

TERM 4 NEWSLETTER - 2024

# SPONNE NEWS

The official newsletter of Sponne School

Sponne Equestrians - Double County Champions - [Page 11](#)



## Science Week

The students had an amazing week attending assemblies in honour of National Science Week. They found the exciting and educational presentations to be truly enjoyable.

A big thank you goes out to the Science department, particularly Mr Woods and Miss Bagniuik!



## In This Issue:

### Sports News

- Equestrian - Double County Champions
- Girls County Futsal Champions

### Music News

- Music for Youth

### Other News

- Sixth Form Media Conference

... And more!

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## Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to our final newsletter before Easter, I hope you are enjoying reading about all the fantastic activities and achievements of our students during the past 5 weeks.

It has been a busy time this term and not just for our musicians and sporting personalities, though, as ever, they continue to excel in many events that have taken place, particularly in the Winter School Games. Representatives from Sponne have been running and riding and participating in ball games across the County with many individual and team successes as well as students being involved in charity events raising money for Cancer Research.

Our Spring Concert earlier this week was amazing and I was truly uplifted by their talented and enthusiastic performances. Many trips have taken place but I will just

highlight the St Omer French trip which was enjoyed by over 40 year 8 and year 9 students who were described as "incredible" by the staff who attended. Science week assemblies went off with a bang and were enjoyed by all year groups.

Our older students are gearing up for their exams and as ever, significant intervention is taking place after school and also during the Easter holidays. I would like to thank my staff for the additional time, beyond lessons, that they give in supporting students in achieving their potential at both GCSE and A Level; they truly are fabulous. If your son/daughter needs some additional teaching input please do make contact with us.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a Happy Easter break and look forward to seeing all the students back on Monday 15th April.

Iain Massey

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Iain Massey". The script is fluid and cursive.

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

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Well done to all of our musicians who performed brilliantly at the Northampton regional festival of Music for Youth on March 24th. Four groups from Sponne took part, each giving amazing performances and received excellent feedback from the mentors from Music for Youth. Our groups included Sponnaissance, Brass Band, Senior Strings and Jazz Orchestra. Many of the musicians were also performing with county music groups.

All of the Sponne music enhancement groups performed in our Spring Concert on Tuesday evening, showcasing the wonderful musical talent we have at Sponne.

Congratulations to the brass players Katie Skey, Tegan Stokes, Michael Ward, Natasha Jardine, James Woodman and Melody Powell who represented Sponne in the Northamptonshire County Youth Brass Band at the National Youth Brass Band Championships. Melody Powell and Katie Skey were also playing with Youth Brass 2000 at the event, and will be performing at the European Championships in Palanga, Lithuania, in a few weeks time.



### Box Clever Theatre Company Visit

Year 8 had a special treat as we were delighted to welcome Box Clever Theatre Company who performed a brilliant production of Shakespeare's Romeo & Juliet. The students thoroughly enjoyed themselves and what a perfect introduction to studying the play next term!





# Sixth Form Media Conference

On Friday 15th March, sixth form Media students were very kindly invited to attend Stowe School for their Media Conference which focused on gender in the media. Students were very lucky to have an audience with Sam Taylor-Johnson talking about her work and introducing her new film which is released in a few weeks time.

Our students have been invited to present their media work at Stowe in their fabulous theatre setting. A fantastic opportunity for our media students!





## Ignite the Spark



On February 14th, 29 year 10 Students went to Northampton College, Daventry Campus, for another of their 'Ignite the Spark' events. These are geared towards giving students experiences and insight into college opportunities. This day was split into two streams - 'Creative Enterprise' and 'STEM' giving students the chance to participate in workshops based around these topics. During the Creative Enterprise day students created advertisements and worked collaboratively on different projects. On the STEM pathway students were involved in making car parts and using workshop machinery to make a small game. Those that participated in the Creative Enterprise day used virtual reality headsets to take part in a virtual interview, learned how to give a hand and arm massage as part of the hair and beauty workshop, created a flyer to advertise a local

business during the art and design workshop and finally worked with nurse apprentices in the health and social care session.

Great fun was had by all students and they represented the school exceptionally well.





## Year 8/9 French Trip



A group of our year 8 and 9 students went away to St Omer in March. Their visit started off at Les Chocolats de Beussent to learn about chocolate production, followed by settling into le Château including games of pool, table football and table tennis.

Day two began with le petit déjeuner Français; a traditional French breakfast experience, to fuel up for a day of experiences at Nausicaa Marine Centre, Boulogne-sur-Mer and Le Touquet. The weather over the week was lovely and students (and staff) had a fantastic time, with lots of opportunities to hear and speak French.

Days 3 & 4 started with exploring The Cite Souterraine (The Underground City) before some time in Amiens. In the evening almost all students tried snail and cheese tasting! Before making the journey back home, students visited Boulangerie Escoeuilles, conducted entirely in French, where they learnt about traditional bread making, and even got to shape their own bread.

A fantastic trip, student engagement and behaviour was exceptional throughout!











# Sponne PE want to hear from You

[pestudentachievements@sponne.org.uk](mailto: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.





## Winter School Games Finals



We had a great day at Kettering, running, jumping and throwing, representing our school in wonderful fashion. We took 15 students who were an absolute credit in both bravery (at trying something new) and impeccable behaviour. The question of the day was "when can we come again?"

Well done guys, we're very proud of you all!

## County Dodgeball finals



Two teams qualified for the County Dodgeball finals, year 7/8 girls & year 8 boys.

They had a great time, went on a bit of a learning curve throughout the day but worked hard, made friends and improved their teamwork with each game!

We are proud of your achievements, well done!



## Winter School Games - Boccia



Day 2 of the Winter School Games at Kettering arena saw us representing South Northants in the SEND Boccia County finals!

