



Newman Catholic College

Everyone Counts
Everyone Contributes
Everyone Succeeds

NEWSLETTER

Easter 2021



Students showed their support for the campaign by wearing their colourful jumpers.

Supporting refugees

Christmas jumper event kickstarts fundraising campaign

NEWMAN Catholic College kicked off a two-year long fundraising drive to help displaced Syrian refugees with a Christmas jumper day.

The day of festive fun in December helped to raise £440 for an afterschool education programme based in Beirut, Lebanon.

The money will go towards creating a three-year higher education vocational and technical training programme based at two centres in Beirut. It will also support disadvantaged Lebanese students.

The school are working with Catholic charities The Constantinian Charitable Trust (TCCT) and their partner CARITAS Lebanon to support the project.

Newman Catholic College is among a handful of schools

nationwide recognised as a school of sanctuary for refugees by charity City of Sanctuary UK. It is also a UNICEF Rights Respecting school.

Headteacher at the school Mr Coyle, who is also a TCCT trustee, said: "I am delighted that the superb work of this school over the last few years in supporting refugees from Syria here in Brent, as well as from other parts of the world, will now embrace children in Lebanon.

"I am convinced that the relationships that will develop as a result of this project will be of great benefit to all these children and their communities."

Professor Ian Linden, the chairman of the TCCT said: "I was very moved, as were the other Trustees of The Constantinian Charitable Trust, that the Newman College Governors will

City of Sanctuary UK @... · 14/01/2021 ···
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Great to see @NCCBrent a #SchoolofSanctuary fundraising to help Syrian refugees. This school rocks! This is just one of many great projects as pupils are fully aware of what it means to be seeking sanctuary.

be directing the school's fundraising activities in support for the Afterschool Programme.

"My hope is that this new relationship between the children attending Newman College and the disadvantaged Lebanese children and Syrian refugees attending the programme will be of real mutual benefit by further nurturing in Newman College students the practice of solidarity that Pope Francis speaks about so often."

The Chairman of the school

Governors, Paul O'Shea, said: "Both Newman College and the TCCT project have thus far been involved in supporting Syrian children displaced and disturbed by terrible conflict in their country, albeit in different places and different ways.

"This speaks to the solidarity to which we are called in supporting those suffering the consequences of poverty in Lebanon and those wrenched from their homeland by war."

MORE ONLINE AT ncc.brent.sch.uk



Mr Coyle gives the donation of new laptops a thumbs-up.

Thankful for new laptops

HEADTEACHER Mr Coyle has thanked community groups who have rallied to help the school by donating over 100 computers to students.

The school also received around 300 devices from the government which meant that every student at the school was able to access online learning during school closures.

The organisations who donated the computers included Brent Council, Sound Net and the Lady Fatemah Trust as well as small local businesses.

Mr Coyle said: "As the headteacher of this school I count myself extremely lucky and am proud to work within a community which is so supportive of our students.

"The devices from the government were a big, big help but

really it was the computers that came from our community, be it local businesses or charities or bigger organisations which has made the difference.

"It is with great pride that we can say that not one single child was without access to computing equipment. We were even able to help those who joined us just recently. And they can keep them." During the third lockdown in January, February and March teachers taught the lessons live from school or their home with students also logging on remotely.

The school accommodated around 55 students at school while the other 800 pupils are taught virtually at home.

Mr Coyle added: "Our teachers have really risen to the challenge this time around, learning new skills and putting their talents as teachers to the test.

"They have come through with flying colours and our remote learning offer has really helped to engage the students while schools have been closed."

STAFF and students were desperate for the school to reopen because they missed human interaction. Mr Coyle told the Brent Times: "Teaching is at heart a human activity and is rooted in the quality of our relationships. Remote teaching does not support this. However, our health must come first."

Joene earns award for awesome artwork

STUDENT Joene says he is "very proud" after winning the Black History Month prize for his artwork.

Each subject tasked students with producing work which captures contributions made to society by men and women from black backgrounds.

Joene's work was inspired by the Black Power fist or salute first popularised in the 1968 Olympics by athletes Tommie Smith and John Carlos, among others.

His reward for the work was a copy of Black and British A Forgotten

Joene proudly holds a copy of his prize for his work.

History by historian David Olusoga.

Joene said: "It feels great to win this award because equality and rights is a subject I am very passionate about.

"What has happened in history to black people has not been right and now more than ever we are speaking up about it.

"I felt the hand symbol was a powerful way of getting the message across and that's why I used it as my inspiration."





