

Sponne School

A Music and Science Academy



Inspiring Achievement



We have a vibrant learning environment that challenges all our students to make outstanding progress

welcome

Dear Parents Sponne School exists for its students. We believe our role is to inspire students to achieve their best across a range of learning and extra-curricular opportunities. As Ofsted found, we have a vibrant learning environment that challenges all our students to make outstanding progress and a range of specialist staff to support the personalisation of the experience we offer.

The government also shares this high level of confidence in us by making Dr Jamie Clarke, our executive Headteacher, a National Leader of Education, Sponne a Teaching School, a National Support School and a Multi-Academy Trust to help support and challenge others in our wider community to improve.

Students are encouraged to work hard at their studies and join in the large range of extra-curricular opportunities provided by a dedicated staff. We know that any student's 'best' can be shown in many ways – academic work and examination results, or activities such as concerts, plays, team sports and community service. Student achievement, in all areas, is outstanding and regularly celebrated; we are proud of the extremely high standards attained and the significant contributions our students make to both school and wider communities.

Our students matter to us as individuals and we are certain that achievement is most successfully inspired by a school community that is caring and friendly, yet firm and clear in its expectations and standards. Iain Massey, as Head of Sponne School, is passionate that the school should be a central part of the community in Towcester and is committed to ensuring that all the young people in our linked area benefit from consistently high standards in all aspects of learning. Our strong pastoral team is crucial to the wellbeing of our students, ensuring that they come to school happy and confident, ready for the challenges we provide.

We look forward to welcoming you at one of our open evenings and discussing the ways in which we can build a partnership with you for the long term benefit of your child.

Dr. Jamie Clarke, CEO of the Tove Learning Trust
Iain Massey, Headteacher of Sponne School





In everything we do, we aim to provide an environment in which students experience a high quality, broad and balanced education. Students are inspired to achieve their best when they feel supported and challenged; in this, the 'home-school-community' partnership is crucial. It provides an important framework within which there are clear expectations for all those involved.

We strive to provide a curriculum appropriate to the needs of all our students and one which will develop them as self-motivated, independent learners, able to meet the challenges and enjoy the rewards of the modern world. We know that students flourish as young people when they feel confident and valued in themselves, and they understand the demands made of them at school and in the wider community. Therefore, preparing our students to take their place in society as responsible, compassionate and informed citizens is a vital part of our learning agenda.

There are approximately 1400 pupils on roll, which typically includes over 260 Sixth Form students. Our school staff consists of around 85 teaching staff and 70 support and ancillary staff. The majority of students join us from the local primary schools; however, we also welcome students from many other areas. A sense of community is fostered throughout the school, offering students a range of experiences, both school based and in the wider community.

Our designation as a Music and Science academy reflects the excellence and achievement in these subject areas, from examination results to recognition at a regional and national level.

Your child at Sponne School



All students study either combined Science GCSE or all three single award Sciences.
We have very high numbers opting to study Science A level subjects.

As lead school in the SWAN Teaching School Alliance, Sponne works in collaboration with many other schools. It also works in partnership with many organisations including the Institute of Physics, Royal and Derngate and Silverstone Circuits as well as many local businesses who offer students work experience placements in Year 10. The many partnerships created for the benefit of the community and students establishes Sponne School's place at the heart of local education provision and help to inspire our students to become capable and ambitious young people.

A Music and Science Academy

~ the curriculum

Sponne provides a broad and balanced curriculum, intended to meet the different learning needs of our students. Although the core curriculum is based around academic options, there are a range of vocational options which are studied either at the school or one of our partner study centres.

All students, throughout Key Stages 3 and 4, follow a programme which includes citizenship, spiritual, personal, social and health education.

Careers advice and education is provided by specialist staff and work related learning is embedded within different subjects at various stages of a student's education. Work experience in Year 10 and Year 12 gives students a practical insight into the demands of daily employment; it is also an opportunity for students to identify possible future careers.