It was a long and very competitive day. Lots of tactics and concentration was needed but our team of 4 did so well with 4th place overall. Well done team, you are all superstars



## Dance at Badby Primary School



On Thursday 21st March, our year 9 & year 10 leaders had a lovely morning at Badby Primary School teaching year 1 a Charleston dance. Our students learnt the dance during their PE lessons and the Badby students have just finished their project all about Josephine Baker, so it is a lovely crossover for all.

Well done to all our leaders and thank you very much to Badby school.



## Girls County Futsal Champions



What a finish to Day 3...  
GIRLS COUNTY FUTSAL CHAMPIONS!

**Year 7/8 Team - Winners**

**Year 9/10 Team - Runners up**

All the girls played absolutely fantastically. They were not only skilful and powerful but also showed real intelligence in their play to outwit their opponents again and again!

The year 7/8 went all night without losing a game.

The year 9/10 only narrowly lost 1 game all night, the final game, but had their chances so it could have gone either way!

We are incredibly proud of all them - well done girls!

### **Players player**

Holly & Lily (the goal scoring machines!)

### **Coaches players**

Emily & Chloe (the speed of reaction queen's!)





## Sponne Equestrians - Double County Champions

Nine students competed at the County Dressage qualifiers at Bury Farm in the National Schools Equestrian Association competition.

Sponne excelled themselves, winning not only the team title, but the individual county title too - massive congratulations to Indie L, Bess W, Lucy A, Annie L, Annabelle R, Alice A, Olivia W, Grace W and Ava P who head off to the National Championships in May at Hickstead.

This was an amazing result against tough competition. All students performed to their best ability and were an absolute credit to the school.



## Trampolining Competition



Friday 15 March saw Sponne enter our first ever Trampolining Competition at NGTA, Benham Sports Centre. There was a mass of talent ranging from beginners to GB representatives, and it was an honour to be part of it.

We took seven students from Year 8-11, and they did a fabulous job performing their routines and making friends! Well done to everyone, especially Tillie & Amber who both won bronze medals!





# Sports News

## Year 8 Netball



Congratulations to the year 8 Netball team after triumph at the County Plate. The team competed in the tournament against 14 schools from across the county, showing fantastic team spirit and determination. They worked relentlessly all day losing just one game to the eventual winners. Finishing in 2nd place means they have also qualified for the County Cup.

## Year 7 Football Tournament



Another successful week for girls football. On Monday 11th March, we played in the Moulton 7 aside Tournament.

A teams = Winners

B team = Winners

Congratulations girls you were amazing.



## Year 5/6 Netball Tournament



During March we hosted the year 5/6 Netball tournament and World book day...the perfect afternoon combination!

Thank you to all the schools that attended. Skills were shown both on the court and cheering from the side-lines. Lots of fun was had by all that attended and we had some fabulous dress up costumes from our favourite books!

Congratulations to Nicholas Hawksmoor who were our overall winners.





# District Football

## U13 - Sponne 6 - 0 EWS N



District League Football double delight, with both of our U15 and U13 sides claiming 6-0 victories against EWS North. Excellent performances across students in both squads!

With thanks to our referees Gabe O (13MT) & Will O (13VH), the assistants Harry G (8JDG) & Oscar B (8KAS), photographer Louis G (10VL) plus all of the students, parents & carers who came out to support and spectate the fixtures.

Goals scored by:

|          |          |          |
|----------|----------|----------|
| Jake S-F | Ethan B  | Arainn S |
| George M | Thomas D | Leo B    |

**Players' Player of the match**

Ethan B (8NC)

**Coaches' Player of the match**

Noah J (8JDG)

## U15 - Sponne 6 - 0 EWS N



Goals scored by:

|                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| La Shawn H         | Joe M            |
| Josiah C - 2 Goals | Finn C - 2 Goals |

**Players Player of the match:**

Archie A-B (10HW)

**Coaches Player of the match:**

Louis C (10NM)

## U14s Sponne 1 - 10 CCS



Our U14s had the tough task of CCS away, a team who have had numerous good results in both County and National Cups this season. A difficult afternoon it proved to be, but the boys did the school proud; 70 minutes of non-stop effort, showing great resilience, teamwork and determination, to battle against a talented and athletic opposition.

Our goal came following great work by Ellis M (9MG) with Rian S (9MG) pouncing quickest, to a loose ball. Despite the goals conceded, heads never dropped, we continued to compete, and carve out some opportunities.

CCS deserved the win, but the scoreline doesn't reflect the monumental effort from our squad of 14, including two students playing up a year.

Goals scored by:

Rian S

**Players' Player of the match**

Arainn S (8RW)

**Coaches' Player of the match**

Ellis M (9MG)



## U13s - Sponne 2 - 3 CCS



A tough 3-2 defeat as our U13s Boys Football team got their District League campaign underway.

However, it was pleasing to give minutes to the students who have consistently attended weekly football sessions since the start of the year.

Our opponents had much of the ball, but persistent and dogged work from the defence and midfield managed to limit the shots they had on goal. The determination to work hard, put in blocks and interceptions was admirable, across the whole squad.

Particular thanks (again) to Gabe O (13MT) for refereeing, plus Tobias C (8JSP) & Harry G (8JDG) for running the line.

Goals scored by:

Leo B

Liam G

**Players' Player of the match:**

Oscar M (8JDG)

**Coaches' Player of the match:**

Liam C (8RW) & Harshan S (8KAS)

## U12s - Sponne 2 - 2 EWS S



Our U12s played out a hard fought draw against EWS South. A great effort from the 16-man squad, with everyone getting considerable game time. Our opening goal was a lovely first half free kick from Noah K (7AMG).

It was very much an end to end game, with lots of opportunities for both teams. In the second half, we found ourselves 2-1 down, but with a rallying final 10 minutes, it was a matter of when, not if, we'd get back in the tie. After a barrage of attacks, involving Swaley F (7CRS) and Rhys R (7STW), and the ball bouncing around the box, we were awarded a penalty, which Alfie S (7CRS) coolly dispatched.

