

TERM 3 NEWSLETTER - 2025

SPONNE NEWS

The official newsletter of Sponne School

Sponne are KS3/4 Boccia Champions! - [Page 7](#)



Vaxjo Throws International Competition 2025



Congratulations to Moyo (Year 11) who attended the Vaxjo Throws International Competition 2025 in Sweden.

He was selected to represent England in the Discus Under 18s category. It was his second call up for England, having previously represented the country at the Schools International Athletics Board (SIAB) Competition last year, where he won the gold medal.

However, Vaxjo was his first competition with athletes from other countries, and his first ever indoor competition. Competing as a 15 year old

in an Under 18 category, he did incredibly well to secure third position.

Well done Moyo!

In This Issue:

Sports News

- Boccia Champions
- Utilia Cup Area Finals
- County Cup Football
- Vaxjo Throws International Competition

Music News

- Sponne Music

Other News

- IFG COTY2025 competition
- Accelerated Reader
- Tate Gallery Visit

... And more!

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



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Dear Parents and Carers

As we approach the half-term break, I want to express my gratitude to our entire school community for their dedication and hard work. This has been another jam packed half term that has been filled with remarkable achievements, and I am proud of the progress we've made together.

We had the incredible Last Night at The Proms that took place at Whittlebury, many fantastic sporting achievements that you will be able to read about here and on our socials and of course we had a visit from Ofsted at the end of January, I look forward to sharing more information on this in the very near future.

I'd would also like to pass on my congratulations to Chef Ghyslain for achieving 3rd place in the Impact Food Group Chef Of The Year 2025, I was lucky enough to try the Gnocchi, it was truly exceptional.

I would like to give another special mention to Moyo (Year 11) for his incredible achievements out in Sweden representing England in the Vaxjo Throws International Competition. Competing in the U18 category Moyo came a very impressive third!

As exam season approaches, our Year 11 and 13 students are steadily progressing toward their GCSEs and A-Levels, building momentum with each step. There is a real sense of purpose and determination among them, reflecting their hard work and commitment over the years. We encourage them to stay confident, remain focused, and simply do their best. Your support at home plays a vital role in helping them navigate this important stage, and together, we can ensure they feel prepared and motivated for success.

Hope you all are able to have an enjoyable half term.

Mr Graham Forbes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Forbes'.

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

Sponne Music

The first weekend in February was very busy for the members of Sponne Jazz Orchestra, Brass Band, Concert Band and Senior Choir.

Over sixty of our senior musicians were involved in the Proms event at Whittlebury Park and performed to a capacity audience in the Brooklands Suite. This was the eleventh year of our collaborative fundraising event with the Towcester Rotary club.

The students showcased the amazing talent at Sponne in a variety of features, individual and massed band items with the visiting adult band, Kidlington Concert Brass. It was lovely to see so many people attending who are not directly linked to the school but were members of rotary clubs from other parts of the county.

Well done to all our fantastic Sponne musicians!



Faculty News

Geography

The geography department has created a link to all of their resources, quizzes and revision materials to assist your child. - <https://linktr.ee/sponnegeog>

Maths Challenge

Students in Years 9, 10 and 11 recently took part in the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge. Fantastic results were achieved with 6 Gold Awards, 22 Silver and 56 Bronze. Edward (Year 10), Tom (Year 11), Thomas (Year 11) and Charlie (Year 11) all scored highly enough to progress to the next round.

Well done to all who took part!

Tate Modern Art Gallery Visit

Year 12 and Year 13 Artist and Photographers had a great day out at The Tate Modern. The Tate Modern is renowned for its colossal size and its immense collection of Art from around the world. Students had the opportunity to see art work ranging from Picasso, who they studied in Year 9, to more contemporary work that made them think hard about what it was conveying.

Well done Artists and Photographers you were a pleasure to take.

Ms Noble and Ms Turton



Impact Food Group Chef Of The Year 2025 Competition

Ghyslain Pramayon, Executive Chef at Sponne School was awarded third place in our recent Impact Food Group Chef Of The Year 2025 competition.

Ghyslain wowed the judges with his mouth-watering menu, featuring Potato Gnocchi with Chorizo & Peas, followed by a delicious Peach Melba Cheesecake for dessert.