Throughout Key Stages 3 and 4, all students undertake a varied programme of Physical Education; this includes Outdoor Pursuits at Key Stages 4 and 5. Many students have the opportunity to represent the school in the extensive schedule of school fixtures.



A student in a school uniform and safety goggles is performing a chemistry experiment in a laboratory. The student is using a pipette to transfer a red liquid into a 50ml Erlenmeyer flask. The background shows a typical classroom or laboratory setting with desks and chairs.

Key Stage 3

This provides the foundation for any child's achievement. The transition from Primary to Secondary education is marked by a move to subject specific teaching staff and transition study units are offered in a number of subjects. All students study English, mathematics, science, design technology, information and communication technology, history, geography, religious studies, modern languages, music, drama, art and physical education. Initially, all students are taught in mixed ability groups with the exception of English and mathematics where setting is introduced from Year 7.

Key Stage 4

At this stage, all students follow a core curriculum of mathematics, English, science, information technology, religious education and physical education. In addition, students take a range of options which allow them to pursue individual interests and strengths. Vocational subjects can be studied alongside more traditional subjects such as history or music. This versatility in the curriculum is intended to allow each young person at Sponne School to find their own route to personal achievement.

Key Stage 5

A significant proportion of our Year 11 students continue their education in the Sixth Form and they are joined by an increasing number from other schools and locations. Study options are varied; a broad range of academic and vocational choices are complemented by courses which deliver skills and understanding which may be applied in a variety of contexts. These combinations are intended to prepare students for their individual futures, whether that is entering the world of work or preparing for university interviews, including Oxbridge tests.

~ beyond the classroom

Although study forms the largest part of a young person's education at Sponne School, we know that opportunities beyond the formal curriculum also influence and shape the expectations and achievements of many students. We have established an excellent reputation for consistently high levels of involvement in a wide range of activities from sports to music, and technology to theatre.

An extensive range of opportunities is provided through our enhancement programme; students may join lunch time or after school clubs which, for some students, has led to participation at county, regional or even national level. Study visits, such as residential field trips or excursions to theatres and art galleries, are organised routinely within subject areas. In addition, students may take part in international visits to France and Germany. Visitors to the school regularly include professional authors or theatre companies.





An extensive range of opportunities is provided through our enhancement programme

Music and drama form a central part of each student's experience. From the presentation of small studio-scale productions to major productions such as 'Beauty and the Beast', 'Les Miserables', 'West Side Story' and 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', Sponne has established a reputation for quality and the level of student involvement enjoyed by many, both on stage and behind the scenes. Other ensembles and bands flourish at the school, offering different styles and levels of involvement in music. In recent years, the school Brass Band, Jazz Orchestra and Sponnaissance have regularly performed in the National Festival of Music for Youth finals at the Birmingham Symphony Hall and the Royal Albert Hall. These groups have also performed whilst on tour to Belgium, France and the Netherlands in recent years.