In the final minutes, there were chances at both ends, but it finished a deserved draw. This fixture was refereed by Jacob S (10DW), who has only just recently qualified, and did a super job! Thanks must also go to Charlie T (7CML) and Ellis S (7AMG), who despite not being selected in the squad, came along and helped by running the line and taking match photos.

Goals scored by:

Noah K

Alfie S

**Players' Player of the match:**

Noah H (7KAM)

**Coaches' Player of the match:**

Fynn B (7CRS)

In term 5, we hope to rearrange various fixtures which have fallen foul of the awful wet weather. As ever, a massive thanks to students who regularly get involved in the after school football sessions. News to follow after Easter about fixtures and sessions which will be running.



## U13 District Football



**Sponne School - 1**  
**NSB - 4**

**Players' Player of the Match**

Leo B (8RW)

**Coaches' Player of the Match**

Oscar M (8JDG)

Our U13s fantastic County Cup football run came to an end in a semi-final defeat to NSB. The first half was largely even, with both teams having chances.

Our goal came from fantastic pressing from Leo B (8RW) forcing the opposition back line into an error, giving Charlie T (7CML) the opportunity to score a wonderful goal from distance.

At half time, the score 2-1, the match was finely balanced, both teams knowing the next goal was crucial. Unfortunately for us, a goal from a corner gave NSB the initiative, who then took a stronghold from the game, from another set piece goal.

At 4-1 we continued to work hard and create chances, but they held firm and progressed to the final.

It has been a fantastic run from this side all season, and all players involved have been a real credit to themselves and the school.

With thanks to our officiating team; man in the middle Gabe O (13MT) and his assistants Will O (13VH) and Will J (11SJA).





## Term 4 Football Pictures







# SPONNE FOOTBALL

23/24  
**WEDNESDAYS**  
3.05 – 4.25PM



## Reasons to get involved

Have fun ⚽ Release stress  
Make friends ⚽ Get exercise  
Improve skills ⚽ Play in a team  
Challenge yourself ⚽ Represent the school

## Boys Football Term 4: 2023/24

Despite the term being just five weeks long, we have had a very busy football programme, battling through some pretty wet weather. Year 8 & 9 have started their district league games, with the U13 team also concluding their County Cup journey.

## Football Results

- U13s 3-2 LOSS vs. CCS (h)
- U15s 6-0 WIN vs. EWS North (h)
- U13s 6-0 WIN vs. EWS North (h)
- U13s C.Cup SF 4-1 LOSS vs NSB (h)
- U12s 2-2 DRAW vs EWS South (h)
- U14s 10-1 LOSS vs CSS (a)

## Football Fixtures

With some terrible weather, a number of fixtures remained unplayed.

We are trying our best, to schedule these during April.

- U14s League vs EWS South (h) ..... Wednesday 17th April
- U14s League vs Magdalen (h) ..... TBC
- U13s League vs EWS South (a) ..... TBC
- U13s League vs Magdalen (a) ..... TBC

## Crocs/ Sliders

If students are selected for fixtures, can we politely request that crocs and sliders are NOT worn. When students are getting changed for fixtures, before the end of the school day, they should either put their school shoes back on, or a pair of trainers. It is a health and safety issue (in DT & Science in particular) if students are not wearing appropriate footwear around the school site.

## Football Officiating

All football fixtures this season have been overseen by qualified referees. We would like to thank our team including **Gabe O (13MT), Will O (13VH), Will J (11SJA) and Jacob S (10DW)** for all of their support with matches.

We are keen to support any student who is interested in refereeing. Students who are in Year 9, or above, can find some information here; [bit.ly/Referee2324](https://bit.ly/Referee2324).

## Term 5/6

Soon after the Easter break, our sports programme will start to focus on summer sports, with more information to follow. This does not mean the end for football and futsal, some sessions will continue to run, where there is sufficient interest. Students are reminded to look at noticeboards around school, but keep a regular check of their school email and Football Google Classroom.

Where football sessions are running, students are reminded to attend sessions fully prepared, with their FULL Sponne PE kit, including shin pads and correct footwear. Full details can be found on this poster; [bit.ly/SponneFootballKit](https://bit.ly/SponneFootballKit).

✉ [football@sponne.org.uk](mailto:football@sponne.org.uk)

Football sessions are generally WEDNESDAYS - but are always subject to staff availability. Students should regularly check Google Classroom, Gmail and Football Notices (in PE, E10 & D16) for latest information



## Easter 2024 Sponne Reading Challenge

brought to you by our very own Reading Revolutionaries. - Prizes to be won!

|   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Listen to an audio book!  | Read a book that is trending at the moment!   | Read a book which is set in another country !                                     | Ask your friend what their favourite book is and read it!                           |  |
| Read a book by your favourite author!   | Read a scary book!  | Read a book that was written before your parents/ guardians were born!            |  | Have a laugh and read a comedy!   |
| Read a book that your parents/ guardians read as a kid!                             | Listen to a podcast about a topic that you're interested in!                        |  | Read a book that makes you feel emotional!  | Read a book from one of the "Teacher is reading" posters!                           |
| Read the book that you've been meaning to read for ages!                            |  | Ask for a recommendation from staff and read that!                                | Read a non-fiction book!  | Re-read your all time favourite book!   |
|  | Read a book aloud with somebody else!   | Finish a whole book in one day!   | Read a book to a younger person!  | Read a book set in a different time period!   |

How to win? **Complete a row or column**

**Think it's too much for you alone to complete?** Then buddy up with a friend and complete the challenge between you.

Pop into the LRC after the Easter break to share your success and receive your prize.



# PSHE - Spring Term Update

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## What have we learnt about?