Wates donation to our foodbank

HUGE thanks to building firm Wates who have donated £200 worth of food, a container, barbecue and a freezer in support of our foodbank.



Brent Housing @Brent_... · 01/03/2021 ...
 Brent Council & @WatesGroup at the Knowles House site (Harlesden) where we are building 149 council homes, have donated over £200 worth of food and white goods to store fresh and frozen items - to a foodbank run by @NCCBrent #bettertogether



Hard-working volunteers scoop accolade

THE dedicated team of teachers, students and helpers who run our weekly foodbank have won a prestigious award.

The Friday Foodbank feeds up to 50 families each and every week with essentials such as bread, milk, canned food and dried foods as well as fruit and vegetables.

Despite a third lockdown and school closures, the centre has been open throughout with demand for assistance steadily increasing.

And their hard work has not gone unnoticed after receiving a the accolade for the Jewish Volunteer Network (JVN) Volunteer of the Year.

Student Moussa has come in every Friday during lockdown to help out with the foodbank. He said: "Since coming to Newman I have learned that a sense of responsibility and helping others is crucial in life.

"When a school and a community give you so much it is your moral duty to give back. We do not do this each week to win awards but it is nice when our hard work is recognised."

Assistant Headteacher Ms Grace said: "We were determined to keep the foodbank going during the second lockdown. It is a good job we did as the need was even greater.

"The work that goes into keeping this foodbank is truly astounding and a big thanks goes to the whole team. This award is thoroughly deserved."

The team was put forward by Sister Silvana Dallanegra, who works on behalf of Catholic support network Caritas.

She said: "I am very proud to have nominated the team for this award.

"Whenever I come here, they are always cheerful and have created a very friendly atmosphere.

"Part of the problem with foodbanks is people feel like there is stigma with using them but here everyone is welcomed and not made to feel ashamed.

"The students and staff are a credit to their school and community. It is a wonderful example of faith in action."



Caritas Westminster @... · 03/03/2021 ...
 The @NCCBrent #FaithInAction #foodbank team have won a @JVN_org_uk trophy recognising their hard work & dedication, in all weathers & conditions.



Our hard-working foodbank volunteers help families in need every week and thoroughly deserved their award.

Online safety and security

STAFF and students joined thousands around the globe to mark Safer Internet Day in February.

This year focused on information found online – or fake news - with students spending time in tutor groups to look at the accuracy and reliability of sources found online.

Students discussed that good quality

news and information helps us to make informed decisions and educates us about the world we live in.

The school also ran a social media campaign highlighting resources and strategies and how to discuss online safety at home.

Further details about Online Safety can be found at ncc.brent.sch.uk.

Headteacher Mr Coyle speaks of his delight at welcoming students back through the doors of Newman Catholic College.



WE would like to thank you for supporting the school during the first week back after lockdown.

You will be delighted to learn that the students have been, as always, quite wonderful.

They have been well behaved, hardworking, intelligent and full of good humour. You should be proud of your child.

You will also be pleased to learn that we are half way through the Lateral Flow Testing process and are on track to have all our students tested three times by next Friday, March 19.

Every test has been negative so far, so well done to all.

There are many benefits to working at NCC but the greatest is the joy of seeing these young people, emerge from the lockdown full of laughter and eager to embrace the opportunities that life has to offer.

After the most challenging of years, it has been a timely reminder of why we got into teaching in the first place; working with children.

Despite being locked away for so long they have returned to school with a mature attitude to learning and settled back into the routine.

Structure is important for us all but particularly for young people and it is clear they are thriving now they are back at school.

As you will read in this newsletter, the school has not allowed the pandemic to change our attitude to standards; I am proud that we continue to be innovative, compassionate and dynamic.

It is remarkable how quickly a school settles back into the old patterns of working.

We must remain vigilant but also we must also now look to the future. I am positive about what lies ahead and I am pleased to say the school is in fine fettle.

One day soon, students will be learning about the world by visiting museums and galleries, they will showcase their musical talents at school concerts with their family and friends in the audience, we will be together.

As always, we take that journey with you; our staff, students, families and community.

Chaplain goes the extra mile at Lent



Chaplain John Roche (left) pictured with Father Andrew Jaxa-Chamiec walked for Lent.

SCHOOL Chaplain Mr Roche walked 10,000 steps a day for the whole of Lent to raise money for vulnerable families overseas.

And he went the distance, walking over 400,000 steps in 40 days as part of the charities Walk for Water initiative.

He started out hoping to raise £200 but within just a day or so had hit his target. Within a week he'd exceeded the £1,000 target and set his sights on reaching £5,000.