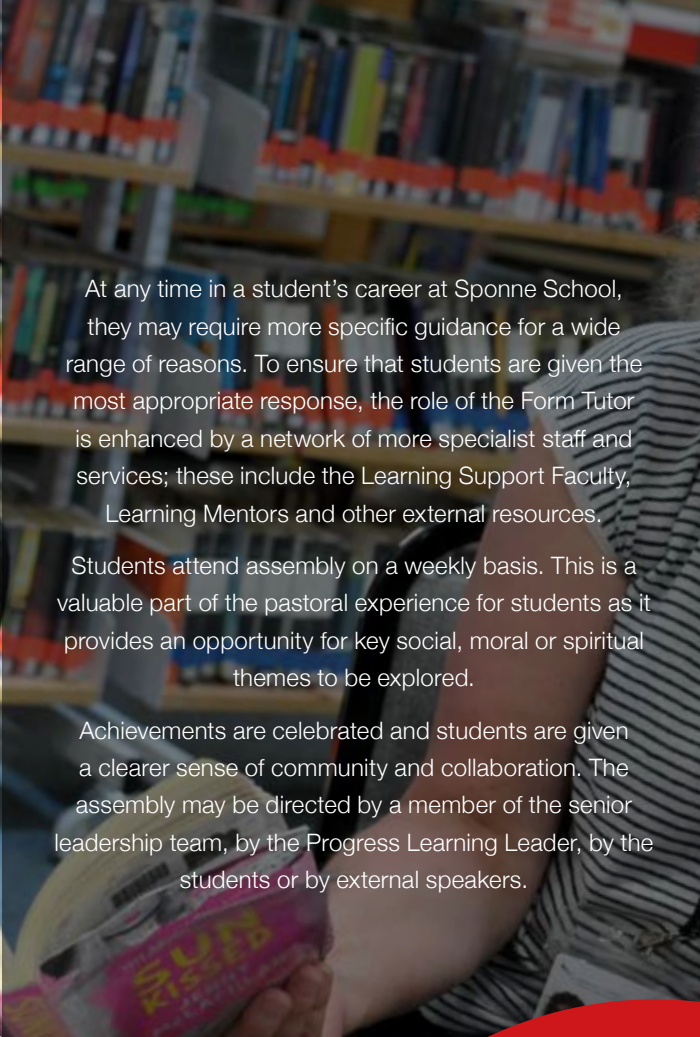
Sport also plays a considerable role in the lives of many students. Sponne School has extensive sporting facilities including playing fields, tennis courts, two sports halls with indoor nets and a climbing wall, a fitness centre and athletics provision. The school works closely with local sporting clubs, primary schools and coaching organisations to build continuous opportunities for developing sporting excellence within and beyond the curriculum.

~ pastoral care

Each student at Sponne School is assigned to a Form Tutor whose priority is the general wellbeing of the students in their care. Tutors are the first line of contact and support as they take a holistic approach to the progress of each young person in their group. On a regular basis, tutors receive reports about the achievements of each student and they know their students well as they usually remain with the tutor group for several years. Form tutors work in Year Teams, each one led by a Progress Learning Leader; together, they provide the key links between home and school. Additionally, they are able to organise a range of activities to support the needs and progress of the whole year group.

A young woman with long brown hair, wearing a dark school blazer over a white shirt and a striped tie, is sitting at a desk in a classroom. She is smiling warmly at the camera while holding a pen over an open notebook. A clear pencil case with blue and purple items is on the desk in front of her. The background shows a classroom setting with a bulletin board and shelves.

An effective foundation
for the next stage
in your lives



At any time in a student's career at Sponne School, they may require more specific guidance for a wide range of reasons. To ensure that students are given the most appropriate response, the role of the Form Tutor is enhanced by a network of more specialist staff and services; these include the Learning Support Faculty, Learning Mentors and other external resources.

Students attend assembly on a weekly basis. This is a valuable part of the pastoral experience for students as it provides an opportunity for key social, moral or spiritual themes to be explored.

Achievements are celebrated and students are given a clearer sense of community and collaboration. The assembly may be directed by a member of the senior leadership team, by the Progress Learning Leader, by the students or by external speakers.



~ preparation for the future

During their time at Sponne, students are inspired and nurtured to achieve their full potential. They are supported and prepared to take their place in society as responsible, compassionate and informed citizens.

For many of our students, university will be the next stage in their education. Staff at Sponne School are highly experienced in guiding students towards the choices that are right for them as individuals. Careers advice and guidance is available at all key stages through our PSHE programme and external partners to support and advise students through the transition to higher education or to employment.





~ Ofsted Outstanding School October 2012




Ofsted said:

“Achievement is outstanding. Students make better than expected progress”

“The quality of teaching is outstanding. Lessons are engaging, varied and fun”

“Students receive first rate experiences to prepare them for life beyond the academy”



National Teaching School
designated by

National College for
Teaching & Leadership



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