

Ponteland

Year 7 Welcome

Welcome to the January and February 2024 edition of Ponteland High School's newsletter for Year 7 parents (and Year 5 and 6 prospective parents). In this newsletter, you can read all about the Year 7 Careers Fair and our annual Harry Potter event. Moreover, you can find out about all the exciting learning happening in Y7 Maths in the 'Focus on Curriculum' section.

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-careers/y6-transition-information/>

For regular updates on transition and our Y7 achievements and successes, follow us on X (previously Twitter) @Y7PontHigh.

High School



Y7 Newsletter

-January/February 2024-



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Aiming for our students to be happy, feel safe and secure, and achieve exceptionally well

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High School



Year 7

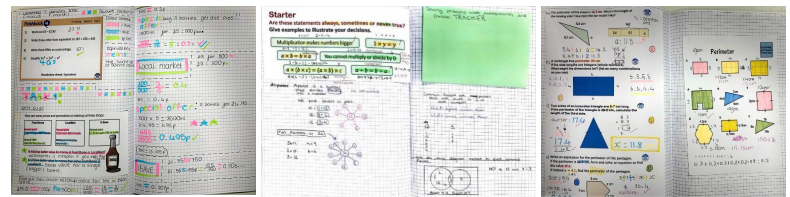
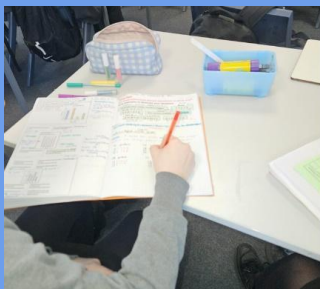
Focus on Curriculum MATHS



We have worked closely with our primary schools to design our Year 7 curriculum to ensure progression from Key Stage 2. We believe that students should experience an ambitious and meaningful Key Stage 3 curriculum to enable them to develop deep knowledge and understanding in each curriculum area. This also enables them to develop their interests and skills that they may wish to pursue in KS4 or beyond.

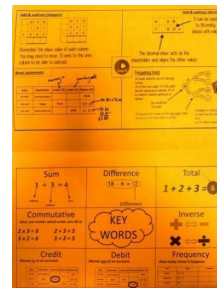
You can see the Year 7 Curriculum Overviews in your child's planner or on the school website:

<https://www.ponthigh.org.uk/curriculum/key-stage-3/y7-curriculum-overviews/>



Last half term our Maths focus was on number. We were building on Year 6 experience with the four operations. Year 7 includes more work with decimal, fractional and negative numbers as well as using algebraic notation.

For each of our topics, students have a tracker in their books. This helps them know what they are learning each day and can see how the sequence of lessons builds their knowledge, understanding and skills. Inside each tracker we have the core facts which are the essentials we want our students to really focus on and a vocabulary bank to support their reasoning.



Year 7 - Unit 6 - Solving problems with addition and subtraction						
	Lesson 1	Lesson 2	Lesson 3	Lesson 4	Lesson 5	Lesson 6
Number changes by 1000	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
1000 more	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
1000 less	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
100 more	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
100 less	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
10 more	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
10 less	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
1 more	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
1 less	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
1000 more	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
1000 less	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
100 more	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
100 less	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
10 more	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
10 less	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
1 more	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
1 less	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓



Sparx Maths continues to be an important part of our curriculum, allowing students the time to individually practise, whilst being supported with

video helps and immediate feedback. Since the start of this year, students at Ponteland High have completed over 1 million questions online: this is an average of 800 questions per student. This is really helping to deepen their thinking and consolidate their learning.

Parallel Maths



This half term we will also be introducing Parallel Maths. This is an opportunity for students who have a drive to further develop their maths by joining an online community and working with other mathematicians from all over the country. This will involve a weekly live online seminar and then completing a maths puzzle independently. These students will be supported in school, but Parallel Maths is all completed in their own time.

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Year 7

Staff Spotlight



Mr Allman

Year 6-7 Pastoral and Transition Support

Originally from Hull, I began my career as a Youth Worker. Moving further north, I worked at Bedlington High School for a number of years before I joined Ponteland High School in September 2018. As we moved to a two-tier system, I became involved in supporting the transition of Y6-7 students. Many of you will have first seen me in our Pele Trust primaries where I spend time getting to know Year 6 students before they start at the High School. I also mentor and support students in Y7-11 as well as running the Duke of Edinburgh programme.