### PSHE Lessons

**Year 7** - Relationships Sex Education - Growing up and puberty

**Year 8** - Careers Education - Pathways and choices

**Year 9** - Relationships Sex Education - Real Love Rocks

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

**Year 11** - Relationships Sex Education - Fertility and Reproductive Health and Difficult Relationships

**Year 12** - Careers Education - Getting career ready and Relationships Sex Education - Healthy Relationships

**Year 13** - Citizenship Education - Extremism and Health Education - Health & Wellbeing



### Tutorial Sessions

**Year 7** - Health Education - Basic First Aid & Prevention of Infection and Careers Education - Introduction to Unifrog

**Year 8** - Careers Education - Preparing for option choices and Health Education - Body Image

**Year 9** - Drugs Education - Alcohol Awareness

**Year 10** - Internet Safety & Harms - Keeping data safe and Health Education - Blood & organ donation

**Year 11** - Relationships Sex Education - teen parenting and Health Education - mental health awareness

**Year 12** - Life Skills

**Year 13** - Wellbeing

### Careers

National Apprenticeship Week assemblies, including one from the National Grid to Yr11 students  
Careers Week assemblies - firefighter, soldier, HS2 engineer, Fusion energy Engineer & an Entrepreneur

Year 11 Into the 6th Form Evening

Year 8 Pathways evening

Year 8 Industry Awareness Day in conjunction with Ahead Partnership and MEPC Silverstone

Year 10 trip to Northampton College - exploring STEM or Creative pathways

Year 12 CV writing workshop with local employers

### 👁️Coming Up👁️

Careers Fair for Yr9 to 6th Form Students 16th April - 11am til 4pm. Parents are most welcome from 3.05pm

Yr 12 Work Shadowing 13th-17th May

Yr10 Work Experience 8th-19th July

## Work Experience 2024

Could you offer a placement to one of our students for work experience?

**Year 12 students 13th to 17th May**

**Year 10 students 8th to 19th July (this could be for one week or two)**

If you can, please email us with some details of your workplace: [careers@sponne.org.uk](mailto:careers@sponne.org.uk)





Careers Fair 2024  
16th April  
11am to 4pm

We would love you to come to our careers fair and help our students learn more about the world of further education and work and the different career pathways beyond school.

If you are interested please email: [careers@sponne.org.uk](mailto:careers@sponne.org.uk) to book a stand.

## Work Experience and Work Shadowing

If you are a parent or carer of a student in year 10 or year 12 who hasn't yet sorted their work placement out; please encourage them to do so as soon as possible. Mrs Warner is in W5 each Monday lunchtime to support students still looking for placements. Please encourage them to come along if they need more support.

## Yr8 Industry Awareness Day

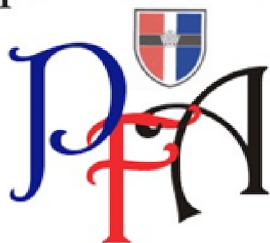
This is our 5th year working with MEPC and Silverstone Park to enable our Yr8 students to find out more about the companies and careers available at the Technology Park. We are really grateful to the businesses who sent volunteers to run workshops or to be in the 'have your say' panel where they were questioned by our students about their career journeys. Students learnt a lot from the day - "How carbon fibre is used in Motorsport. Teamwork, presenting skills and creativity"; "It shows us that no matter what gender you are, you can have any job that involves STEM". - and enjoyed the experience - "we got to find out that there's more than just one job at Silverstone park, and how fun they can all be".





# Sponne PFA News

## Sponne School

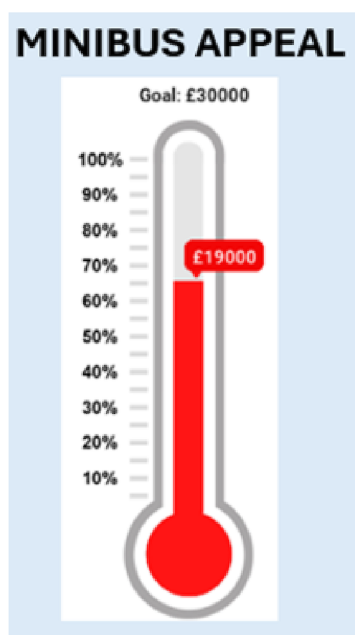


Registered Charity No: 285714

The Sponne Parents & Friends Association have had a busy term!

On Friday 1st March we held a Quiz and Pizza night at school. Around 80 people attended and had a lovely evening with wood fired pizza, a bar run by PFA volunteers, and a challenging quiz courtesy of Mr Gercs. Our thanks go to Milandy Pizza for making delicious wood fired pizza onsite and giving their time free of charge. The event raised over £700 towards the minibus appeal.

Then this month we have been running an Easter Raffle. On Tuesday 26th March we drew the winners of the raffle and supplied a refreshments service at the school Spring Concert. In total we raised over £1800. Thank you to everyone who purchased tickets and refreshments, and a large vote of thanks to all of the local businesses who donated prizes for the raffle. Overall we had 29 fantastic prizes donated.



