



Ponteland High School



Year 6 Welcome Pack

March 2025

Welcome Pack

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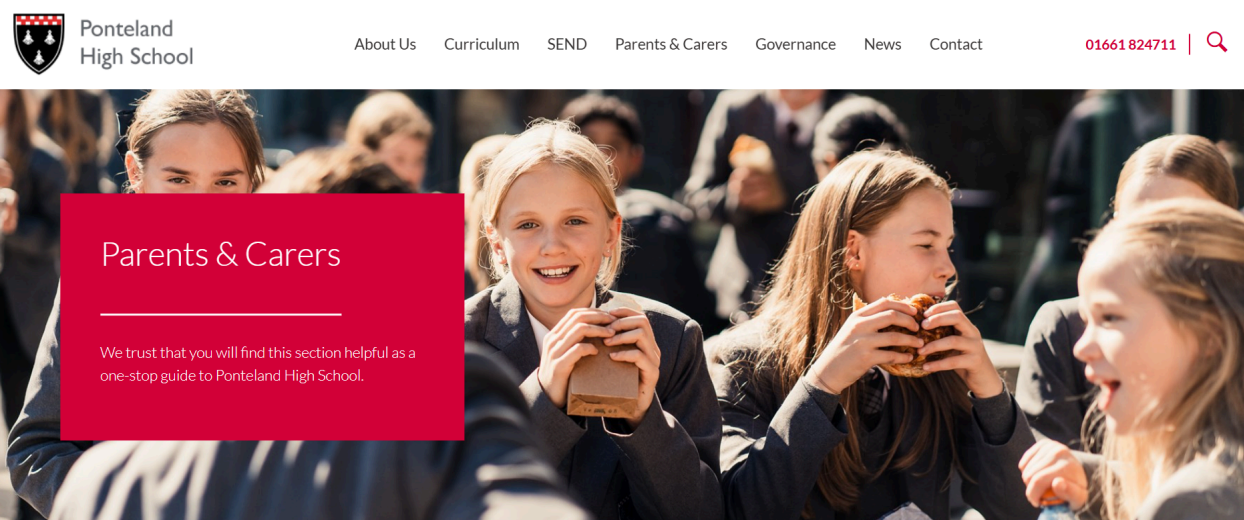
FAQs

Welcome

On behalf of Ponteland High School, the Year 7 team extend a warm welcome to you and all of our new students. We are thrilled that you are joining our school in September and we look forward to the exciting journey ahead.

Starting a new chapter in a new school can be both exciting and a little overwhelming. To help you settle in, we have a range of resources and events to facilitate the process of transition from primary to secondary school.

Moreover, there's more information on our website in the transition section: www.ponthigh.org.uk/transition



You can also find our Y7 Curriculum Overviews so you can see what Year 7 will be learning and how to support learning at home: <https://www.ponthigh.org.uk/curriculum/key-stage-3/y7-curriculum-overviews/>

This booklet has lots of helpful information for you. However, if you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Meet the Year 7 Team



Mrs S Routledge

Assistant Headteacher: KS2-3 Transition
Senior Leadership Link for Year 7



Ms H Hartley

Pastoral Leader
Year 7 Pastoral Leader



Mr P Coulson

Pastoral Manager
Year 7 Pastoral Manager



Mr A Allman

Year 6-7 Pastoral and Transition Support



Mrs J Wright

KS2-3 Practitioner & English Transition Lead



Mrs A Bunce

KS2-3 Practitioner & Maths Transition Lead

Year 6-7 Transition Timeline: Guide for Parents

October 24

Year 6 Prospective Parent Events

An opportunity for year 6 families to visit Ponteland High School during our open morning and evening events.

31 October 24

Closing Date for Applications for School Places

Applications for secondary admissions must be submitted by 31st October to the council website.

1 March 25

Outcome of Application for School Places

Northumberland County Council (NCC) manages admissions on our behalf. Please contact NCC directly if you have queries about admissions. Inform NCC as soon as possible if you do not wish to take the place at Ponteland High School.

April 25

Welcome Letter and Pack

Following the offer of a place, year 6 parents receive a letter from the Headteacher and an information pack with all the dates and details about the transition process.