In my spare time, I enjoy the outdoors: gardening, walking and spending time with my grandson.

High School



On Wednesday 24th January, Ponteland High School hosted a career networking event for our Year 7 students. This fantastic event provided students with valuable insights into various career options and inspired students to consider their future endeavours. Featuring representatives from a diverse range of industries from the NHS to finance to photography, Year 7 students had the opportunity to explore potential career paths, learn about different career journeys; gain first-hand knowledge about the workforce and receive valuable advice on entering into different industries.

Following the event, the Year 7 students were keen to share how much they had learned. The Nike representative was popular with the students: Ava said "I liked hearing the stories from his career and especially all the famous people he's met along the way. Blake from Year 7 found the finance representative really interesting, particularly how he had made the decision to pursue a career in finance despite being a talented footballer when he was younger. Callum enjoyed talking to the team from the NHS and said "it was really useful how he explained all the different types of jobs you can do in the NHS. This has really helped me to start thinking about my plans for the future."



No Time to Waste!

Through Art lessons this term, all Year 7 students have had the opportunity to be part of the 'No Time to Waste' Eco Event at the Linskill Centre in North Shields. Students were asked to contribute to the community bunting art installation project by making responses celebrating the theme of 'Land, Sea and Air' using materials that would otherwise be thrown away.

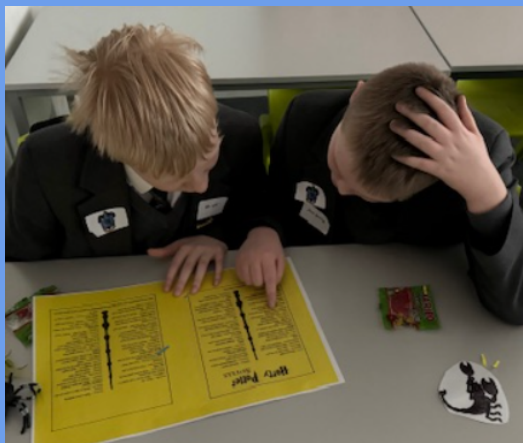
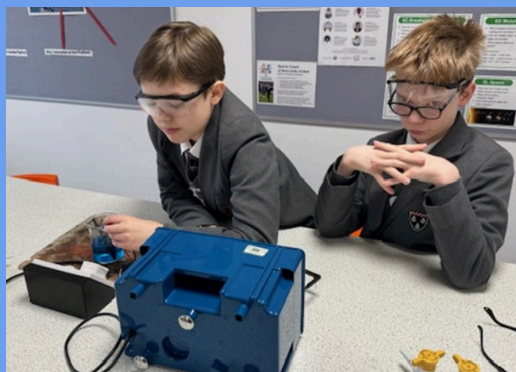
See more at <https://linskill.org/whats-on/events/>

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Harry Potter '24!



High School



Once again Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry was open for business on Tuesday 13 February. Students piled through the door and waited patiently as their fate was decided by the House sorting hat. There were groans and cheers echoing around the room. Once the selection processes were over each house was assigned a class to attend. There were four classes over the evening: Potions with our resident Professor Snape, History of Magic (students enjoyed learning what toad and magic wand were in French), Charms and Defence Against The Dark Arts.

Competition was fierce throughout the evening with each house being marked on teamwork, creativity, enthusiasm, knowledge etc. The winning house was crowned at the end of the night and this year Hufflepuff were our 2024 champions for the third year running. Well done to all our wizards!

Jacob B was the lucky recipient of Dumbledore's special prize. The students awarded prefects on the evening were: Rowan S. for Gryffindor, Rashmi M. for Hufflepuff, Dylan D. for Ravenclaw and for Slytherin, Thomas M. Finally, Cora F was the lucky winner of the Special Prize. This is awarded as all students place their invitation into a box on arrival and one is selected at random. Well done to all the winners.

Everyone involved had a great evening. Mrs Fraser and Mrs Davison said 'The students really impressed us with their wizarding knowledge, understanding and skills in French. Very useful should they ever wish to work as a full-time witch or wizard abroad!'

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