| Item | Prize   | Number |
|------|---|--------|
| 1    | Whittlebury Hall – Day Spa or Golf  | 173    |
| 2    | Silverstone Distillery Gin School for 4 people (worth £300)                                   | 64     |
| 3    | 4hr Spa session for 4 people at Alfresco Spa  | 188    |
| 4    | 1 day family ticket for Silverstone Festival 2024 Sunday 25th August (Olly Murs headline act) | 239    |
| 5    | Watling Street Village – Meal for 2 (starter & main)  | 312    |
| 6    | Meal for 2 at Dilraj  | 204    |
| 7    | £50 voucher for The Ganges  | 37     |
| 8    | Brave Old Oak voucher - Main Meal for 2   | 183    |
| 9    | The Bull - Main Meal & Desserts for 2   | 273    |
| 10   | Cinderella/Black Tie Facial (RRP £40) from Aesthetics by Tracy                                | 15     |
| 11   | Towcester Hand Car Wash Voucher (up to £30)   | 306    |
| 12   | £25 voucher for The New Inn Abthorpe  | 171    |
| 13   | £25 voucher for the Moghul Rooms  | 60     |
| 14   | £25 voucher for Grace Gardenias   | 24     |
| 15   | £25 voucher for Truva   | 23     |
| 16   | Ruby Hook Hairdressers Cut & Finish   | 104    |
| 17   | £20 Green Machine Refill Voucher  | 68     |
| 18   | £20 voucher for Cre8 Pottery  | 55     |
| 19   | 1 month's membership to Towcester Leisure Centre  | 190    |
| 20   | £15 Vinebud   | 257    |
| 21   | £5 voucher + scarf from J&A Dress Agency  | 272    |
| 22   | £5 voucher + gift from J&A Dress Agency   | 88     |
| 23   | Coffee & Cake for 2 at Clarke & Dean & Browns Shampoo & Conditioner set                       | 216    |
| 24   | £10 voucher for Cromptons Bakery & ZigZag gift set  | 279    |
| 25   | £10 voucher for Hobbs & Easter Egg from Waitrose  | 317    |
| 26   | Easter Egg & Maltesers from CoOp  | 57     |
| 27   | Easter Eggs from Tesco  | 32     |
| 28   | £10 voucher + free meal deal at Towcester Bakery + free breakfast deal                        | 185    |
| 29   | Have I Got Brews For You  | 307    |

From all of the activities over the last year we have raised £19k towards our goal of donating £30k to the school for a new lightweight minibus. We have already donated the first £15k to the school and we hope to have many more fundraising events over the rest of this year to reach our goal of £30k.

If you have any good ideas for fundraising events, if your company offers match-funding, or you would like to get involved with the PFA please email [sponnepfa2@gmail.com](mailto:sponnepfa2@gmail.com).

We are grateful for any support we can get!

Thank You  
Sponne PFA Committee



# COMPUTING

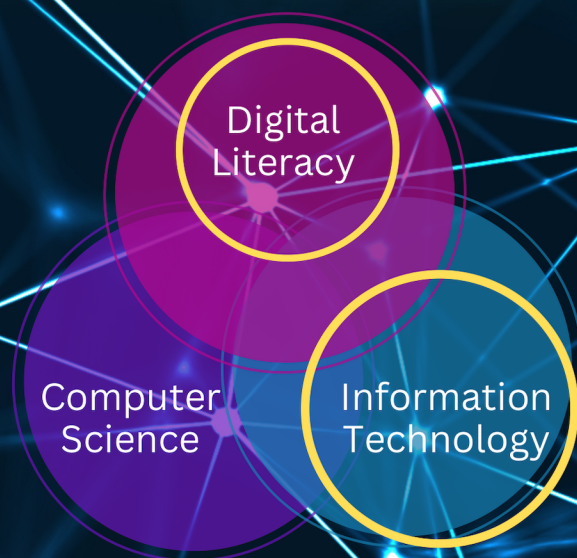
PART OF THE BUSINESS & INNOVATION FACULTY

**Computing** is studied as a **core subject**, across Years 7-9. Throughout term 4, students have been engaging with hybrid **Digital Literacy** and **Information Technology** modules.

Year 7 students have been using Google Sites, to build their own website about E-Safety tips and advice.

Year 8 students have been exploring Creative Media concepts including digital graphics and interactive digital multimedia products.

Year 9 have been understanding digital footprints and the data trail we all leave online, and how it can positively (and negatively) impact our future careers.



Google Sites



## Student Google Accounts

All students have a Google account, for school. This includes a **Gmail account**, which must be used in accordance with our Acceptable Use Policy, for Educational purposes.

The recommendation is that students **check their inbox** at least twice per week.

D16 is open at lunchtimes for students who need help with Gmail, including support using settings, labels, filters & more!

## 5 tips to on how to keep children safe online

Privacy settings - Ensure privacy setting are enabled on children's devices and apps to give them more protection online.

Do you know them? - Ensure that children are only accepting friend requests or speaking to people they know and trust.

Downloading files- Never let children download files from unknown sources and make sure they ask permission before they try to download something.

Knowledge - Give children training to ensure they know what to do if they're being bullied or feel threatened whilst online.

Speak to someone - Make sure children know who they can talk to about cyber bullying or if they are unsure about something online.



Y7

Computer Systems

Y8

The Internet & Fake News

Y9

Portfolios & Careers



Students are reminded to bring **3.5mm, wired earphones** to **Computing lessons**.





# COMPUTING

"The Inspiring Digital Enterprise Award, known as iDEA is an international award winning programme that helps you develop digital, enterprise and employability skills for free."

**WELL DONE TO OUR LATEST SET OF  
BRONZE AWARD WINNERS!**

**FEB/MAR '24**

Salvi MC (7CML)

Liam A (8OW)

Michael A (9MG)  
Charlotte C (9SC)  
Misty E (9SC)

Ben H (9AAW)  
Jake J (9AAW)  
Alfie T (9RHB)

**MASSIVE CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR  
LATEST SILVER AWARD WINNER!**

Claire S (7CCM)

iDEA is embedded into the Computing curriculum across Years 7 to 9... but students will only earn a bronze/ silver award, by putting in considerable extra hours to acquire badges across the 4 components; citizen, worker, maker and entrepreneur!