The feedback from judge, Alex Hall, was high praise indeed: "The gnocchi was wonderfully executed—light and pillowy, served in a deliciously sweet chorizo sauce. The perfectly poached peach, paired with a creamy cheesecake, was a beautiful combination, and it was a fantastic way to incorporate 50% fruit into a dish that kids would absolutely enjoy."



Cucina / Impact Food Group Tasting Zone

Our chef from Cucina / Impact Food Group ran a tasting zone the week commencing the 3rd February in the school canteen to enable students to try out things they wouldn't normally buy. It was a great success with children saying that they tried new dishes. The food was delicious!



Stay Connected - February edition

Please see the link below for access to the February edition of Stay Connected for West Northamptonshire.

You will find lots of information about events and activities for children and families, with the focus on activities which are free or at low cost.

Click [HERE](#) to view the latest edition



Sponne PE want to hear from You

pestudentachievements@sponne.org.uk



Let's 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.



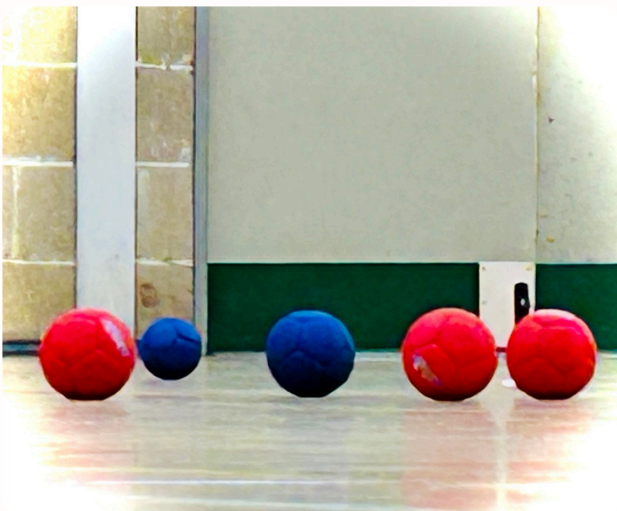
Sports News

Sponne are KS3/4 Boccia Champions!

Sponne hosted the KS3/4 PAN Boccia District tournament on Friday 17 January.

We entered 4 teams and took bronze, silver & gold - thanks to all the hard work by Ms Furniss! Congratulations to all the students that took part from all the schools, it was a great afternoon.

Special thanks to our sports leaders, who did a brilliant job as always!



Utilia Cup Area Finals

We had a great day on Tuesday 14th January at Peterborough United Dome, playing in the Utilia Cup Area finals, the girls really enjoyed the day. We won 3, drew 2, lost 3. Scored a total of 8 goals - Ella 4, Naiara 2, Hannah 1 & Hollie 1. We came 5th overall, narrowly missing the semi finals.

We were interviewed by Anglia news crew (Hannah Armson) and were featured on the TV on Tuesday evening!

Captain: Naiara

Players Player: Alyssa

Coaches Player: Naiara



Year 8 Girls District Sports Hall Athletics Competition

On Wednesday 15 January, Sponne hosted the Year 8 Girls District SHA competition. All our girls had a fantastic performance and are now district champions. Onwards to the Level 3 School Games in February!

Well done to all our sports leaders too, for some it was their first time being a leader!



Sports Leaders

Thursday 16th January was a busy day for our sports leaders. In the morning we visited Blakesley Primary School and led 4 sessions across the WHOLE school in dance and fitness.

In the afternoon we visited Greens Norton and led team-building activities with Year 4 & Year 5!

Well done to all involved!



National Schools Equestrian Associations County Qualifiers

On Saturday 18th January, 9 Sponne students took part in the National Schools Equestrian Associations county qualifiers for the show jumping national finals in May. They all did incredibly well with some exceptional results - 3 team county champions, 4 individual county champions and 2 overall team champions for Beds/Bucks/Herts/Northants, securing progression through to nationals at Hickstead International show ground.

Individual county champions are Indie, Grace, and 2 titles for Alice
Team county champions including Evie, Annabelle, Tilly and Olivia.

Special mention for excellent sportsmanship on the day for Emily and Jess.

An amazing set of results for Sponne, well done to all.