As we went to press, the total raised by Mr Roche stood at £1,941.

The money will support the estimated 2.2 billion people globally who do not have safe drinking water facilities.

A £3 donation can mend a community's broken water pump, and if £750 is raised this means that a water supply can be bought for the entire community.

Mr Roche has been taking the time to think of the people he will be helping but also to pray during his walks. He said: "Every time we go to the tap and clean water comes out; we take it for granted it

will always be there but actually for many families across the world that is not a luxury they have.

"Many must walk the 10,000 steps we are taking every day to get running water. Many of those are young girls who are missing out on their education.

"It has really taken off with supporters because we hit our first target within 24 hours and have just kept raising it since. The money we have raised will make a big difference to many people."

CAFOD's Head of Fundraising Jo Kitterick, said: "CAFOD says a big thank you to the thousands of supporters who are embarking on their Walk for Water challenge.

"This Lent they will be transforming lives. Our supporters are ready to go the extra mile to end water poverty.

"Already they have been coming up with wonderful ways to achieve their 10,000 steps for their own personal Walk for Water challenge, inspiring others to join in."

If you would like to help visit walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/john-roche-walk-for-water

Hockey match proves a big hit



YEAR 7 keyworker students are pictured ending another week with a friendly game of hockey back in January during the lockdown period.

Students on track for a career with STEM

STUDENTS got an insight into a career in the STEM subjects from the companies who are helping to build the new £100 billion HS2 railway.

The school hosted virtual assemblies, workshops and webinars with workers from Balfour Beatty to mark National Apprenticeship Week.

They learned about the apprenticeships which will form some of the 30,000 jobs

created by the high-speed tunnel project.

It includes careers in engineering, project management, procurement and supply chain, software development, business administration and customer service, among others.

There were sessions for Year 11 students which focused on the A Level pathways while for sixth form students they looked at routes into apprenticeships.

Head of Creative Arts Mrs Beirne Francis, who is overseeing the project, said: "As educators it is our job not only to prepare students for their GCSE and A Levels but for life after they leave this school.

"There will be 30,000 jobs created by HS2 which will be hugely beneficial for the students in this area. We have to make sure they are ready to take up these opportunities."

YEAR 11 student Dillion chaired a pan-London debate on what election pledges should be secured from the capital mayoral candidates.

The politically active youngster led a virtual meeting of the London Citizen group members as they discussed election strategy.

During the assembly delegates from the group finalised the London Citizens Manifesto for Change ahead of the capital wide poll in May.

They want action on housing, low wages, treatment of migrants, climate change, safety and tackling violence affecting young people.

Dillion, who has been involved with the charitable organisation since starting in Year 11, said it was a proud moment.

He said: "It was the culmination of lots of work with the London Citizens and I was extremely proud to chair the meeting.

"We are pushing all the mayoral candidates because it does not matter who is in charge, the things we are asking for are universal and should be taken up by all political parties."

Dillion has a history of political activism which includes addressing Brent Council aged 12, persuading the council to install lights in a local park and fighting for free travel for youngster as part of the Don't Zap the Zip campaign.

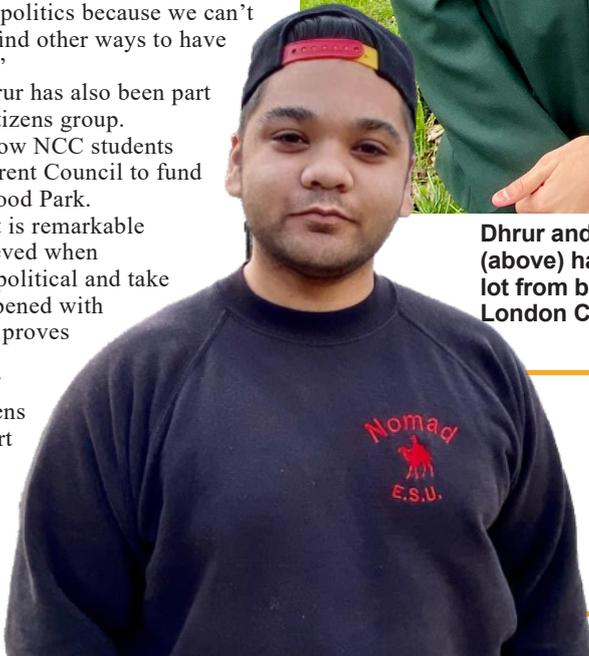
He said: "It is very important for me and all young people to be involved in campaigning and politics because we can't vote so we must find other ways to have our voices heard."