## ALL TIME TOTALS

Year 7

Year 8

Year 9

Year 10

Year 11

3 2

2 1

3 11

2 0

3 47

2 2

3 30

2 1

3 35

2 2



# COMPUTING

## Reasons to Touch Type

- Increases productivity
- Reduces fatigue (time spent typing)
- Learning how to type, means you can focus on the content, you are typing
- Reduces the risk of developing RSI (repetitive strain injury)
- And, it engages most parts of your brain, helping to activate new memory muscles and build more active and strong cognitive connections that in turn will enhance your overall brain capacity and function.

CORRECT  
TO 24.3.24

EXERCISES  
COMPLETED

SPEED  
WPM

ACCURACY  
%

| Form | Keyhero Completed | Change since 11-Feb-24 |
|------|-------------------|------------------------|
| 9SC  | 7727              | 359                    |
| 9KP  | 6955              | 277                    |
| 9GB  | 6695              | 228                    |
| 9RHB | 6267              | 300                    |
| 8KAS | 6165              | 455                    |
| 9MG  | 6125              | 294                    |
| 9SLB | 5935              | 222                    |
| 9RB  | 5778              | 253                    |
| 9AAW | 5772              | 122                    |
| 8OW  | 5367              | 250                    |
| 8PG  | 4618              | 240                    |
| 8JDG | 4444              | 218                    |
| 8RW  | 4264              | 208                    |
| 8AMT | 4122              | 252                    |
| 8JSP | 4051              | 278                    |
| 8NC  | 3722              | 251                    |
| 7CML | 3296              | 430                    |
| 7CCM | 2772              | 371                    |
| 7EH  | 2759              | 401                    |
| 7CRS | 2652              | 428                    |
| 7AMG | 2650              | 249                    |
| 7CJR | 2616              | 255                    |
| 7STW | 2610              | 320                    |
| 7KAM | 2549              | 274                    |

| Form | Keyhero Speed (WPM) | Change since 11-Feb-24 |
|------|---------------------|------------------------|
| 9SC  | 41.94               | 1.62                   |
| 9RHB | 38.85               | 1.99                   |
| 9KP  | 34.3                | 0.49                   |
| 9AAW | 34.01               | -0.53                  |
| 8OW  | 33.34               | 0.17                   |
| 8PG  | 32.89               | 0.76                   |
| 9SLB | 32.86               | 0.28                   |
| 9MG  | 32.85               | -0.27                  |
| 9GB  | 32.07               | 0.67                   |
| 9RB  | 30.71               | 0.89                   |
| 8RW  | 28.66               | 0.72                   |
| 8NC  | 27.47               | 0.97                   |
| 8KAS | 27.4                | 0.76                   |
| 7EH  | 27.19               | 2.13                   |
| 8AMT | 27.12               | 0.23                   |
| 7CCM | 26.68               | -1.25                  |
| 8JDG | 25.7                | 0.56                   |
| 8JSP | 23.75               | 0.74                   |
| 7CJR | 23.32               | 1.75                   |
| 7CRS | 23.22               | 1.79                   |
| 7AMG | 22.73               | 1.04                   |
| 7KAM | 22.69               | 0.35                   |
| 7STW | 22.52               | 0.64                   |
| 7CML | 21.62               | 0.56                   |

| Form | Keyhero Accuracy (%) | Change since 11-Feb-24 |
|------|----------------------|------------------------|
| 9RHB | 93.60%               | -0.69%                 |
| 7EH  | 93.59%               | 0.54%                  |
| 7CML | 93.35%               | -0.39%                 |
| 9RB  | 93.17%               | 1.02%                  |
| 7CJR | 93.08%               | 0.48%                  |
| 9KP  | 93.06%               | -0.54%                 |
| 9SLB | 92.97%               | 0.31%                  |
| 7STW | 92.94%               | 0.51%                  |
| 8JSP | 92.87%               | 1.10%                  |
| 8NC  | 92.79%               | 0.48%                  |
| 9SC  | 92.76%               | 0.12%                  |
| 8RW  | 92.45%               | -0.17%                 |
| 8PG  | 92.40%               | 0.28%                  |
| 7AMG | 92.37%               | -0.49%                 |
| 7CRS | 92.21%               | 0.44%                  |
| 9MG  | 92.18%               | 0.05%                  |
| 9AAW | 92.13%               | -0.61%                 |
| 9GB  | 91.93%               | -0.80%                 |
| 8KAS | 91.75%               | -0.53%                 |
| 7CCM | 91.68%               | -1.86%                 |
| 8OW  | 91.52%               | -0.05%                 |
| 8JDG | 91.49%               | 0.87%                  |
| 7KAM | 91.36%               | -0.02%                 |
| 8AMT | 88.22%               | -0.02%                 |





# COMPUTING

## Keyhero Touch Typing\_| Engagement

- This page, lists the students who are most engaged with touch typing from 11th February to 24th March 2024.
- These students are logging into Computing lessons promptly, and getting engaged with this settler activity. (Students may also be using this platform, in their own time, which is of course encouraged!)
- The AVERAGE words per minute improvement for this group of students, is over 3WPM, in just over one month, with some improving even more!

## Y7

|             |      |    |
|-------------|------|----|
| James T     | 7EH  | 77 |
| Emma H      | 7CML | 64 |
| Leo C       | 7CCM | 44 |
| Charlotte B | 7EH  | 42 |
| Heath C     | 7CCM | 35 |
| Emre K      | 7KAM | 35 |
| Lottie E    | 7KAM | 34 |
| Sofia L     | 7CRS | 28 |
| April M     | 7KAM | 28 |
| Alyssa F    | 7EH  | 27 |
| Bethany M   | 7STW | 26 |
| George S    | 7CCM | 25 |
| Isabella K  | 7CML | 25 |
| James C     | 7CRS | 25 |
| Joshua F    | 7CRS | 24 |
| Charlotte B | 7STW | 24 |
| Hannah B    | 7CML | 23 |
| Jacob B     | 7CML | 23 |
| Ashton S    | 7CML | 23 |
| Alexander B | 7CRS | 23 |
| Eva H       | 7EH  | 23 |
| Zayn K      | 7EH  | 23 |
| William M   | 7CRS | 22 |
| Ivy K       | 7KAM | 22 |
| Phoebe E    | 7STW | 22 |

