watermelon
- Tropical
- Mandarin Mango
- Cherry

St Omer French Trip

It was great to be able to return to the Château d'Ebblingham in France this year after a couple of years break due to Covid!

We took a group of Year 9 & 10 students to the Nord pas de Calais – not far from St Omer, where students spent 4 days visiting the region & practising their French. Despite concerns about transport strikes in France, we arrived in Calais with only a small delay and headed off to an artisanal bakery. Students learnt how bread was made using traditional methods, had a go at moulding the dough to create loaves and ate a pain au chocolat in the little café.



The following day we visited Nausicaa sea life centre in Boulogne – the biggest aquarium in Europe. There was a huge variety of sea life to see including sharks, sea lions, penguins, and a giant manta ray. Afterwards we travelled onto Le Touquet, where students completed a town trail and had a chance to try out their French to shop, buy ice creams, drinks & snacks. In the evening students tried making their own little crêpes following the instructions in French.



Continued...

Although the weather forecast for the next day was a bit grim, we dodged the rain when we visited the tunnels & underground passages in Naours. We learnt about the history of these passages which have provided shelter & hideaways for villagers & soldiers across the centuries. Later we spent the afternoon in Amiens, where we visited the impressive 13th century Cathedral & UNESCO world heritage site and again had an opportunity for a quick bit of shopping. In the evening back at the Château quite a few students braved the snail tasting challenge and some went back for more several times!

On our final day, we ventured to the Chocolaterie de Beussent where students learnt how the chocolates were made by hand and were given a sample to taste. The chocolatey aroma in the shop is quite intense & there is a vast array of beautifully handcrafted chocolates in the small shop to admire. Unfortunately, the journey home wasn't the best experience due to the extremely rough crossing and more delays, but students returned with plenty to talk about at least!



Several of the places that we visited complimented the students on their excellent behaviour and their efforts to speak French and ask questions in French. A special mention must go to Dylan Mander & Georgie Wright for their excellent interactions wherever they went! The whole group were certainly a credit to the school! A huge thank you also to Miss McGlen, Mrs Green & Mr Cornelius for all their hard work on this trip.

Mrs C Potts

Year 12 CV Workshop - May 2023

Students in Year 12 had the opportunity to have their CVs reviewed by local employers. Two weeks before the event Rachel Collar, one of our Enterprise Advisers and owner of Haus of HR, came into school to give students a talk about how to write a good CV. The CV session itself involved two students spending 20 minutes with a local employer to get feedback on their CVs, how to improve and make themselves more employable. As far as possible students were matched with someone who came from a career area they were interested in.



Feedback from students:

'It helped me understand how developed my speaking skills are and also gave me tailored corrections to make on my CV.' (EL)

'They not only gave advice on my CV but told me how to write a cover letter and the importance of these' (ML)

'I get to see just how important putting you as a person on the CV just as the grades' (HP)

Feedback from employers:

'Well organised, students were prepared with CV's and briefed with what to expect, I was super impressed' (Warner Recruitment)

'The students were engaging and understood the purpose of the session' (Whittlebury Park) 'It was interesting to hear how a couple of the students I saw were very well prepared and had clearly put a lot of work in. Well done to them!' (Clear Track Business Growth)

Many thanks to our volunteers from:

Sally Wood Consultancy

Bluewire Hub

Haus of HR

Metro Merchandise Ltd

Avery Healthcare

Homebase

Santander

Civil Service for the Ministry of Justice

Whittlebury Hall

Towcester Town Council

Babcock International

Cognizant Technology Solutions UK Limited

ZAC Recruitment Ltd

iTEXS Telecom Ltd

Shepherd and Co Solicitors

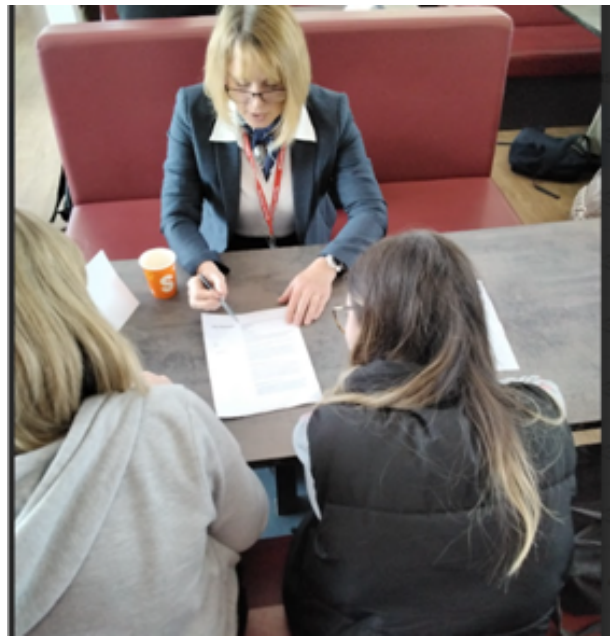
Tinderbox

Tomrom Team Performance Coaching and Mentoring



Continued...

