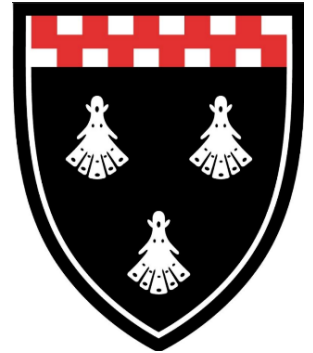




September 2023

Welcome to the September edition of our newsletter for Year 7 parents (and Year 5 and 6 prospective parents). In this newsletter, you can see just how well our fantastic Year 7s have settled into their new school and their amazing experience at Plessey Woods. The students have made an impressive start and show a real enthusiasm to participate and be part of our school community!

Don't forget that you can find a copy of this newsletter- and previous editions- on our school website: <https://www.ponthigh.org.uk/parents-carers/y6-transition-information/> For regular updates on transition and our Y7 achievements and successes, follow us on X (previously Twitter) @Y7PontHigh.



## Team Building Adventure at Plessey Woods



Only a week into the new term, our fantastic Year 7 students set off on an adventure that they will remember for the rest of their time at Ponteland High School! During the week, each Year 7 tutor group embarked on a day filled with team building activities in order to get to know their tutor and form class. The trip was a great opportunity for building relationships, developing communication skills and learning how to solve problems together. Mrs Babu, one of the Y7 tutors, said she had a brilliant day and she really got to see the developing personalities of her fantastic form class.

The activities, which were organised by Pinpoint Adventure, included crossing a toxic swamp, climbing through a rope web and orienteering. The weather was kind on most days and the students were bothered by wasps rather than the rain! However, 7MMo and 7PAn must be awarded for their resilience on Friday as the relentless drizzle did not dampen their spirits! Indeed, Max from Year 7 commented: 'It was amazing. The best day ever! Definitely, the best bit was trying to get the ball to roll a certain distance just using some pipes- we were really good at that one!'



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## The Bee Showcase

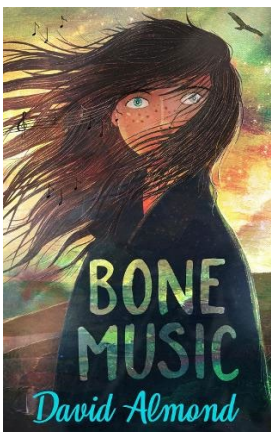


On Tuesday 26th September, Ponteland High School hosted our annual 'Bee Showcase' event to share the amazing bee curriculum. More than 100 families arrived along with a number of Pele Trust primary school colleagues and Governors to see learning in Year 7 Science, Geography, Art, Technology and Maths and to explore how the students were using their knowledge acquired in Year 6. Year 7 students articulated how their current lessons utilised their Year 6 knowledge in learning about the Fibonacci sequence, the problem of asian hornets, monoprinting techniques, CAD design and the viscosity of honey!

Visitors were also able to sample the amazing 'Honey Chilli Stir-Fry' and 'Raspberry Flapjacks' created by the Junior Masterchef finalists as part of Y6 'Bee Week' in June.

This hive of activity all took place underneath an installation of collage hexagons which showed how the feeder primary schools all came together to create a united honeycomb. One of the parents commented: "This is amazing! I've had a lovely time. It's great to see what my son has been doing and how well he has settled into life at High School. Getting to sample food tonight was a bonus!" and a Year 6 teacher said: "I love to see how much the students have grown up in such a short time. They are so mature and can talk about their learning so clearly."

## KS2-3 Recommended Read



Sylvia, brave hearted and rebellious, moves into wild Northumberland from the city of Newcastle. She feels alien in this huge, silent, seemingly empty landscape, but then she meets Gabriel, a strange yet familiar boy. As they roam the forests and fells together, she sees nature with new eyes. She becomes aware that the past is all around her, and is deep inside herself. From the wing of a dead buzzard, they create a hollow bone - the kind of flute that was created and used in rituals in the distant past. This is a book of hope and joy - a book that celebrates humanity and explores the deep connections between ourselves and nature. It is timely and original. It speaks to young people about what it really is to be a human being alive today.