

Meeting the 16-19 study programme 2025-2026

Study Programmes

The 16 to 19 study programme offered at Ponteland High School is designed to provide students with a structured and challenging learning opportunity that supports their development and progression in line with their career plans. Programmes of study are tailored to each individual student. This ensures that all students are on qualification pathways that stretch them academically and prepare them for the next stage of their education or employment.

93% of the 2024-2025 cohort of students went on to higher education or employment or training.

7% have deferred entry to higher education to explore a gap year.

Students at Ponteland High School are encouraged to engage with Mathematics at a higher level. Therefore 5-10 % of students opt to study a Core Maths qualification alongside their 3 A-level/Vocational qualifications. Those who do not opt for Core Maths pursue an EPQ qualification. All students in Ponteland High School Sixth Form hold a level 4 or higher GCSE grade in Mathematics and English.

Qualification Offer

Below outlines the broad qualification offer at Ponteland High School where students can pursue qualifications that are vocational (BTEC/CTEC/AAQ), traditional A-levels or a combination of both.

Subject	Qualification
Fine Art	A-level
Biology	A-level
Business	CTEC
Business Studies	A-level
Core Maths	AS level
Drama and Theatre	A-level
DT: Product and Design	A-level
Economics	A-level
English Literature	A-level
English Language	A-level
French	A-level
Further Maths	A-level

Geography	A-level
German	A-level
History	A-level
ICT	AAQ
Maths	A-level
Media Studies	A-level
Medical Science	AAQ
Music	A-level
Physics	A-level
Psychology	A- level
Religious Studies: Philosophy and Ethics	A-level
Spanish	A-level
Sports Studies	CTEC

Students at Ponteland High School are all expected to attend school each day. This ensures that students benefit from:

- Face to face teaching from subject specialists (10 hours per subject per fortnight)
- 1 hour tutorial per fortnight
- 2 hours of EPQ per fortnight
- 2 hours of supervised study per fortnight
- 1 hour Youth Social Action/Enrichment per fortnight
- 5 hours of independent study periods per course

Example of an Academic Study Programme at Ponteland High School (per academic year)

	Planned Qualification Hours	Planned Non-Qualification Hours	Core Aim
A-level (1)	195		Academic Qualification
A-level (2)	195		Academic Qualification
A-level (3)	195		Academic Qualification
EPQ/ Core Maths	28 / 74		Academic Qualification
Tutorials: RSHE Preparation for next steps		30	
Social Action		20 +	
Work Experience		40	
Total	613/659	89	

Work Experience at Ponteland High School Sixth Form

All students at Ponteland High school will engage with 1 week of work experience in the summer term of Year 12. Students will be supported by tutors and have time during tutorial sessions to find relevant work experience and will receive advice on how to write letters of application and communicate professionally with potential employers.

Youth Social Action and Non Qualification Activities

At Ponteland High School we aim to ensure that all students develop both academically and socially so that they are able to make a positive contribution to society. Therefore as part of their programme of study, all students are required to participate in a youth social action project during their time in the sixth form. 1 hour each fortnight is dedicated to this as part of their enrichment offer. This helps students develop character traits such as:

- Dedication
- Resilience
- Involvement
- Compassion
- Communication
- Leadership

Students are provided with a range of opportunities to give back to their school and local community and we have ensured we cover a range of options so students can choose an area that they care about.

Further to this, sixth form students regularly take part in:

- Debating - weekly current affairs discussion
- Fund raising events for charity (valentines disco/summer stalls)
- Student voice/committee
- Lower school events

Students also have the opportunity to participate in a range of activities, including:

- World Challenge
- Gold Duke of Edinburgh
- Bar Mock Trial
- European Youth Parliament
- TEFL qualification
- Restart a Heart
- Various extra-curricular clubs / activities

Ponteland High School meets the statutory requirements to provide independent careers guidance for all students and provides at least 6 opportunities for providers of technical education and apprenticeships to talk to all pupils, during school years 8 to 13, about their education or training offer. Students in the sixth form receive guidance on :

- Higher education establishments (with all students visiting at least 1 university)
- Apprenticeships
- Career opportunities

Personal Development and Sexual Reproductive Health

As part of their tutorial sessions, sixth form students receive an age appropriate sexual and reproductive health curriculum that runs through both year 12 and year 13. At Ponteland High School we endeavour to ensure that all students receive key information regarding their personal development. Where relevant, we secure external speakers to deliver these sessions. We guarantee that all students will have received essential knowledge on the following topics before they leave the sixth form:

Relationships and Sex Education

- Sexual health - sex, contraception and pregnancy
- Respectful relationships - healthy masculinity and challenging misogyny
- Unhealthy relationships - coercion and domestic abuse
- Sexual harassment - raising awareness of the consequences
- Health issues - understanding your body and self-examination

Health and Wellbeing

- Avoiding risk-taking behaviours: drug and alcohol awareness, staying safe on a night out, driver safety
- Mental wellness - avoiding and dealing with stress, importance of exercise, where to find help
- Healthy eating - easy and nutritious meal preparation
- Gambling awareness - the emotions, dangers and warning signs
- Travelling - tips and advice to help you stay safe

Living in the Wider World

- Charity, poverty and privilege - making a positive impact in our communities
- Budgeting - spending, saving and financial independence
- Democracy - engaging in democracy and registering to vote
- Work experience and employment - rights and responsibilities
- Money matters - credit v debit, buy now, pay later

All personal development sessions signpost where to get help and support both in school and externally

SMSC

Our personal development programme promotes spiritual, moral, social and cultural understanding, via our tutorial and drop down programme, as well as assemblies and tutor time discussions. We expand upon this by providing students with access to:

- Current affairs and issues – weekly debate and discussion in form class
- Volunteering in the school and wider community
- Work experience week
- Duke of Edinburgh Award
- Rotary Club engagement and RYLA
- European Day of Languages
- TEFL qualification
- Bar Mock Trial
- UK Parliament events e.g. Learn with the Lords
- European Youth Parliament UK
- World Challenge
- Chinese Ambassadors/Exchange
- World Book Day
- Restart A Heart
- Feeding Families Hampers
- Try Something New For Charity
- School Production
- Extra-curricular clubs e.g. Christian Union
- Cultural visits e.g. London art trip, New York

Our personal development aim is:

- to help our students develop into independent young people, ready for the world
- to work together to build positive futures
- for every student to make a positive contribution to our school and wider community
- to encourage students to develop key attributes and characteristics, as well as academic success