Spoke Education
Starting Off
144 Consultancy
Dunore Connections
KRW Accountants
Warner Recruitment
Collaborate MK
Dunore Connections
KRW Accountants
Warner Recruitment
Collaborate MK
Cleartrack Business Growth Ltd
Turbo Technics Ltd
Premier Cables Ltd
Olyi - Healthy Building Consultancy
AM Consulting Solutions Ltd



As well as volunteers who have now retired but are still giving up their time to support our events.



Can You Help?

Do you run a business?

Do you work for someone?

Could you offer a work placement to a Yr10/Yr12 student in July?

If so, please contact Mrs Westley (LWestley@sponne.org.uk)
or Mrs Warner (AWarner@sponne.org.uk)

Organiser Project - DT

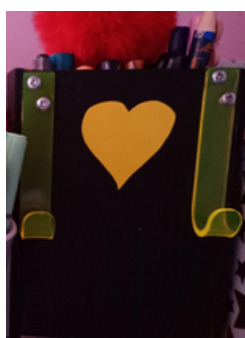
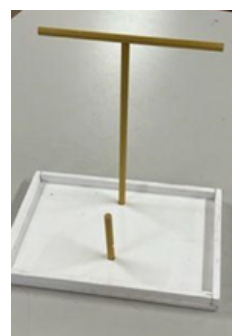
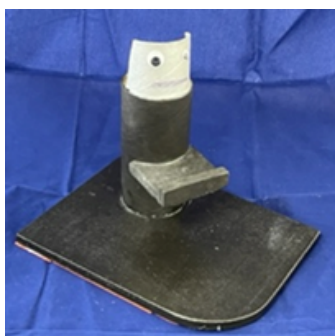
For the Organiser project in DT, students are required to design and make a product that will enable their client to be more organised!

It never ceases to amaze me how creative and talented our students are with their designs.

Well done year 7, amazing work!

Mrs Perks

Let's get Organised...



Sponne Environment Club

We have recently restarted Sponne's environment club which has been meeting in W14 every Wednesday lunchtime and is open to all years. We have decided to embark upon the Eco-Schools programme whilst incorporating our own exciting projects. We aim to make our school a more environmentally friendly and resilient place where the issues of sustainability and the climate crisis get the consideration they deserve.

- Environment Club



PSHE - Summer Term Update

What have we learnt about?

PSHE Lessons

Year 7 Health Education/Drugs Education - Anti-smoking/Anti-vaping challenge

Year 8 Health Education - Healthy Lifestyles

Year 9 Relationships Sex Education - Real Love Rocks and Citizenship Education - Crime Unit

Year 10 Either Drugs Education - Alcohol, Class B & Class C drugs or Financial Education - Fraud Awareness

Year 11 Relationships Sex Education - Unhealthy relationships

Year 12 Careers Education - Employability Skills

Year 13 Health Education - First Aid & healthy choices

Tutorial Sessions

Year 7 Internet Safety & Harms - Crossing the line

Year 8 Health Education - Immunisation and Vaccinations

Year 9 Careers Education - Finding my Path

Year 10 Health Education - Blood & Organ donation

Year 11 Health Education - Mental Health awareness

Year 12 Careers Education - Planning for post-18

Year 13 Study Skills

Careers

Year 8 - STEM Day in conjunction with MEPC Silverstone

Year 12 - CV workshop with local employers

Year 12 - Promoting yourself with PositivelyMad

Coming Up

Year 10 - Trip to Silverstone Technology Park

Year 7 - Big Bang Trip

Year 10 - Work Experience

Year 12 - Work Shadowing



Accelerated Reader

We are very proud of the achievement our Y7 and Y8 students have made so far this year with Accelerated Reader. Between them, they have passed a total of 2535 quizzes, with one term still to go. The Y7 form currently leading our inter-form competition is 7JDG with 309 quizzes and in Y8, 8SC currently lead with 170. There is still time for more quizzes to be added to form totals; the cut-off date for the competition totals will be Friday 7th July, so keep up the hard work!

