



Meeting the needs of employers

Work Ready was devised at Newman Catholic College and launched at the House of Commons in 2012. It was designed in consultation with business leaders and the then Minister of State for Children & Families to give students a rare practical experience of work. This experience has proved invaluable to those who are aiming to gain employment or apprenticeships when they leave school. The students are sixth formers (16-19 years old) who are studying for BTEC qualifications alongside English and Maths GCSE. Many are students who have newly arrived in the UK and for whom English is an additional language.

Work Ready mentors complement the work of the school by preparing students for employment and supporting them to develop the "soft skills" that are so vital in the modern world. Now in its third year, the programme has become a sophisticated operation with a growing portfolio of employers and a proud track record in developing the self-confidence and necessary attributes that enable our young people to become work ready.

The programme has seven core areas of operation:

- Sharing the experience of their mentors and visiting speakers.
- Visiting to factories and other places of cultural interest.
- Engaging in business activities including participation in Young Enterprise competitions.
- Rôle playing in mock interviews
- Getting work experience.
- Building their CVs through a variety of work placements
- Developing self-confidence, good behavior and respect for others.

Work experience is very often the first time the students have to find their feet. The school is fortunate to have the support of many organisations in the London area but many more are urgently needed to give its disadvantaged youngsters the break they deserve.

NEWMAN CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Newman Catholic College has a diverse population and caters for pupils from all socio-economic and cultural backgrounds. The student population of the school is 700 with a large and thriving sixth form. Over 35 different languages are spoken by pupils at the school and many would consider English their second language.

In recent years the school's academic performance has improved dramatically with 13% more pupils achieving 5 A*-C GCSE grades including English and Mathematics in 2014 than 2012. Even more impressively 80% of pupils in the 2014 Year 11 group made expected progress and a staggering 50% made progress exceeding expectations.

The new Head Teacher Danny Coyle is delighted with the school's performance and has a clear vision for the Work Ready programme: "we value all the pupils we teach here and cater for all their needs equally. Work Ready is a fantastic programme which provides pupils with experience of work to help them make informed choices about their future and build a promising CV. For Work Ready to succeed we rely on organisations, large and small, to support us by offering essential work placements which will help shape the futures of all our pupils."



Everyone contributes, everyone counts, everyone succeeds

Newman Catholic College

Harlesden Road, London NW10 3RN
Telephone: 020 8965 2947

Head Teacher: Daniel Coyle
Work Ready administrator: Julian Dore





Founding members. Work Ready is launched in 2012 at the House of Commons, courtesy of Sarah Teather, MP for Brent Central, who takes a great interest in Newman Catholic College.



May the Force be with him. The Metropolitan Police offer a place for work experience every Friday. Perry (pictured) was inspired to make it his ambition to become a policeman.



Banking on success. Barclays Bank make a big contribution to Work Ready. Trix (left) is gaining experience whilst Julian Dore (centre) is the Work Ready administrator for work placement.



The Eagles have landed! The business name for the Work Ready team was NCC Eagles and they flew away with the 2013 Young Enterprise/Deutsche Bank prize for the most innovative product.



Pressing on. The Brent and Kilburn Times encourage the Newman's Work Ready students to research and write articles for the weekly newspaper. Leandro (centre) was up to the challenge of a busy office.



Sweet Charity. Fridays are busy for the Cancer Research shop in Portobello Road so an extra pair of hands is always welcome. Here is Maxson, a Work Ready student in pretty good company!



Class act. Clary Salandy, Director Mahogany Arts, meets the Work Ready class where she spoke of her enthusiasm for designing and making the exotic costumes for the Notting Hill Carnival.



Play on. The Bush Theatre, internationally renowned for its backing of budding playwrights, is a supporter of the Work Ready programme. This is Romario working behind-the-scenes in Administration.



Food for thought. Work Ready's students took third prize in the Young Enterprise interim competition for their concept of an ethnic cookery book. The recipes are all enjoyed in the student's homelands.