Classmate Dhrur has also been part of the London Citizens group.

Alongside fellow NCC students they convinced Brent Council to fund lights in Roundwood Park.

Dhrur said: "It is remarkable what can be achieved when students become political and take action. What happened with Roundwood Park proves that.

"Being part of the London Citizens means you are part of a wider group which is pushing for change and pushing to make the world a better place."



Dhrur and Dillion (above) have gained a lot from being part of the London Citizens group.



Luke who's back

Former student Luke paid the school a visit during a break from studying law at Brunel University.

Luke (pictured left) was on the student council and part of the London Citizens group while at NCC and is in his final year and hopes to complete a masters.



Valuable mental health support

OUR Year 7 students have been trained to support their peers as mental health ambassadors for the school.

They have taken part in a series of workshops learning communication skills, leadership skills and teamwork as part of a project promoting wellbeing.

It is a project between Newman Catholic College and Brent Council which will support the move from primary to secondary school.

Our Year 7 ambassadors have been sharing ideas and creating projects based

on their experiences of transitioning to secondary school.

The next step is for the ambassadors to visit local primary schools and support Year 6 students through their transition.

Head of Year 7 Ms Hardy said: "The message is everyone has mental health and we need to work together to ensure everyone is heard, safe and starts secondary school with confidence and ease.

"Our student ambassadors have been real role models for the younger students. We are extremely proud of their hard work."

Help yourself by showing kindness to other people

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK

Assistant Head-teacher Ms Grace (pictured) talks about the importance of kindness as the school marked Mental Health Awareness Week this term.



One thing that we have seen all over the world is that kindness is prevailing in uncertain times.

We have learnt that amid the fear, there is also community, support and hope.

The added benefit of helping others is that it is good for our own mental health and wellbeing. It can help reduce stress and improve our emotional wellbeing.

Kindness transforms our schools, places of work, communities and families.

Kindness has the singular ability to unlock our shared humanity, it strengthens relationships, develops community and deepens solidarity.

Here at Newman Catholic College, we are helping to shape a society where kindness and supporting others are qualities that are revered.

We want a world which tips the balance in favour of good mental health, for all of us, but especially for



Students rise to the challenge

DURING school closures students were set a series of challenges to keep them occupied during the lockdown.

The challenges included designing a thank you card for teachers, acts of kindness, a poem or short story about 2020 and what they missed about school.

Students rose to the challenges sending us their pictures which were posted on the school's social media pages.

When asked what she missed about school in week six of lockdown, Year 10 Lisa drew a picture of a classroom (above).

Meanwhile, for week one's acts of kindness, Darien (top right) helped out his family by vacuuming and tidying up the house and Pebriyanti cooked delicious treats for her family (right).



those who are most vulnerable.

Kindness has come to the fore during the Covid-19 pandemic thanks to the fundraising of Captain Sir Tom Moore and

mutual aid groups supporting communities.

Instead of bringing the worst out in us it has brought out the best. Never is that better demonstrated than at our food bank.



Welcome return

STUDENTS were tested in March ahead of a return to school. It was great to welcome all of them back to school and into the classroom where they belong.



The school have done a “wonderful job” of keeping students up to date during lockdown, according to a survey.

It revealed that 79 per cent agreed or strongly agreed that live lessons were of a high standard.

Meanwhile, 82 per cent said their child was fully engaged in remote learning classes with 91 per cent saying their child attends on a regular basis.

Four out of five parents said their child had a sufficient quantity of homework and 78 per cent the level of work was appropriate for their child.

One parent wrote: “Given the circumstances of home learning, NCC is doing a wonderful job.”

Another stated: “There’s no need for improvement, just keep on doing what you are doing please. We are very grateful.”

“You do not need to improve the online provision, everything is perfect.

Mrs Vitamore, Mr Saruck, Mrs Richards, Mrs Jalil, Mr Adnani, Miss Khalaji, Ms Cook, Mrs Z Smart, Miss Parry, Miss Hardy, Miss O’Connell, Mr Koromalagis, Ms O’Neill, Miss Smart, Mr Hughes, Mr Coyle, Mr Connors were among a host of teachers singled out for praise.

Headteacher Mr Coyle said: “As a school we have worked extremely hard to adapt to a new way of delivering education to our students.

“It is clear from this survey that families feel we have very much risen to that challenge and provide first class learning to their children.”

Survey supports lockdown effort



“
There’s no need for improvement, just keep on doing what you are doing please. We are very grateful...”

