



Newman Catholic College

NEWSLETTER

Everyone Counts
Everyone Contributes
Everyone Succeeds

Summer 2021

A supportive record to be proud of

College bucks the national trend of rising exclusion rates.

HEADTEACHER, Mr Coyle, says he is very proud that no student has been permanently excluded from the school in over five years.

Newman Catholic College is bucking a national trend, with the rate of expulsion nearly doubling in that period across schools nationwide. In fact, the school has a specialist unit to help students on the verge of being excluded from other local schools.

He says, while exam results at the school are strong, a lot of effort goes in to developing the character of our students.

Mr Coyle said: "It is my view that there is no child that cannot be helped.

"Persistent low-level disruption, which is what most students are being excluded for, can be worked with, supported and behaviour changed.

"The evidence is clear that being excluded from school can lead young people down a very dark path. I feel some schools are giving up on these young people too easily.

"At our school we recognise the importance of exam results. The best way to lift people out of poverty is through a good education, university and a fulfilling career.

"At our school, it is equally important to learn how to be kind, and it is something you have to learn, tolerant and accepting of others.

"This is a boys' school in Harlesden but we have students openly in relationships as well as trans students. You could not have that in a school if the students had not been taught to be kind and tolerant."



Mr Coyle celebrates Newman Catholic College becoming a UNICEF Rights Respecting School.

Executive Director

Frances Bestley

Frances Bestley,
Programme Director

MORE ONLINE AT ncc.brent.sch.uk

Students show remarkable resilience

Headteacher, Mr Coyle (inset), reflects on a year in which our students have shown great maturity.

I don't think I am alone when I say I found the winter lockdown at the beginning of this year was very tough.

I think most of us experienced lockdown fatigue, yet the young people in this school have shown truly remarkable resilience.



The manner in which they have conducted themselves, during online lessons and then when we returned to school, has been truly awe inspiring.

As you will read, the school remains the kind and welcoming environment it has always been.

This has always been a place where we put the wellbeing and development of our students first. They are educated academically and socially. There has been a lot going on this term.

Our wonderful Assistant Headteacher, Ms Grace, has won a prestigious accolade for her volunteering. Like all the teachers at this school, she sets an example for our students to follow.

We have also been teaching students about sex and relationships; so that they can become good husbands, partners and fathers.

It is just left for me to say a big thank you to our families in what has been another very tough year. We are incredibly grateful for your support. Have a great summer.

National award shocks creator of our foodbank

Ms Grace proudly holds her certificate for the Diocese of Westminster's Secondary School Social Outreach Award.

“

We do it because we want to help people. It was clear, when the pandemic arrived, people were struggling...

MS GRACE

”

NEWMAN Assistant Headteacher, Ms Grace, has won a national award for creating a foodbank and leading its team.

She received the Diocese of Westminster's Secondary School Social Outreach Award at a virtual celebration in June.

The school promotes an ethos of helping those in need, so when the pandemic hit and local families struggled, they decided to start a foodbank.

Ms Grace said: "I didn't know that I was nominated for the award personally. I thought it was the entire team so it was a bit of a shock when it was announced.

"This is not the reason we do things like this, we do it because we want to help people. It was clear, when the pandemic arrived, people were struggling.

"That was not just the case for our families but across the community and across the world, really. We knew we wanted to do something to help as many people as we could.

"It is not for the awards, but when you are recognised for helping others, it is a nice feeling. This award is not just for me but for the whole team."

With the support of Caritas Westminster and the construction company Wates, the foodbank has grown, is now housed in a port-a-cabin and serves 15-20 families each week.

The team, which includes students in older year groups, gave up time during holidays to ensure the foodbank keeps running.

Headteacher, Mr Coyle, said: "The team responded to need because every person in our school community has a right to a positive life and to the material and spiritual support required to live a truly human existence."



Westminster Diocese · 25/06/2021

'This award is for our team who have been amazing in their commitment to running the foodbank, together we have gone from strength to strength.'