## Y8

|           |      |    |
|-----------|------|----|
| Emily W   | 8KAS | 96 |
| Aida D    | 8JSP | 83 |
| Rufus T   | 8NC  | 32 |
| Lily B    | 8KAS | 29 |
| Lacey H   | 8KAS | 29 |
| Akshra K  | 8NC  | 27 |
| Tigs W    | 8PG  | 25 |
| Jack D    | 8KAS | 24 |
| Oliver A  | 8OW  | 22 |
| Eleanor C | 8KAS | 21 |
| Hannah C  | 8AMT | 20 |
| Evie B    | 8PG  | 20 |
| Carter H  | 8NC  | 19 |
| Sophie D  | 8KAS | 18 |
| Mason E   | 8KAS | 18 |
| Sophia B  | 8AMT | 17 |
| Dominic C | 8KAS | 17 |
| Hattie B  | 8JDG | 16 |
| Amber G   | 8JDG | 16 |
| Bella P   | 8KAS | 16 |
| Will L    | 8OW  | 16 |
| Zach P    | 8RW  | 16 |

## Y9

|             |      |    |
|-------------|------|----|
| Annabelle M | 9MG  | 53 |
| Eleanor B   | 9AAW | 37 |
| Alexandra K | 9RHB | 32 |
| Frankie C   | 9SC  | 29 |
| Katie L     | 9KP  | 28 |
| Archie W    | 9RB  | 27 |
| James B     | 9RB  | 26 |
| Sophie A    | 9RHB | 26 |
| Max K       | 9SC  | 26 |
| Shem T      | 9GB  | 25 |
| Chloe R     | 9GB  | 24 |
| Ellie P     | 9RB  | 24 |
| Madelyn R   | 9SC  | 24 |
| Jasper L    | 9SLB | 24 |
| Brandon B   | 9AAW | 23 |
| Emily F     | 9RHB | 22 |
| Charlotte C | 9SC  | 22 |
| Oliver P    | 9KP  | 21 |
| Billy H     | 9MG  | 21 |
| Harvey I    | 9SC  | 21 |
| Jake J      | 9AAW | 20 |
| Oscar M     | 9SC  | 20 |
| Zac F       | 9SC  | 20 |



# AI and Assessments

## A quick guide for students

### What is AI?



- AI stands for artificial intelligence and using it is like having a computer that thinks
- AI tools like ChatGPT or Snapchat My AI can write text, make art and create music by learning from data from the internet, but watch out – they can also make things up and be biased



### How can AI be misused in assessments?

AI misuse is when you take something made using AI and say it's your own work.

**THIS IS CHEATING!**



### How do I make sure I don't misuse AI?



#### 1 Know the rules

- You're **not allowed** to use AI tools when you're in an exam
- Your teachers will tell you if you're allowed to use AI tools when doing your coursework – the rules will depend on your qualification
- Even if you're allowed to use AI tools, you can't get marks for content just produced by AI – your marks come from showing your own understanding and producing your own work

#### 2 Reference reference reference!

If you're allowed to use AI tools, you must reference them clearly

- Name the AI tool you used
- Add the date you generated the content
- Explain how you used it
- Save a screenshot of the questions you asked and the answers you got

#### 3 Declare it's all your own work

When you hand in your assessment, you have to sign a declaration. Anything without a reference must be all your own work. If you've used an AI tool, don't sign the declaration until you're sure you've added all the references



### What happens if I misuse AI?

If you've misused AI, you could lose your marks for the assessment – you could even be disqualified from the subject.

**DON'T RISK IT!**



**REMEMBER**

**Misusing AI is cheating!**

Know the rules

Talk to your teachers

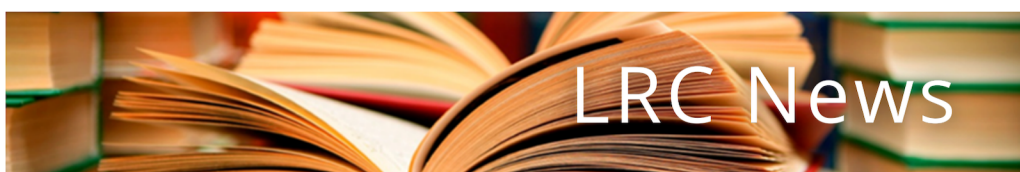
Reference clearly



## Furniture Donation

A huge thank you to our sixth form parent Rachael Stanger, who very kindly arranged for some fantastic furniture to be donated to Sponne School on behalf of White Clarke Group. The sixth form area now have some amazing comfy seating, giving the students more areas to study and socialise with friends. The donation also included a great selection of desks allowing us to replace some of the teacher's tired ones and giving them more space and a nicer working area. I would also like to thank our hardworking site team, who spent the week loading and unloading the furniture and then setting it all back up again in its new home.