It's been a busy time for our equestrian teams, with 2 students going through to the Bloxham School eventer challenge championships in February - good luck to Olivia and Tilly.



Football County Cup Quarter Finals

On Monday 20th January our Under 12 Girls Played CCS in the Football County Cup Quarter finals. It was a great game with strong performances from both teams with the score not really reflecting the game. It ended 5-0 to CCS. Good luck to CCS in the semi-finals. Well done girls, we are very proud of your efforts.

Captain: Millie
Players Player: Millie
Coaches Player: Hollie



Under 13 Girls Futsal!

On Tuesday 21st January our Under 13 Girls played in the district final @ Moulton and won 2-1! They were brilliantly skilful, determined and showed great team spirit - Level 3 School Games here we come!

Captain: Zara
Goal scorers: Ella & Naiara
Players player: Ella
Coaches player: Zara



English Schools Chess Championship

Regional Heat, Round 1 (Wednesday, 22nd January 2025)

After securing qualification in October, Sponne's chess team hosted a formidable 'A' team from Aylesbury Grammar School in the first round of the Berkshire & Buckinghamshire Regional Qualifier.

Representing Sponne were James (Board 1), Will, Daniel, Jacob, Charlie and James. Competing under a rapid-play format, each player faced their opponent twice - once as white and once as black.

Despite several hard-fought matches, Sponne ultimately fell 9-3. The team now moves into the repechage competition, where they'll have another chance to progress. Every player gave their all, but a special commendation goes to Will, who delivered an outstanding performance by winning both of his games against a very strong opponent.

Congratulations to Aylesbury Grammar on a well-earned victory!



Under 16 Girls County Cup Football Semi Finals

On Monday 27th January our Under 16 Girls played in the County Cup football semi-finals against NSG. It was 1-1 at half time but the 2nd half was an uphill battle, against wind, rain and a mud fest! The game finished 1-5 to NSG and we wish them well in the final.

Captain: Ava
Goal scorer: Leah
Coaches player: Naomi



Northampton Saints 7's Festival

On Tuesday 4th February, our Under 18's attended the Northampton Saints 7's festival at Oundle School. There were over 35 schools and after the initial group stages, the competition split into a Cup, Plate and Bowl competition. Our boys qualified for the Plate competition which was a great achievement, as they faced some tough opposition from a number of private schools. They played incredibly well and it was great to see our older boys competing on the pitch at this level. Well done to all involved!



SEND Day at Silverstone

On Thursday 30th January, Sponne sports leaders visited Silverstone Primary to deliver inclusive activities with SEND children across the school.

What a fabulous afternoon doing, boccia, kurling and archery!



Under 19 Netball



Huge congratulations to the Under 19 Netball squad who reached the final of the East Midlands Plate 2025.

Hosted by Repton School on Saturday 1st February, 10 of the top teams from throughout the East Midlands competed for two spots at the National Finals in March.

Sponne found themselves in a tough pool coming up against three winners of their respective County Cups with the first two games being decided with a penalty awarded on the buzzer. After four extremely close games that could have gone either way, Sponne finished third in the pool and were through to play for the Plate title. A convincing victory against Trent in the Semi Final led to Sponne once again meeting Priory whom they had drawn against in the group stages. On this occasion we were unable to sustain the pressure, finishing runner up in the Plate.

The squad was led by Phoebe (Capt) & Grace (V. Capt) With Player of the Tournament being awarded to Georgia for her workrate, game sense and shooting performance. Full Squad members: Scarlet, Georgia, Grace (VC), Lucy, Amelia, Phoebe(C), Evie, Megan, Izzy, Bea & Emily.



Sponne Leaders - Silverstone Primary Dance

On Thursday 13th February, Sponne Leaders visited Silverstone Primary for some Dance Leadership. Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 & Year 6 have all been learning dances to "Shut up and dance with me"! What a brilliant way to spend the day, well done to all the children, especially my wonderful Sponne Leaders.



Careers News



It's been a busy few weeks for the Careers department.

At the end of January, as part of the PSHE curriculum for 6th Form students, we organised for a local HR consultant - Julie Warner - to come and speak to students about how to write a great CV. This was followed by a CV writing workshop with over 20 local employer volunteers, enabling our students to have their CVs critiqued and suggestions made for improvements.