Susan Grace, Assistant Headteacher @NCCBrent, has been recognised with a @CaritasVS #SocialAction Award: bit.ly/3vSbQPQ



Learning how to build healthy relationships



STUDENTS learned about the day-to-day realities of having a healthy relationship during drop-down day.

In the four relationship workshops, students were taught about staying safe but also what it takes to have a relationship go the distance.

They discussed real life issues such as friendships, families, consent, relationship abuse, sexual exploitation and having safe relationships online.

Student Benjamin said: "The class is very interesting because it talks about the realities of life, how relationships should

be 50/50 and how you shouldn't do things just to get something in return.

"You shouldn't give a gift just to get one in return, it should be about giving something to the other person in a relationship."

The students also learned about conflict resolution, cyber bullying and online grooming. Student Doyle said: "We learned that if a fight breaks out, then the best thing to do is to not get involved.

"If someone is cyber bullying you then the best thing to do is just ignore them and tell your parents."

Mentors lead the way at workshops

OUR students are learning to be future leaders thanks to a weekly mentoring workshop run by a community group.

The Westside Young Leaders Academy's dedicated team hold sessions at Newman Catholic College every Saturday.

Students of an African and Caribbean background aged 8-18, take part in a range activity aimed at boosting confidence, self-esteem and leadership skills.

They also run a scholar's programme which gives students the opportunity to win scholarships to top fee-paying independent schools.

Year 7 Martin said: "There was a big focus on leadership which I really loved because

I think it is important to have those types of skills when you are older.

"There lots of stuff about what we want to do as a future career and skills we will need to succeed. It was very interesting and helpful."

Founder and CEO David Okoro said: "I want to give these young boys and girls the guidance they need. These young people need help.

"The impact on the young people cannot be overstated. We are seeing less problems at home and at school. We are seeing that they are not falling into the traps set for them."

Around 70 students every week attend the session with plans to open an after-school club in September.



David Okoro @davidokor... · 12/06/2021 ...

Mr Coyle from @NCCBrent addressing Westside Young Leaders today. Welcome to the 12 new students who joined us today and have commenced on their leadership journey 🙌🙌🙌

Business ideas are a hit with Dragons

OUR students put the entrepreneurial skills, learned during their two-year BTEC Business Studies course, to the test in a Dragon's Den-style competition.

The sixth formers were tasked with coming up with their own business ideas, complete with a business plan which included a marketing strategy, running costs and projected profit.

The six students then had to present their ideas to a panel of Dragons who had the chance to bid for a percentage of the business.

The students were praised for the considerable effort they put into their business plans, the quality of the product and the creativity of their ideas.

Year 13 student Vitor's idea for a mobile cocktail bar pedibus started a bidding war between all five Dragons.

He decided to take the £70,00 offer, for 40 percent of his business, from PE teacher Mr McCrann.

He said: "It was a great project that I really got a lot out of."

"This course has taught me a lot about business and it is something that I do want to pursue in the future."

"The idea for the business came to me when I saw something similar in another country."

"It looked like a great idea and something that would be great for London."

Assistant Headteacher Ms Grace was one of the Dragons. She said: "It was clear that the students had put lots of effort into their projects."

"The quality of the presentations and the business plans were excellent."

"The students had really creative ideas which would make excellent business."

"They had done their research and had some excellent products to sell."

"I think we have some future Dragons in the making."



Headteacher Mr Coyle leads an assembly during Pride Month. Below: Mr Coyle is pictured with Mr Jalil who is sporting a very colourful suit to mark Pride Month.

Taking pride in being yourself is hugely important

HEAD of Sixth Form, Mr Jalil, talks about the work done throughout Pride Month and making Newman a safe space for everyone.

To celebrate Pride Month, our Headteacher Mr Coyle led an assembly where he talked about the whole history of pride.

A few years ago, we had the privilege of Sir Ian McKellen visiting our school and we had a presentation from the charity Stonewall.

Since then, we are continuing that conversation and talking about all aspects of Pride.

