



Newman Catholic College

Everyone Counts
Everyone Contributes
Everyone Succeeds

NEWSLETTER

Winter 2021



Bashy's wise words

Former student addresses students for Black History Month

ACTOR, rapper and former student, Bashy, got a rapturous applause as returned to the school to mark Black History Month.

The star, whose real name is Ashley Thomas, talked to youngsters about his career in music and television before taking questions.

He discussed hard-work, being ambitious, the meaning of success, self-confidence, the support from his family, and mental health during the visit in October.

He was quizzed by students on his career, his time at Newman Catholic College and life growing up in a Caribbean household in Harlesden.

Bashy – whose acting credits include *Shank*, *Black Mirror* and *Top Boy* – said: “As Caribbeans, we carry a lot of traumas; slavery, discrimination. My grandparents came from Jamaica and Dominica. They came here poor.

“They worked hard, we lived in a council estate, and we did not have much money, but we made the best of our situation.”

Bashy added: “I’m one of the lucky ones, there are loads of men and women who aren’t that lucky. I’ve got love for you all and I want you to do well. I want you to win.”

After studying at the prestigious BRIT School, his musical breakthrough began with hit song *Black Boys* before pursuing acting roles. He recently starred in the

critically-acclaimed American drama, *Them*.

Teacher Mrs Beirne Francis said: “We didn’t have the studio, we had room 48 with a tiny little stage. It was on this stage that Ashley started to tread the board, as we say. He always wanted to act.”



I am one of the lucky ones. There are loads of men and women who aren't that lucky. I've got love for you all and I want you to do well. I want you to win...

BASHY



Students were enthralled to hear what Bashy had to say, above. The former NCC student is pictured here playing the Artful Dodger in the school production of *Oliver*.



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Donations help boost supplies at food bank

STUDENTS from local Catholic sixth form St Dominic's have donated boxes to our food bank.

Students at the sixth form have been collecting food essentials and toiletries as part of an enrichment project.

They got an insight into the running of the food banks from custodian Ms Grace when delivering six boxes to Newman in November.

Assistant Principal at St Dominic's Naomi Ross said: "We have been incredibly impressed by what Newman have achieved with their food bank. It really is a show of faith in action."

"It has inspired our students to help out and they specifically choose this food bank to help



Kind students from St Dominic's recently donated to our food bank.

as part of their enrichment project. A total of 25 are involved.

St Dominic's Year 12 student, Mariam, said: "Since the pandemic many families in our local community have been struggling, it's all different types of people now."

"We really wanted to help the Newman

food bank because it is close to our hearts and they are doing amazing things to help their local community."

Assistant Headteacher, Ms Grace, said: "At this time if the year in particular it is important to help out those in our school and community who need support."

Brilliant university challenge

BRIGHT Year 9 students have completed a degree-level six-week programme aimed at boosting their chance of getting into a top university.

Under the instruction of a PHD tutor, pupils have been learning about classic literature in a historical context as part of their participation in the Brilliant Club.

The combined history and English literature project saw students complete a 2,000-word university style dissertation.

There are also plans to visit a top university where they will get the chance to sign on lecturers, tour the campus and met current student undergraduates.

The Brilliant Club is an award-winning university access charity that works with schools to increase the number of pupils from underrepresented backgrounds progressing to top universities.

Year 9, John Ray, said: "It was a very interesting programme because it combined two subjects that I really enjoy, history and English and business."

"It was a much more challenging type of learning because the stuff we were learning was more advanced than what we learn in class."

Student Kyle, said: "The classes were really interesting and it was great working with a PHD researcher because they have a very deep understanding of the subject."

"It has really helped me focus on my future and my aim now is to get a place at a very prestigious university. The Brilliant Club has inspired me"



Brilliant Club students tested themselves on a six-week degree-level programme.

Duo promise to support students



Newly-elected Head Girl and Boy, Maryam and Tyler.

OUR newly-elected Head Boy and Girl have vowed to give a voice to the students at Newman Catholic College following their election victory.

Maryam and Tyler stood on a platform of more representation for students at the school during a hard-fought campaign.

Tyler has pledged to give the sixth form area a makeover while Maryam wants to use her position to encourage younger female students discuss their issues.

Maryam said: "I am so happy to have been

chosen as Head Girl, it is a huge honour for me. I will dedicate myself straight away to making good on the promise I made prior to the election.