We would like to congratulate Oliver Hicks, Rhiannon Keevill, Diana Vyskianaute, Sophie Lathwell, Jessica Knight, Amber Perkins and Charlotte Wilkes for their quiz progress this term. We also like to say 'well done' to Will Monk, Eleanor Cattanes, Sienna Johnson, Nikita Moody, Alfie Worth, Grace Leitch, Ted Sheppard, Luis Ward, Sophie Willis, Alice Wood and Oliver Agness for their improvement this term.

Carnegie Medal Shadowing 2023



Our Carnegie event takes place on the morning of Friday 16th June. Many students have already read a number of the shortlisted titles and we are excited to welcome students from Moulton College and Caroline Chisholm for this year's event.

In anticipation, many of our students have already been discussing their favourite titles during our termly book group.

The Carnegie Medal is one of the most prestigious children's book awards and the most sought after by children's authors. You can find out more about the shortlisted titles at <https://yotocarnegies.co.uk/writing-shortlist-2023/>.

Change of Details - Go4Schools

If you need to update any of the contact/address/email/telephone information we have on record for your child, yourself or any of the other contacts we have, you can do this directly via Go4Schools.

If you log in and click the drop down arrow next to your name in the top right hand corner and select 'settings' you will be taken to the screen below.



Complete the details in the box and press send.

My settings

Manage your account and settings to make GO 4 Schools work better for you.

Your login email address is:

[Update contact details](#)
[Manage your communication settings](#)
[Change your GO 4 Schools password](#)

Update contact details

Use the form below to notify the school about changes to your telephone number, email address, etc.

Manage your communication settings

- Automatic daily summaries of homework are sent after 16.00.
- Automatic daily/weekly summaries for behaviour are sent after 18.00, as configured.
- Detention updates are sent by the school as required.
- Attendance updates are sent by the school as required.
- School messages are sent as required.
- Consent messages are sent by the school as required.
- All messages will also appear in your Online Inbox.



Careers Newsletter for Families



South East
Midlands
CAREERS HUB

CAREERS &
ENTERPRISE
COMPANY

SEMLEP
South East Midlands
Local Enterprise Partnership

Inspire.
Prepare.
Succeed.

May 2023

Welcome to the second SEMCH Newsletter for families supporting young people in the South East Midlands. In this edition we highlight some of the fantastic technical and vocational pathways available to young people, and their families, in the region. Apprenticeships, T-Levels and traineeships are part of the government agenda to address the skills gap identified by employers and businesses. Also in this edition is a feature on local careers champion Dale Willis of My Great First Job who works with students and schools to help them achieve their best next step. You can find more information on SEMLEP and the SEMCH, including our live opportunities portal, on our website.



My Great First Job is a Northampton based company, owned and run by Dale Willis. As well as paid-for support in schools and colleges or with individuals, Dale also offers free monthly webinar packed with information and advice for young people on a wide range of careers-related topics.

The MGFJ Blog can be found [here](#) and you can access previous posts including '10 ways to find a great first job' and '150 Career Advice walks.' Follow Dale and My Great First Job on social media to get updates on forthcoming webinars.

Does your employer support volunteering days?

You can get involved with the work of the South East Midlands Careers Hub in several ways:

- Give an Hour – to support one-off events like careers fairs or mock interview days.
- Become an Enterprise Adviser and commit to an on-going relationship with a school to support them with the strategic development of their careers programme.
- Ask your employer to offer work experience, work shadowing or employer visits for local young people.
- More details [here](#)

Apprenticeships

Across the region there are some fantastic apprenticeship vacancies. Search according to postcode, and set your preferred distance, at [Find an Apprenticeship](#)

This is just a snapshot of the hundreds of opportunities available across the region:

- Level 3 IT Technician apprenticeship
Bedford [Vacancy ref 1000160469](#)
- Level 2 Chef apprenticeship
Milton Keynes [Vacancy ref 1000143179](#)
- Level 3 Optical Technician apprenticeship
Northampton [Vacancy ref 1000157274](#)



Employers on our Doorstep

Red Bull Racing Milton Keynes

Red Bull Racing offer apprenticeships to young people in a wide range of business areas. Current opportunities are open in HR, Software Testing, Procurement, Electronics and Assembly Technician. Entry requirements vary and benefits include competitive salaries, private healthcare, a free on-site gym and free daily food allowance. This is a chance to make a real contribution to Red Bull's championship winning grand prix cars.