Last week we hosted our second 'mini' careers fair for Year 11 and 6th Form Students which focused on STEM careers and pathways. This included local employers such as Aston Martin Aramco and MK Survey, universities from near and far; from Northampton and Buckingham to Bangor and Aberystwyth and colleges including Bedford's Motorsport and Northampton. The highlight of the event was the robotic dog brought by Buckingham University to showcase the work of their Computing Faculty.



Feedback from our students and our volunteers show how both parties see the value in these opportunities:

"I enjoyed talking to the accountant from the firm in Northampton as he gladly explained all the different types of accountants there are such as audit, tax and accounting. Additionally he gave several tips on how to start, like getting work experience and how big companies often have lots of branches like overseas taxation ... etc"

"I really liked the fact there was a subject specialism, and also the fact that it was only years 11 to 13 invited, as opposed to younger years. The event also felt well organised, and well attended."

"Well structured. Engaged and fascinating young people in small enough groups to work together"

"The employers were helpful and provided constructive criticism without being demeaning or embarrassing the students."

"I now know what to do to improve my CV"

During National Apprenticeship Week, students in Year 7 to 11 have had assemblies raising their awareness of the opportunities apprenticeship offers, including a talk to Year 9 students from Northampton College where they heard from one of their current Business Apprentices about their experience of being on an apprenticeship course. Year 11 students heard from Starting Off, a local apprenticeship provider who specialise in Business and Administration apprenticeships.

We are also continuing to support our Yr11 students with considering their options at the end of the year by inviting speakers such as Josh from Varsity Nine Football Academy.

We couldn't run these events without the support of our local business community and the volunteers who give up their time for our students. If you would like to get involved with any of our events or come into school to speak to students about your business/career please do get in touch: careers@sponne.org.uk

Coming Up

We also have some exciting events happening in the remainder of the year including:

- Year 7 Dragon's Den Day
- Year 8 Industry Event in partnership with the Silverstone Technology Park
- Year 9 Silverstone Park trip
- Year 10 Work Experience weeks
- Year 11 University Fair visit to Derby University
- Year 12 Work Shadowing week
- 'Mini' Careers Fair focused on Caring Professions/Public Services

Can you help?

Do you run a business?
Do you work for someone?

Could you offer a work placement to a Year 12 student in May or a Year 10 student in July?

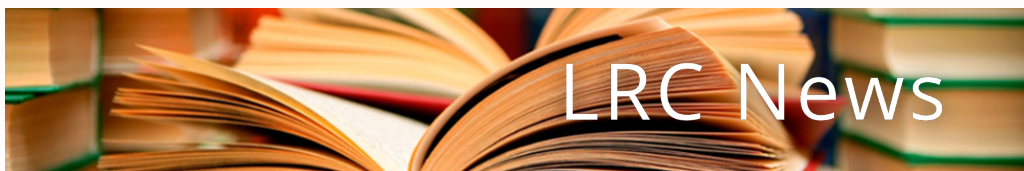
If so, please contact Mrs Mullins (NMullins@sponne.org.uk) or Mrs Warner (AWarner@sponne.org.uk) for more details.

Public Services Career Fair

Wednesday 7th May 2025 - Noon to 3pm

We are looking to host a careers fair which focuses on 'Public Services' - teaching, medicine, veterinary, accountancy, beauty, law, social care, emergency services etc.

If you work in one of these areas & would like to be involved please email Careers@sponne.org.uk for more details.



Accelerated Reader

Our Year 7 and Year 8 students are continuing to make great progress in Accelerated Reader, with 605 quizzes passed and 13,345,362 words read since the Christmas break. Congratulations to **Eleanor, Savannah, Marcus, Dylan, Freya, Ella and Evie**, who have impressed us with their reading and quizzing this term. We'd also like to say 'Well Done' to **Ryan, Nella, Emily, Riley, Lilah, Ayaz, Eleanor, Ella, Hideki, Dylan, Silas, Téó, Alfie, Libby, Toby, Raiden, Josh, Ryuma, Jacob, James, Charlie, Hollie, Savannah, Oscar, April, Ada, Evie, Bryony, Roxanne, Jess and Marcus**, who all met at least their 3rd AR points target this term - keep up the excellent work!