People will often ask why

is there still a need for Pride, but as long as people don't feel comfortable expressing themselves, we will have to continue to have this conversation.

Newman is a place where you can be yourself and spread your wings.

We want to ensure that everyone feels safe and protected.

We also want to remind people that pride is not just for those people who identify as LGBT+, but it's for everyone. Even if you don't identify, you can still be an ally. You can also identify or be an ally while still having faith.

It's not just the students that we need to teach about acceptance but also us teachers. We are looking into where discrimination comes in all forms.





Students Martin and Samuel proudly hold their Jack Petchey certificates.

Petchey awards for hard workers

INSPIRING students have been rewarded for their leadership, talent and volunteering with Jack Petchey awards.

Year 7 students Martin and Samuel, Year 9 Moussa, Year 10 Antonio and Year 11 Dhruv were each given certificates for their contribution to the school community.

Alongside the certificates, they have all been awarded a £250 prize, which they say will be used to benefit the school.

Dhruv has campaigned on behalf of the school and made a contribution to the wider community, through his work with London Citizens.

He said: "I am really proud of myself for getting the Jack Petchey award. It is nice to

see the efforts I have made, on behalf of the school and community, rewarded.

Year 7 student Samuel received the Kindness Towards Others award for always helping his classmates who are struggling with their lessons.

He said: "I was surprised when I got it but I was also really happy. I get a good feeling from helping people, so it was nice to get an award for that.

Martin plans on spending his grant on PE equipment. He said: "It is great to be able to give something back to the school because they are so good at helping out students."

Moussa was recognised for his work, volunteering with the foodbank. He said:

"It's nice because I am helping those less fortunate."

"I want to give the grant to the food bank so we can help out more people."

Happy to help you

SAFER Schools Officer, Gary Weedon (inset), talks about his work and this year's summer camp programme.

I am in a unique position as a Safer Schools Officer, here at Newman Catholic College, because I think I'm the only officer in London who has their own office right in the school.

I'm here every day and the students see me as part of the community and not just as a police officer.

Since I have an office here, the students know where I am and if there's something they want to talk about, they can feel comfortable coming to me.

Sometimes students can get a little intimidated when they see police officers come to the school in our uniforms and it creates an 'us vs them' scenario. If they see the uniform, they don't see the person.

It's helping us create a more harmonious relationship between the police and the community. I run a series of workshops on things like grooming, sexting and online safety.

In addition, the summer camps that we run have been a great success. When we started out, five years ago, there were 40 kids and now we're up to 100.

We ask the kids what they're into and we tailor our activities to them, whether that's football, cricket or BMX bikes.

One ongoing project we have is we take bikes, that we've seized, in the streets and the kids learn to upgrade them.

It shows them how to take care of things and gives them that real sense of ownership.

Another project, which is popular, is cooking. The kids learned to bake and the local bakery offered them apprenticeships.

It's great because Brent looks after their own. I am proud to count myself among the community.

I hope to see some of you there.



YEAR 8 students John, James and Kyle made solving the Rubik's Cube look very easy.

TWEET OF THE TERM



Tony Breslin @UKpolicy... · 17/06/2021 ···

Remember boys that some of the friendships you have made @NCCBrent in #Harlesden will remain with you for life, and that your memories of schooling will continue to inspire you; you'll gather new friends along the way but always value education and the values of your education!

Foodbank boosted by fresh garden produce

THE school's chaplain has helped transform a weed patch into a community garden which creates fresh vegetables for the foodbank.

As part of the Faith in Action programme, Chaplain Mr Roche, has reclaimed areas that were overgrown, with the help of students.

The garden produces everything from cucumbers and courgettes to spinach, chili peppers, potatoes and beetroot.

In addition to the school helpers, volunteers from Brent Mutual Aid come every Saturday to tend to the garden and vegetables.

Once the vegetables are ready to be picked, they go towards the foodbank, which is run every Friday.

Mr Roche said: "Some of the students said 'We can't even keep a plastic plant alive'. Now when they see me in my rubber gloves, they'll ask what they can do to help.