Find out more at [Jobs at Redbull Racing](#)

Aspire Higher



Uni Connect is a national programme funded by The Office for Students. It brings together 29 partnerships of universities, colleges and other local partners to offer activities, advice and information regarding progression into higher education. Our local Uni Connect Partnership, Aspire Higher, is a collaboration between teams at the universities of Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire, and Northampton. They aim to help young people and their families who might not have previously considered higher education understand the application process and how they can access a university education.

There is a Parent and Carer webinar on University Applications taking place on Thursday 23 May. The webinar will cover UCAS, how to apply, Key dates, UCAS Hub, and advice on how to support those applying. Sign up and register your interest [here](#)

As results days approach, Aspire Higher are also offering a student webinar on 25 July to help young people prepare for results day. Click here to [sign up](#). Watch with your child/ren to get the most out of results days in August.

Spotlight on Labour Market Information (LMI) - LOGISTICS

The South East Midlands sits at the very heart of the UK and is home to a large number of distribution and logistics hubs. This is a growing industry with diverse opportunities in our area.

Logistics/supply chain roles include freight transportation, haulage, maritime and port operations, postal and courier activities, warehousing, storage and handling. Larger companies in the south east midlands also recruit graduates to HR, finance, IT, sales, marketing, communications and procurement roles. Multi-million-pound projects are in progress to improve journeys and connectivity across the country, notably the A14 road upgrade and HS2, the high-speed rail link, plus major work on the East and West Coast Main Lines.

According to Indeed there are currently 353 roles available in the logistics sector in our area [Indeed.com](#)



Check out this YouTube channel: **MYPATH**

A great source of LMI for secondary school students is the MYPATH channel on YouTube. You will find short, informative films about a wide range of occupations – including some you probably never knew existed! [MYPATH channel](#)

T levels - The next level

T Levels are a new type of vocational qualification in England designed for 16-19-year-olds. They are two-year courses that combine classroom learning with on-the-job experience, and they are intended to provide young people with the skills and knowledge they need to progress into skilled employment or higher education. [T level video](#)

Each T Level is equivalent to three A Levels, and they are designed to meet the needs of specific industries. The courses include a mix of classroom-based learning, practical training, and a substantial industry placement with an employer. Students spend 80% of the course in college and 20% in work.

T levels are available locally in Education and Childcare, Digital, Construction, Science, Healthcare and Business.

The local offer can be found here:

[Northampton College T levels](#)

[Bedford College T levels](#)

[Milton Keynes College T levels](#)

College Open Days

Barnfield College - 17 June 2023

Moulton College – 24 June 2023

Northampton College – 14 June 2023

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.

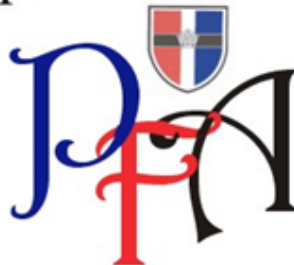
Especially we want to hear from:

- 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 if you can help.

Sponne School



Registered Charity No: 285714

BRITISH F1 GP PARKING 2023



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

WE NEED YOUR HELP 3RD – 10TH JULY 2023

Can you volunteer some time
to help with GP Parking?

All profits go towards
Silverstone CE Primary school
& local children / youth groups.

[CLICK HERE](#)
[TO JOIN IN](#)
[THE FUN!](#)



silverstoneschoolsparking@hotmail.com
www.silverstoneschoolsparking.co.uk

Silverstone School Parking CIC,
Silverstone CE Primary, Towcester Rd, Silverstone, NN12 8UB
Registered in England & Wales. Company no: 14761818.

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!



Dates For Your Diary

Summer Half Term

School closes Friday 26th May 2023

Term 6

School opens Monday 5th June 2023

GCSE & A Level Art Exhibition (3.15 - 6:30pm, School Hall) Tuesday 20th June 2023

Year 13 Summer Ball Thursday 29th June 2023

Year 11 Prom Friday 30th June 2023

Summer 2023

Year 10 Work experience - Monday 10th - Friday 21st July 2023

Year 12 Work experience - Monday 17th - Friday 21st July 2023

School closes Friday 21st July 2023

Results Days

A Levels results Thursday 17th August 2023

GCSEs results Thursday 24th August 2023

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

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