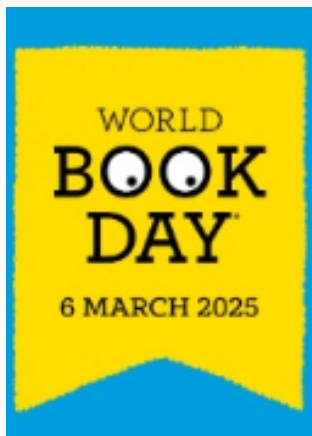
Don't forget, you can check to see if any of your books at home have quizzes at

www.arbookfind.co.uk

Reading in the LRC

Although recent studies keep telling us that reading for pleasure amongst children is in decline, we have been encouraged to see more and more students choosing to use their time during break and lunch to read in the LRC. We do award Sparks to acknowledge this, so we're hoping this trend continues.

World Book Day - 6 March 2025

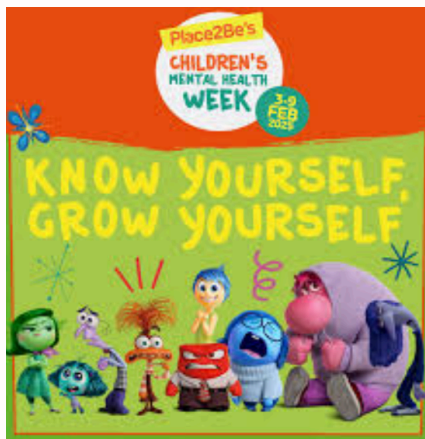


We're already making preparations for our celebration of World Book Day on Thursday 6th March. There will be a variety of events, including book recommendation displays, a Form Group Book Quiz and a competition where students need to quiz as many staff as possible to find out their favourite book - a prize will be given for the most correctly identified. In addition, Year 7 students will have the opportunity to design a book cover in their LRC lessons and all students will have a special World Book Day assembly.

Students will also be given a £1 book token which can be swapped for one of this year's £1 books for free between 13 February and 23 March 2025.

Find out more at <https://www.worldbookday.com/books-and-tokens/books/>.

Mental Health Week 2025



During February, our school joined with schools across the UK in celebrating Mental Health Week 2025. As we continue to navigate the pressures of daily life, both in and out of the classroom, it's essential that we all take a step back to reflect on our mental health and the wellbeing of those around us.

The Tove Benefice kindly prepared an assembly around this theme, which was presented to our Year 9's and will be shared to the rest of the school week commencing the 24th March.

During lunchtime on Tuesday and Thursday, The Wellbeing Team invited students to share their ideas on what they know about themselves and how to grow as an individual. Our ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) provided literature which we shared with our Students, and we will be updating our

display boards with the students' work! This year's theme, "Know Yourself, Grow Yourself", encourages students and staff to prioritise self-care, seek support when needed, and build meaningful connections. Whether it's reaching out to a friend, speaking to a trusted teacher, or simply taking time for yourself, small actions can make a big difference.

Each letter of **GROWTH** represents a powerful theme:

- **G** is for Goals - setting clear goals helps you stay focused and motivated as you work towards your dreams.
- **R** is for Resilience - learn how to bounce back from challenges and develop the strength to keep going, no matter what.
- **O** is for Own Your Emotions - understanding and taking control of your emotions allows you to respond in healthy ways to any situation.
- **W** is for Wellbeing - your mental, physical and emotional health are all connected - discover ways to nurture yourself and maintain balance.
- **T** is for True Self - embrace who you truly are, letting go of any pressures to be someone else.
- **H** is for Highlight on Growth - celebrate your progress and recognise how much you've grown, step by step.

Please feel free to support your child by clicking on the link below:

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/resources/#families>



LUNCH TIME CLUB

Y7 - Y8

EVERY WEDNESDAY

1:05PM - 1.40PM

H4

GAMES AND CRAFTS

**A PLACE TO TALK AND
LEARN NEW SKILLS**

**DETAILS FROM
MRS LOPES, MRS
MACHON OR MISS
HILLERY**



TOWCESTER FEBRUARY HALF TERM





FREE


**13-16
YRS**

Club Information:

 Wednesday 19th February 2025

 7pm - 8:30pm

 Youth & Community Centre,
Towcester. NN12 6AU.

 admin@youth-engagement.co.uk

MULTI ART SESSIONS

Games, arts & crafts, make
new friends! Young people
can learn new skills and
develop existing ones.