14 & 22 May 25

Tours of Ponteland High School for Year 6 Students

Year 6 families are invited to Ponteland High School for an after-school tour of the building and to meet the Senior Leadership team, the year 7 transition/pastoral team and the SEN team.

4 June 25

Sehgal Uniform Pop-Up Shop at Ponteland High School

Year 6 students and their family can visit Ponteland High School to try on and purchase uniform.

16-20 June 25

Year 6 'The Bee Week'

In their primary schools, year 6 students develop knowledge and understanding of bees that they apply on the transition days and in year 7 lessons in the autumn term.

2 July 25

Year 6 Parents' Information Evening

Year 6 students and parents have the opportunity to listen to a talk by the Headteacher, find out their Year 7 tutor group and meet their new Year 7 tutor.

3 & 4 July 25

Year 6 Transition Days at Ponteland High School

Year 6 students spend two full days at Ponteland High School experiencing lessons, lunch and finding out everything they need to know for September.

2 September 25

Year 7 First Day at Ponteland High School

Year 7 attend school for their first day. They spend the morning with tutors and then start lessons in the afternoon. Only Year 8 and Post-16 students are also present.

September 25

Year 7 Tutor Group Team Building Event at Plessey Woods

Each tutor group has a day filled with team building activities in order to get to know their classmates and tutor.

September 25

Year 7 Bee Showcase and Tutor Drop-In Evening

Year 7 parents have the opportunity to see all the work produced as part of the Bee Project in year 6 and year 7. Year 7 tutors are also available if parents have any queries.

November 25

Year 7 Subject Parents' Evening

Year 7 parents have the opportunity to speak to teachers about the progress of their child in their subjects.

Year 6 Transition Days

Here you will find all the practical information about the Y6 transition days that take place in the summer term at Ponteland High School.

Dates and Times: Thursday 3 July and Friday 4 July 2025, 9.00am-3.25pm



Drop off and pick up: Enter through the black gates next to the bus drop-off area (pictured). We respectfully ask that you do not accompany your child or come in via reception as we need your child to experience what it will be like in September. Once in school, we will direct your child to the assembly hall where we will register and direct students into their tutor groups.

Food: Available at break and lunchtime in the school hall. You can bring a packed lunch or have a school dinner. There's no need to choose in advance as menus for both days will be available via your child's primary school.

Uniform: Attend in current primary school uniform.

Equipment: Bring a bag, a water bottle and a pencil case.

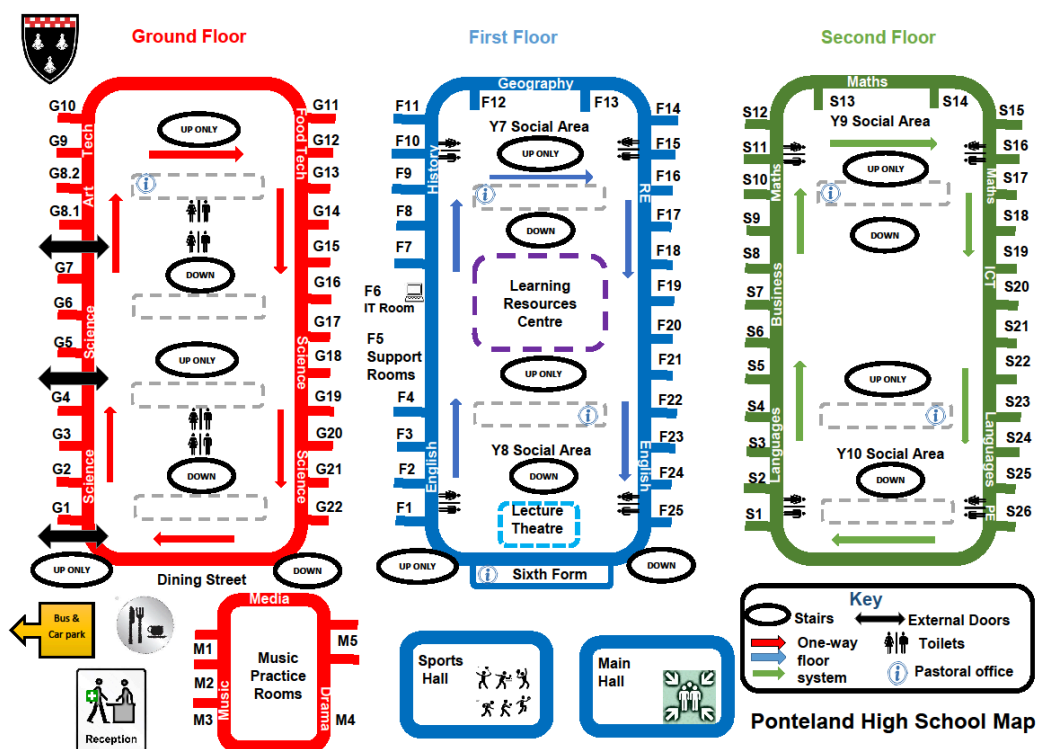
Mobile phone: Allowed but must be on 'silent' and kept away in bags.

