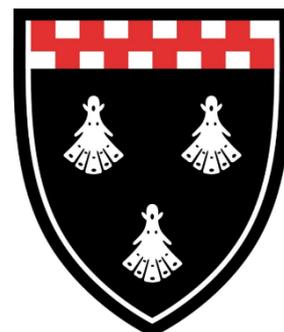




Welcome to the January edition of our newsletter for Year 7 parents (and Year 5 and 6 prospective parents). Many Year 7 students filled their Christmas break doing extra maths in order to compete in the 'Timestable Rockstars' challenge set by Mr Jones. Find out how they got on in this newsletter...along with information about the charities helped by our 'Christmas Card Competition', the latest on the talented chess team and the upcoming magical 'Harry Potter Night'.



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.

TT Rockstars

In the last newsletter, we told you about the 'Timestables Rockstars Tournament' being held over the Christmas holidays for Year 7 and 8. Clear winners with a whopping 20,335 points were 7CEM, followed closely by 7CDo and 7NAr. Congratulations to the top individual scorers for Year 7: Quintin, Sasha, Charlotte, Jasper and James. Prizes have been delivered by Mr Jones.

1	7CEM	20,335
2	7CDo	15,318
3	7NAr	12,148
4	BABU	3,345
5	8MOR	3,029
6	8EMA	2,350
7	7MSH	1,968
8	7JFR	1,784
9	7JBR	1,373
10	8REA	1,114

Chess Tournament



Rugby Champions!

Huge congratulations to the Year 7 boys' rugby team and their thrilling victory against Egglecliffe in the semi-final and then Churchill in the final with a golden try. Fantastic result!

On the afternoon of Wednesday 26th January, our amazingly talented chess team took part in the regional chess final at St Mary's Catholic School in Longbenton. Knowingly facing the top team in the league (who have their own private coach), our students were bold and fearless! Playing against both their A and B team, Andrew and Sam (Y10), Mylo (Y9), Ryan and Beau (Y8) played with sophistication and style but it just wasn't quite enough to beat their opponents. Perhaps most impressive of all was Abbie's performance. In nail-bitingly close tension, game after game, Abbie in Year 7 was pitted against 6th form students. Despite the 5 year age difference, Abbie played exquisitely and remained dignified in defeat saying: "It was so close. I'm so pleased I had the opportunity. I really enjoyed it!"

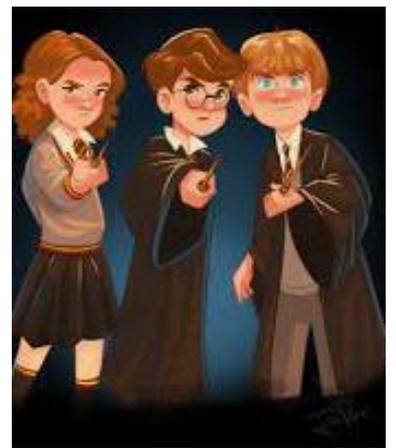


Charities Benefit from Xmas Card Sales

The amazing Christmas cards designed by Year 7 and 8 students have been sold for charity in the last few weeks. Thanks to the donations from parents and staff we have managed to raise an amazing **£193!** These profits will be divided between the chosen three charities: **Cancer Research, British Heart Foundation and the Red Cross.** This is an amazing result and is all thanks to the individual students who spent time creating fabulous designs.

Harry Potter Night

Thursday 17th February sees the return of our annual Harry Potter event for Year 7. Another year brings with it another theme and - after an adventure through Diagon Alley last year - this year will bring students into the very heart of Hogwarts! From 4pm to 7pm, students will be taken on a journey through an average day of a Hogwarts' student. Beginning with a sorting hat ceremony, they will then be taken for four 'lessons'. **Charms** will allow students to harness their wand craft and perfect their 'swish and flick'. Casting is only as important as the spells created so students will create their own spells to battle evil forces in **Defence Against the Dark Arts**. **Potions** will see students trying to best replicate the creations of our own in-house Professor Snape. **Quidditch** also returns this year, allowing houses to see who can score the most in the allotted time. If students pay careful attention in their lessons, they may also be able to spot an elusive golden snitch...If your child would like to take part, ask them to see Ms Brewis in F3 or Ms Laws in the library or their form tutor can also register interest on their behalf.



KS2-3 Recommended Reads



Currently, many of our staff are reading KS3 fiction texts in order to select some great new stock for our library and to make some links to units in the curriculum. To mention just a few: Mr Warland is reading 'Where in the Wild', Mrs Tuck is reading 'Rooftoppers'. 'The Explorer' is being read by Mr Brown, 'Beetle Boy' by Miss Hegarty and 'Wonder' by Ms Baker. Both Mr Bartlett and Mrs Digby really enjoyed 'Cane Warriors' saying 'A great read for young freedom fighters! Based on the true story of Tacky's War in Jamaica (1760), Cane Warriors documents the story of 14 year old Moa and his struggle to escape the brutality of life on the Frontier sugar cane plantation' and "A powerful and emotive read set on the slave plantations in Jamaica, exciting and action packed story as Moa tries to escape. Really brings the time and place alive!". I am nearly finished the brilliant 'Graveyard Book' by Neil Gaiman.