## Accelerated Reader

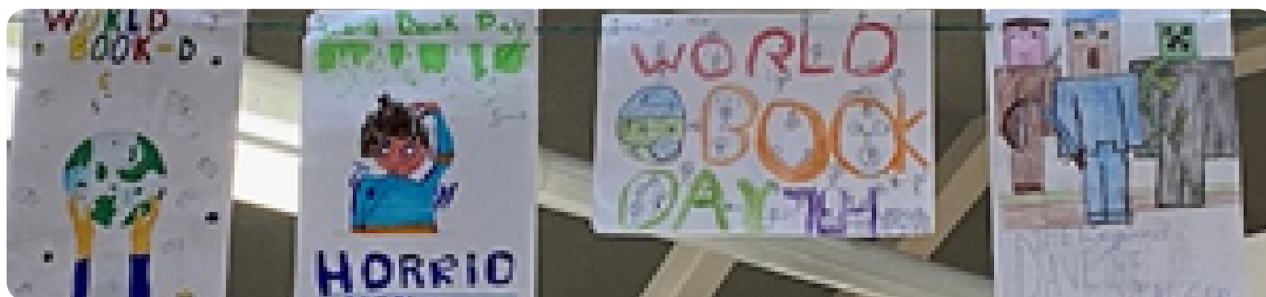
It's been another great term for Accelerated Reader work. Two of our Y7 classes recently sat their Spring Star Reading assessment and amazed us with their progress - their hard work in reading and quizzing is obviously contributing to their success! All other Y7 and Y8 classes will sit the assessment after the Easter break and we look forward to seeing how they have progressed.

Our Star Readers this term are Danny P, Jorge H, Marcus W, Olivia W, Jack S, Liam N, Tobi S, Rory C, Lilly-Mae L, Carter H, Holly T and Jocelyn T. Extra Sparks have been awarded to all of them for their achievement.

Competition to be the top-quizzing form is very strong, with three Y7 forms currently neck and neck - 7CCM (206 quizzes passed), 7CML (205) and 7AMG (202), so keep up the good work - there is a box of prizes to play for! Our top Year 8 form remains 8JDG with a score of 162.

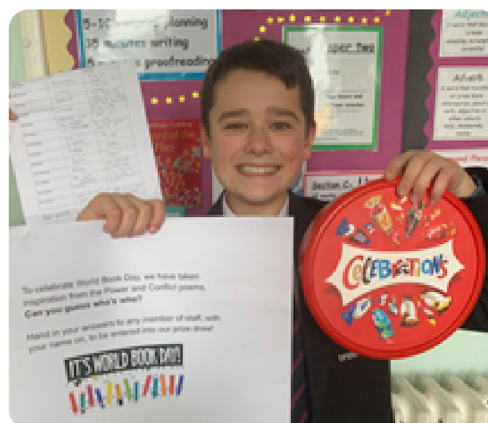
Don't forget to take your quiz as soon as you finish reading a book, as you stand a much greater chance of passing if it is fresh in your mind. Also, remember to quiz on any books you read at home - you can check to see if your books have quizzes at [www.arbookfind.co.uk](http://www.arbookfind.co.uk)

## World Book Day - 7 March 2024



We celebrated World Book Day at school on Thursday 7th March with a variety of activities and competitions. Throughout lessons over that fortnight, Y7 students made some very colourful banners of their favourite books which are now proudly displayed around the LRC.

Our English faculty staff dressed for the occasion, depicting poems from the GCSE Power and Conflict anthology. They held a competition to see which student could name all the poems from the costumes worn and Jacob S was the winner - well done to him!





We held a Book Jacket competition, where students decorated a potato as their favourite book character. Our winners were:

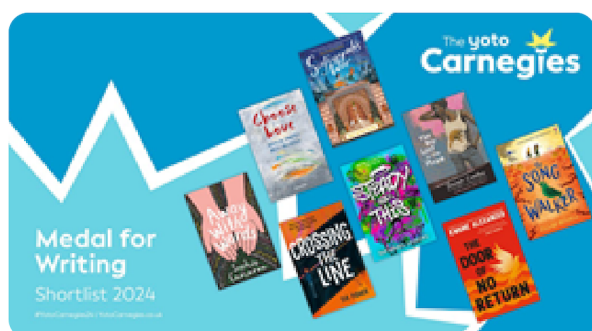
- 1st Place - Phoebe E, with her amazing design of Bee Boy and Lightning Girl.
- 2nd Place - Sarah and Duck, designed by Daisy S, Maggie D-M, Mia B and Niamh S.
- 3rd Place - Claire S for her Percy Jackson potato.

We also ran a guess the title and author competition from book cover pictures that staff wore on their lanyards. The winners of this were Ariana O, Cara L, Honor L & Haydon F, with 23 correct answers.

Well done to everyone who took part in the celebrations!



## Carnegie Shadowing 2024



Our Carnegie shadowing event, on Tuesday 18th June, was launched at our recent lunchtime 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-2024>

The shadowing event involves students reading some or all of the eight short-listed books and discussing them with students from our partner schools. The morning runs from P2 -P4 and is a fun occasion, which includes an inter-school quiz about the books. This is an opportunity for students to extend their reading and experience books in genres they might not otherwise have chosen. If your young person is interested in taking part, please ask them to collect a permission letter from the LRC.

# Dates For Your Diary

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## **Easter 2024**

School closes Thursday 28th March 2024

**Easter break Friday 29th March to Friday 12th April 2024**

## **St Anton, Austria - Ski Trip**

Sunday, 31st March 2024 - Saturday, 6th April 2024

## **Term 5**

School opens Monday 15th April 2024

## **Teenage Booster Vaccination (DTP and Meningitis ACWY)**

Tuesday 16th April 2024

## **Year 7 Parents' Evening A Half**

Tuesday 23rd April 2024

## **Year 7 Parents' Evening B Half**

Thursday 2nd May 2024

## **May Day 2024**

School closed Bank Holiday Monday 6th May 2024

## **External Exams**

Thursday, 9th May 2024 - Friday, 21st June 2024

## **Year 9 Parents' Evening (Remote)**

Thursday 9th May 2024

## **Year 12 Work Experience**

Monday, 13th May 2024 - Friday, 17th May 2024

## **Half Term**

School closes Friday 24th May 2024

**Half term break Monday 27th to Friday 31st May 2024**

## **Term 6**

School opens Monday 3rd June 2024

## **School Production**

Wednesday 10th July 2024

Thursday 11th July 2024

Friday 12th July 2024

## **Summer 2024**

School closes Friday 19th July 2024

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

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