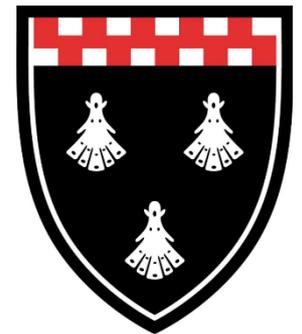




Welcome to the September edition of our newsletter for Year 7 parents (and Year 5 and 6 prospective parents). In this newsletter, you can see just how well our fantastic Year 7s have settled into their new school. The students have made an impressive start and show a real enthusiasm to participate and 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 twitter @Y7PontHigh. Finally, if you have any queries specific to KS2-3 transition, please contact us via our dedicated e-mail address: [Year6questions@ponthigh.org.uk](mailto:Year6questions@ponthigh.org.uk)



### Plessey Woods



Just one week into the new term, 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. As the new Year 7 cohort had missed out on the usual transition activities, the trip was a great opportunity for building relationships, developing communication skills and learning how to solve problems together.

The fantastic activities, which were organised by Tom Hopper from Pinpoint Adventure, included crossing a toxic swamp, climbing through a rope web and orienteering. The weather was kind and, on most days, the students needed suncream rather than rain jackets. In fact, the only problem that students encountered was the wasps! Oscar and Leo from 7CDo, said: "It was really fun and quite challenging" and "I learnt a lot about working in a team." Year 7 form tutor, Mr Suffolk summarised the trip as: "Fantastic teamwork, the forming of strong relationships and a brilliant start to Ponteland High School!"

### Ponteland High School's First Ever Bee Showcase!

On Tuesday 28th September, Ponteland High School was a hive of activity as students and teachers prepared for the first 'Bee Showcase' event to share the amazing bee curriculum which started in Year 6 and continues into Year 7.

More than 150 visitors arrived to see Year 7 Science, Geography, Art, Technology and Maths: to explore what the students were learning and how they were using their knowledge acquired in Year 6. Year 7 students told visitors about the Fibonacci sequence, the problem of asian hornets, monoprinting techniques, concept design bug hotels and the viscosity of honey!

Moreover, a number of Year 7 students articulated their primary experiences and shared what they had learned in preparation for the high school project. This included a live zoom call with beekeepers in the Scilly Isles, visits from local beekeepers, testing different types of honey, trying on bee suits and working with an artist in residence. The exhibition culminated in an installation of collage hexagons which showed how the feeder primary schools all came together to create a united honeycomb.



Parents and teachers were buzzing after their visit: "It was a fantastic showcase, the work from the children was outstanding...", "You should be very proud of your Year 7 students - behaviour was impeccable with lots of information and smiles too!" and "I couldn't believe it was year 6/7 work! I know so much now about bees!"



## Summer holiday Transition Projects

It's clear to see from the quality of this year's 'Summer Holiday Transition Projects' that many students spent hours planning, preparing, researching, writing and creating over the summer holidays. With topics ranging from holidays in Somerset, facts about Edinburgh Castle to 'via ferrata' climbing, baking and surfing!

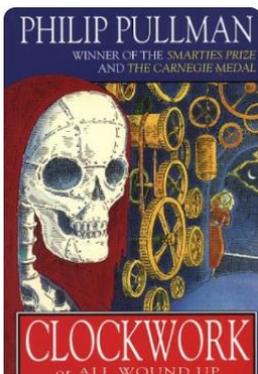
Following on from his enjoyment of the 'Bee Project', Alfie from 7JBR completed a very detailed project on 'Moths'.



Leo from 7JSU constructed an amazing robot from different coloured blocks of Lego. He spent hours over the summer on his brilliant creation and was keen to show his classmates!

And in 'Where there's a Whisk there's a Way!' Claudia from 7CEM, used her Dad's birthday as an opportunity to research different types of cakes, why we eat birthday cake and the history of baking. She then went on to create her very own showstopper and her dad remarked "Looked great- tasted ever better!"! A new contestant for 'The Great British Bake Off' in the making!

## Year 6 Prospective Parents' Open Evening



## KS2-3 Recommended Read

### Clockwork Philip Pullman

A magical tale featuring a tormented clock-maker, a deadly knight in armour, a mechanical prince, and the sinister Dr. Kalmenius, who some say is the devil. There are puzzles and riddles, and twists and turns in the plot.