Medical Needs: If your child needs to have prescription medication administered in school on the transition days, please come into reception, speak to a member of staff and complete the appropriate forms.

Timings of the School Day

9.00-9.15	Morning Registration/ Assembly with Form Tutor
9.15-10.15	Lesson 1
10.15-11.15	Lesson 2
11.15-11.35	Break
11.35-12.35	Lesson 3
12.35-1.20	Lesson 4
1.20-2.15	Lunch
2.15-2.25	Afternoon Registration with Form Tutor
2.25-3.25	Lesson 5
3.25	End of School

The School Map



Equipment



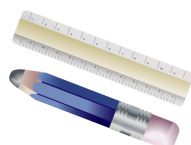
A named school bag, large enough to carry an A4 folder

A pencil case



Black and/or blue pen

Pencil



Ruler



Calculator (preferably a scientific calculator)

A reading book

Other non-essential equipment that you might want to bring:

glue stick, highlighter, protractor, eraser, pencil sharpener, dictionary, coloured pens



A planner/ homework diary will be provided by school on the first day.

Uniform

Our school uniform supplier is Michael Sehgal & Sons Ltd. Uniform orders can be placed at the Kingston Park store or online from March onwards:

<https://www.michaelsehgal.co.uk/schools/ponteland-high-school/>



Sehgal Uniform Pop-Up Shop at Ponteland High School

You can try on and purchase uniform from our pop-up shop at Ponteland High School on **Wednesday 4 June**.

Uniform Recycling

At Ponteland High School we understand the growing challenges that families face in meeting the rising costs of school uniforms. We recognize the financial strain this can impose on parents, and in our commitment to fostering a supportive community, we encourage families to participate in our uniform recycling initiative. For parents seeking assistance with acquiring previously loved uniforms, we encourage you to contact the school directly via this email uniform@ponthigh.org.uk

Pen Portraits

Each year, we request that parents provide us with a Pen Portrait of your child. This is a wonderful way for you to tell us what your child is really like. Once you have put together your Pen Portrait please email it to year7penportraits@ponthigh.org.uk

In essence, we are asking you to tell us about your son/daughter; what are their interests and areas of expertise, what motivates them, what you love about them and anything else you feel it would be good for us to know.

These can be sent in the format of an email, a word-processed document, a PowerPoint, a piece of poetry, or even film. Please feel free to be creative and adding a photograph or two is really helpful in putting faces to names.

We love receiving them and Mr McElwee reads every one. The Pen Portraits are also shared with the relevant Pastoral Leader/Manager and Form Tutor so that they too get a head start in knowing their new students. It would be great if we could receive these by **mid-July** so that they can be shared with key staff before the summer break; feel free to start sending them whenever you feel able to.

Summer Holiday Project

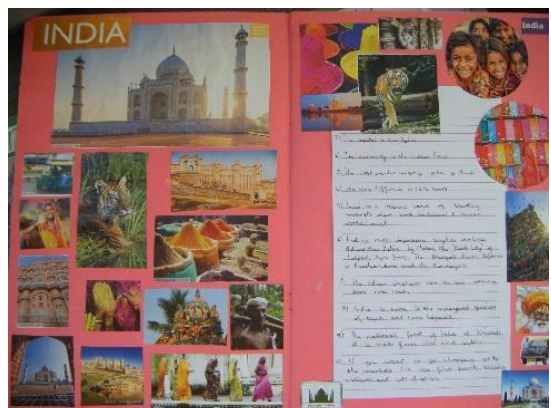


We ask Year 6 students to participate in a summer transition task to create an independent project on a topic or theme of their choice.