Parent feedback from our recent school survey



Tony Breslin @UKpolicy... · 23/01/2021 ... Working with [#DanielCoyle](#), the inspirational Head [@NCCBrent](#), has been one of many highlights of the [#LessonsFromLockdown](#) project; he leads the school which, as [#CardinalHinsley](#), I attended as a teenager in [#Harlesden](#) in the 1970s; the book was pub. by [@routledgebooks](#) last week

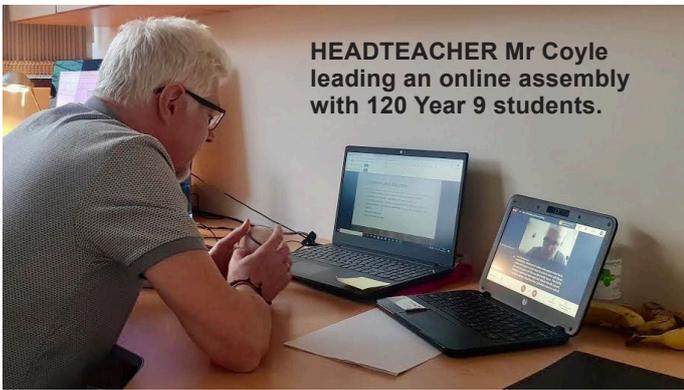
TWEET OF THE TERM

Inclusivity is key

THE school promoted tolerance, diversity and inclusivity in February as part of LGBT+ History Month.

During assembly they explored this year’s theme of mind, body and soul as part of a drive to raise awareness on matters affecting the students.

The school also pledged to promote the welfare of LGBT+ people, so they can contribute fully to society and lead fulfilled lives.



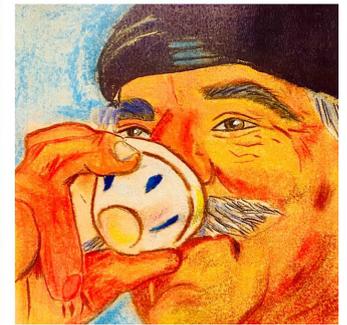
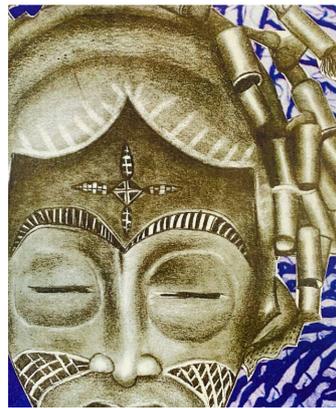
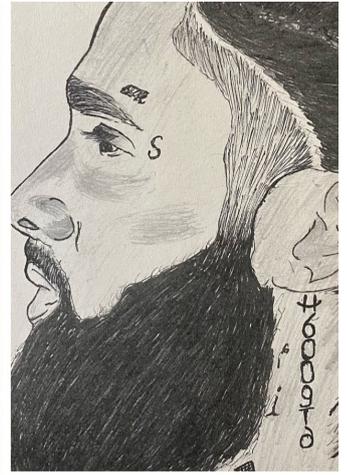
HEADTEACHER Mr Coyle leading an online assembly with 120 Year 9 students.



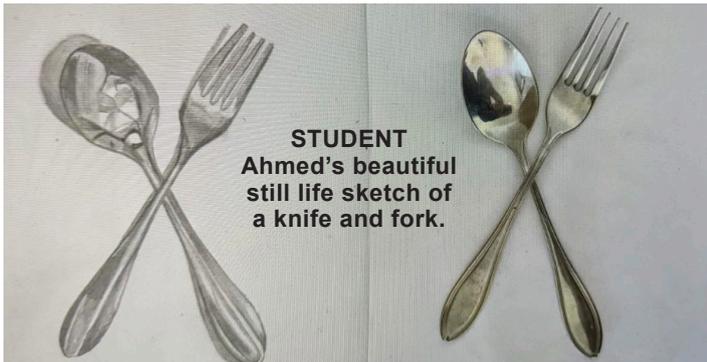
YEAR 10 Harry braving the snow back in February.

PHOTO CALL

YEAR 9 children of key workers engaged in synchronous lessons during lockdown. Their peers follow the same lesson at home.



STUDENT Vaidik's fine work relating to one of the five senses; taste, smell, touch, hearing and sight.



STUDENT Ahmed's beautiful still life sketch of a knife and fork.

EXAMPLES of outstanding artwork GCSE students have produced over lockdown.

LIBRARIAN Miss Walters hands a very happy and excited Year 8 Jason a copy of book Wild Boy.



TEACHER Miss Cook gave students tips on how to adapt and make their own materials during a virtual lesson.