"We put out a call to those who use the foodbank, asking what they wanted and the word came back that they wanted fresh fruit and vegetables.

"Now with, our garden, we can make that happen and give people the food they need. We're always talking to the students about looking after God's creation because, if we don't do it, then who will."

We are grateful to the Wates Group for donating wheelbarrows, a pick axe and four spades.

Newman Catholic College Chaplain, Mr Roche, has put a lot of effort into the community garden.

A SIXTH FORM student went from taking selfies to having his photos shown in an exhibition. Nisar was tasked with photographing what was important to him and chose his boxing class, a home cooked meal and his friends. He said: "I had only taken selfies before but I learned an awful lot from this showcase. The point of the boxing is not to fight but that it's good for your health and mind. If you choose nice people to be friends with, they will put you up and not down."

Book worms just love new reading programme

STUDENTS spend half an hour at the end of everyday reading, thanks to a new literacy initiative.

The Drop Everything and Read initiative sees students read for 30 minutes before the bell rings every day, with books picked from the library.

As part of the programme, the school has introduced a reading challenge, with students

awarded gold, silver and bronze for reading a certain number of books from a wide variety of genres.

Ms O'Malley said: "Since we introduced Drop Everything and Read, there has been a lot more discussion around the school about books and reading. It has been wonderful to see the students really engaged.

"At home, we are competing with Netflix

and video games so it's hard to get students reading, but when it is the end of a school day, they seem to enjoy it."

Year 7 Ayman has already achieved the gold certificate for reading, after completing 15 books, from six different genres.

He said: "I love reading, particularly mystery books but I have enjoyed reading the other genres like fantasy and science fiction."

OUR Year 7 Mental Health Ambassadors have been supporting students at primary school in their transition to Newman Catholic College.

The ambassadors have been trained in their specialist roles, by the school, to support their peers. They have been putting their training in team work, leadership and communication skills to good use, in this initiative between Newman Catholic College and Brent Council, which supports year 6 students.

Our Year 7 ambassadors have been sharing ideas, as well as creating projects based on their experiences of transitioning to secondary school.

Year 7 Don-Ice said: "Going to secondary school from primary school can be a bit nerve wracking but we wanted to show the younger students how nice it is at our school.

"They may be a bit worried but they will be well looked after here and they will make lots of friends. If they have any problems then they can talk to us."

Year 7 Connor said: "I wanted to be a champion because I like helping people. It was only a year ago I was at primary school.

"Everyone is a bit nervous going to secondary school but we are here to help."

Everyone is nervous going to secondary school but we are here to help...

Connor, Year 7

Helping students make next step

Antonio's a good sport



KIND-HEARTED student, Antonio, has been volunteering at major sporting events for St John's Ambulance.

The year 10 student has provided first aid at places such as Wimbledon, Lord's Cricket Ground and the Euro 2020 Fan Zone.

He also provides training on basic first aid during the summer camps, which are run in partnership with the police.

While his work can sometimes be scary, he said the biggest thing he has gained from his training is to always remain calm.

He said: "I have found myself in some real emergency situations — life and death — and the most important thing to do is to remember your training.

"If you do, then you can stay calm and you can help the people in trouble. It can be a scary moment but you are there to do a job."

Duo pop back from university

FORMER students Joshua and Vishal took time out from their university studies to visit the school in June. Joshua is studying maths and economics at Queen Mary's while, Vishal is studying pharmaceutical science at Kingston





HEADTEACHER, Mr Coyle, addresses Westside Young Leaders.



TUG of war in the sunshine, during break.

PHOTO CALL



WONDERFUL artwork from our students.



OUR London Citizens group had their final meeting of the academic year, in June.



YEAR 13 geography students took a field trip to an urban development.



STUDENTS have been invited to join a very select new school club; archery. They have been practicing their aim and techniques with a bow and arrow.



OUR students are pictured refining their boxing skills.



YEAR 8 students get in some practice ahead of Sports Day.



YEAR 7 students showed off their cooking creations.