Students can focus on one of the following:

- research into an area of interest, such as a particular period of history, scientific discovery, novel/news item you have read or fashion style
- describe how to carry out and develop an area of expertise/skill, such as creating a piece of art, playing a particular sport/musical instrument or how to construct a car
- recount an activity you experienced over the summer with details of a holiday destination or new activity/culture you experienced

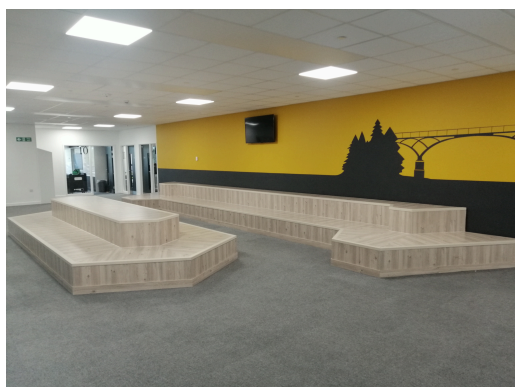
In September in Year 7, students get the opportunity to present the project to their form class using video, powerpoint, photographs, a display and/or a written report either individually or in small groups.



Frequently Asked Questions

What's the biggest difference between primary and secondary school?

Ponteland High School is probably a much bigger place than your primary school and you have to move around from lesson to lesson. We expect you to be more grown up and responsible but, don't worry, as there are plenty of people to support you. Year 7 students say that the biggest difference is that you need to get organised and the best way is to use your school planner.



Will I be with my friends from primary school?

We ask your primary teachers to provide names of 2-3 students that you know and work well with at primary school. These will not necessarily be your best friends: friendships often change over time and we encourage you to form new friendships when you start at Ponteland High School. There are

around 25 people in each tutor group and you will get to know your tutor group and your tutor before the summer holidays. Tutor time is only for a short period each day; you will then be completely mixed in your lessons. The vast majority of Year 7 students have developed a much wider social group by the end of Year 7. At breaks and lunchtimes, you will be able to socialise with your friends in the social area.

What will the lessons be like?

You will be given your timetable on the first day in September and find out your classes then. You have about ten subjects and you usually have one teacher for that subject. Lessons are in different classrooms so you do have to move around the school. You will get to use all of the specialist teaching facilities like the science laboratories, the technology rooms, the drama studio and the 4G pitch.

Can I bring my mobile phone to school?

You can bring your mobile phone to school. You don't need to hand it in, you just keep it in your bag on silent and don't look at it during the day.



How much homework will I get?

At first you only get a bit of homework but then it builds up to around one piece for each subject a week. It's usually due back in a week which is enough time to complete it. A good bit of advice is to set aside one hour after school each night and get it all done then. Some of the homework is set on Google Classroom. English, Maths and Science homework is set on 'Sparxs' and your teachers will show you how to use this.

What equipment do I need to bring in each day and what happens if I forget?

All you need to bring is your bag with your pencil case, planner, the books you need that day and a reading book. It's a good idea to bring a water bottle as well. In your pencil case, have two pens and pencils, a ruler and a rubber. You can bring highlighters and your own glue stick and other stationary if you want. Don't worry if you forget, you can ask a friend or the teacher or buy supplies in the school library.

What happens if I get lost?

You get given a map of the school on your first day but there are lots of teachers around to show you where to go. There are numbers on the doors and you get a tour on the first day as well. It can be a bit confusing at first but there's always someone going to the same class as you. For the first few weeks it's ok if you get lost and teachers are fine if you are a little bit late but they do expect that you will get used to it quite quickly!



What is lunch like?

There is always a wide variety of food to buy at break and lunchtime. If you prefer you can bring a packed lunch. Year 7s get to sit together so you can sit with your friends either in the dining hall or outside on the picnic tables. Your parents add money to your account through the school payment system and we scan your thumbprint to pay for the food.