BOOKING OPEN NOW!



TOWCESTER JUNIOR FEBRUARY HALF TERM



**10-12
YRS**



FREE

Club Information:

 Wednesday 19th February 2025

 10am till 3pm

 Youth & Community Centre,
Towcester. NN12 6AU.

 Bring a pack lunch.

 admin@youth-engagement.co.uk

MULTI ART SESSIONS

Games, arts & crafts, make
new friends! Young people
can learn new skills and
develop existing ones.

BOOKING OPEN NOW!



We should not hear or see any mobile phones at any time

Learning
comes
first 



Phones need to be
off and in your bags

Phones will be
confiscated on
sight

DREAM BELIEVE ACHIEVE



HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM PHISHING

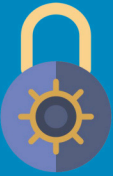


1

BE VIGILANT! IS THE WEBSITE YOU ARE VISITING **SAFE**?

2

USE A DIFFERENT **UNIQUE** PASSWORD FOR EVERY ACCOUNT.



3

MAKE SURE PASSWORDS ARE **TOUGH**. USE A PARAPHRASE INSTEAD OF A WORD.

4

DO NOT CLICK ON ANY LINKS OR DOCUMENTS IN AN UNSOLICITED EMAIL, **NO MATTER WHAT!**

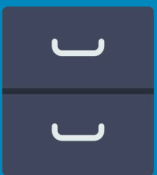


5

KEEP **SCHOOL** AND **PERSONAL** ACCOUNTS **SEPARATE**. DO NOT SHARE YOUR SCHOOL DEVICES WITH FAMILY OR FRIENDS.

6

DO NOT WRITE PASSWORDS DOWN OR KEEP THEM ON POST-ITS. NO REALLY STOP!



7

MAKE USE OF GOOGLE CHROME'S **PASSWORD MANAGER**. LET IT REMEMBER ALL YOUR PASSWORDS.

8

DO NOT ACCESS SCHOOL ACCOUNT|S ON OTHER PEOPLE'S DEVICES OR PUBLIC COMPUTERS.



9

IF YOU ARE UNSURE, **ASK**. THE IT TEAM WILL HAPPILY CHECK THE VALIDITY OF A SITE OR EMAIL.

SCAN TO TAKE THE
PHISHING QUIZ



Most pharmacies can help you
with **seven common conditions**
without needing a GP appointment



- **Sinusitis**
(adults and children aged 12 years and over)
- **Sore throat**
(adults and children aged 5 years and over)
- **Earache**
(children and young adults aged 1 year to 17 years)
- **Infected insect bite**
(adults and children aged 1 year and over)
- **Impetigo**
(adults and children aged 1 year and over)
- **Shingles**
(adults aged 18 years and over)
- **Urinary tract infection**
(women, aged 16 to 64 years)



Ask your pharmacy for more
information about this
free* NHS service

**Visit your
Pharmacy First!**



*NHS prescription charge rules apply where a medicine is supplied



Dates For Your Diary

School Closes

Friday 14th February 2025

Half Term

17th - 21st February 2025

School Opens

Monday 24th February 2025

Year 8 Progress Evening B Half (Remote)

Thursday 27th February 2025

Year 10/11 Mock Exams

Monday 3rd March 2025 - Friday 14th March 2025

Year 8 Pathways Evening

Thursday 6th March 2025

Year 9 Teenage Booster/Meningitis ACWY

Monday 10th March 2025

DofE Bronze Award (Year 10) Training Day

Saturday 22nd March 2025

St Omer Trip

Tuesday 25th March 2025 - Friday 28th March 2025

Year 13 - Drama Component 2 (Externally examined)

Tuesday 25th March 2025

Spring Concert

Tuesday 1st April 2025 - 7:30pm

Year 10 Progress Evening (Face to face)

Thursday 3rd April 2025

School Closes

Friday 4th April 2025

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

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