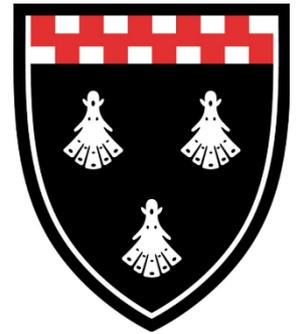




Welcome to the December edition of our newsletter for Year 7 parents (and Year 5 and 6 prospective parents). In coming to the end of 2021, it's important to reflect on the amazing start that the Year 7 students have made at Ponteland High School. Every single day, they work hard, participate fully and engage in learning- you can see this in every newsletter! Here's to a well-earned Christmas break!

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



Bikeability



In a cold, frosty, snowy, windy *and* rainy December, it has been fantastic to see so many of our Year 7 students participate in the Bikeability programme at Ponteland High School. Mr Greenshields, Assistant Headteacher, said: "It has been great to welcome the Cycle Ready team to lead Bikeability sessions in school for our students. These sessions aim to create confident and safe cyclists who can enjoy using their bikes in the local community. Our students have persevered incredibly well in a host of weather conditions to achieve their Level Two Bikeability Qualification"



Crafty Castles!



As part of History's Year 7 Medieval England Unit, students play a fantasy castle building game, in which they are allocated a budget (1000 gold coins) and they have to build a castle to defend themselves from an imminent attack. The Year Seven Castles extended homework task builds on this and is always one of the highlights of the academic year. The students are given two weeks to create their own version of a Motte and Bailey castle. Mr Bartlett says: "Their creativity and commitment to this task, year on year, is incredible. The students are always keen to tell me how many hours they have spent building their model castle, baking a Motte and Bailey castle, or getting creative on Minecraft. Their outcomes always justify the time they have dedicated to this and the standards just seem to get higher every year!"



Christmas Hampers



Each year, students at Ponteland High School put together Christmas hampers for disadvantaged families in the Newcastle and Northumberland area. The quality and thought that went into preparing the hampers was a testament to the kindness and generosity of our Year 7 students.



COP26 Exclusive

We were delighted to show the students an exclusive special assembly last week. Nick Bridge, the Foreign Secretary’s Special Representative for Climate Change recorded a 5 minute video message for us about COP26 and the importance of the conference. The message was very well received by our students who responded with perceptive and thoughtful comments about how they can engage in becoming climate change ambassadors and make a real difference!



Christmas Craft Club

The Christmas craft club has been up and running in the last 3 weeks on a Tuesday and Wednesday night. The students have had the opportunity to learn new crafting skills and also make gifts for a loved one: they have painted plaster seasonal ornaments and Santa boot tea light holders, made Christmas table decorations and learned the art of making material wreaths. The whole group built on their creative and social skills so much so they have asked if it can continue in some form in the New Year... watch this space!



KS2-3 Recommended Read:

Hatchet Gary Paulsen

There was a wild crashing sound, a ripping of metal, and the plane blew through the trees, out over the water and down, down to slam into the lake . . .

Brian is a city boy. Not used to living rough. Until his plane crash-lands in the Canadian wilderness. All he has is a hatchet - and a desperate will to survive. Now Brian must learn to live the hard way - or die.

