



**W**elcome to the December edition of our newsletter for Year 7 parents (and Y5 and 6 prospective parents). In this newsletter, you can see some of the exciting opportunities and enrichment events that Year 7 have been doing in December. Despite being such a long term, Year 7 students have continued to show incredible resilience, a super work ethic and an outstanding attitude to learning. 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 our Y7 achievements and successes, follow us on twitter @Y7PontHigh.



### BBC Careers Event: Share your Story

On the 14<sup>th</sup> December, it was great to welcome a team from the BBC back into school for a follow-up to their recent 'Share Your Story' tour. In this second session, hosted by Neha Navekar from the BBC Asian Network, Year 7 students heard from three diverse individuals with careers in the creative industry: Laura (a freelance social media consultant), Harry (an apprentice producer at BBC Radio Newcastle) and Cameron (a freelance performer and dancer). As well as listening to their particular career journeys, students benefitted from finding out more about the significance of transferable skills such as persistence, aiming high and pursuing their passion.

Mr Greenshields, Assistant Headteacher with responsibility for careers, commented: 'We are grateful for the work we have undertaken with the support of the BBC over the course of the term, our students participated in the sessions diligently and respectfully and came up with some excellent, insightful questions. One interesting aspect of the session was to note that each of the panellists career paths had taken different turns from what they initially anticipated they would be. I hope that from the session, students have taken away further inspiration that whatever their future planned career path, with dedication and hard work they can find a career that they find enjoyable, rewarding and fulfilling'.







## Christmas Celebrations



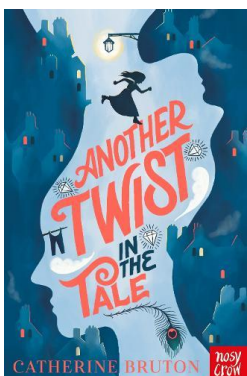
Year 7 students have certainly been in the festive mood in the run up to Christmas this year!

On Friday 9th December, our annual Christmas hamper campaign reached its climax with an amazing display of generosity from the students and families of our school. In support of four local organisations (Newcastle Council, Northumberland Council, Feeding Families and the West End Food Bank), students brought food donations, along with designing a host of different Christmas hamper designs ranging from a Christmas Coca-Cola truck to an almost life-size snowman!



In the annual 'Christmas Card Design Competition' entries this year were very creative and such fantastic quality. Well done to all the brilliant students that took part! There were so many amazing designs to choose from and Mr McElwee, the Headteacher, was tasked with choosing the winner. After shortlisting to 5 finalists, it was decided that Harry from Year 7 would be the champion. His design combines the traditional Santa on his sleigh with a 'Save Our Planet' world in the centre. Harry's design has been sent out as the 2022 Ponteland High School Christmas Card!

## KS2-3 Recommended Read



If you enjoyed studying 'Oliver Twist' in English this term, I'd recommend this exciting sequel!

**Another Twist in the Tale** Catherine Brunton

You have heard, no doubt, the tale of Master Oliver Twist - that rags-to-riches boy; the parish orphan who became heir to the Brownlow fortune. But what few know is that was a second Twist - a girl, brought into this world moments ahead of her brother.

This is the story of Twill Twist - and her journey through the gambling dens and workhouses of London, as she attempts to make a life for herself, rescue her friends, and uncover the mystery of her past - while meeting some familiar faces along the way...