"I worked in preparation for this moment and so my plans are prepared and ready to go.

Maryam, said: "This is a wonderful school that offers excellent opportunities for students.

"I want the younger female students to know that if they have an issue that they feel they would rather not tell a teacher, then they can come to me."

Callum takes a leading role

YEAR 9 Callum created a video which has been shared with students across year groups as the school marked Anti-Bullying Week.

The student has been campaigning against bullying at the school since joining in Year 7, and this year took a leadership role in the week-long event.

The school also encouraged students to wear odds socks to celebrate the difference between us, among a range of other activities.



Year 9 Callum (inset) said: "This school takes a very tough stance when it comes to bullying but even the best can improve. My mission since starting the school is to stamp out bullying.

"Anti-bullying week is a time when we can reflect on what is happening and to make improvements. It

was a great privilege to be able to run my own assembly."

Headteacher, Mr Coyle, said: "We are very pleased that the students have responded so positively to our anti bullying message. We are constantly making strives to improve our school environment."

Bright Sparx have tools to tackle maths

STUDENTS are getting a boost to their maths thanks to free access to an award-winning learning tool launched at Newman Catholic College.

Sparx Maths is being provided to schools across Brent, including Newman Catholic College, thanks to sponsorship from the team behind the construction HS2 at Old Oak Common station.

Balfour Beatty, Vinci and Systra, known collectively as BBVS, will provide funding for the programme for up to 7,000 students in Brent for five years.

Homework tool, Sparx Maths, which is used by 1.7m students, features quizzes and tutorials to help improve student learning.

Speaking at the launch of the initiative in October, Colin Hegarty, Director of Education for Sparx Learning, said: "They knew me because a lot of them have listened to my videos so they were a bit shocked that I actually exist.

"It's our expectation that classes using Sparx Maths will have a 100 per cent homework completion rate, which helps



Director of Education for Sparx Learning, Colin Hegarty, talks to students.

students to really learn about the power of practice to improve.

Head of Maths at NCC Miss Vitamore said: "Sparx Maths encourages independent learning and we've seen a real improvement

in students' progress in maths.

"Mathematics is a vital foundation for so many professions and Sparx Maths will help our teachers to develop the engineers, architects, construction experts, of the future."

Headteacher Mr Coyle speaks of his delight at another term of hard work and kindness from all at Newman Catholic College.



AS CAN be seen from this vibrant NCC newsletter, it has been a wonderful few months at this marvellous school.

Teaching is a human activity and, as such, is based on the quality of human relationships.

We are fortunate that this school is characterised by first class relationships throughout.

As such, not only does our core business of teaching and learning thrive, but also the wider elements of school life, in this part of North-West London.

It has also become apparent in these turbulent and difficult times that high-quality relationships help support resilience and fortitude.

Our school has been conscious of the dangers of the pandemic and has, for example, had universal mask-wearing since September. Such compliance has protected our community.

The pursuit of the "Common Good" is a further key feature of this school.

We are engaged in daily acts of kindness towards each other, we offer a weekly foodbank for those who are experiencing food shortages and, this Christmas, we are giving away hampers and vouchers to those who really need them.

One day, perhaps a book will be written which illustrates all that schools do to make our country a better place.

When that book is published, do not be surprised to discover NCC at its heart.

Finally, I'd like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas. I hope you have a well-deserved break. We will see you next year.

**MORE UPDATES
ONLINE AT
ncc.brent.sch.uk**

Paying our respects



The school came to a standstill for a two minute silence on Remembrance Day.

YOU could have heard pin drop as our students marked Remembrance Day with a keenly observed two minutes silence.

A hush descended over the school playground as over 800 students took the time to pay their respects to our fallen military heroes.

A moving rendition of 'The Last Post' was played in the school playground to reverential audience before students returned to classrooms.

There were also assemblies and special in class projects throughout the day to mark the occasion.

Headteacher Mr Coyle said: "There were over 800 students in the playground in complete silence.

"I was incredibly moved at how respectful and mature our students were when paying their respects."

Helping youngsters



The fundraising event for Syrian child refugees and Lebanese students was well-attended.

SCHOOLS from across London, a bishop and local politicians were in attendance at an event aimed at raising funding for an education programme for children in Beirut.

The Constantinian Charitable Trust (TCCT) is working with a network of London schools to support an afterschool education programme based in the Lebanese capital.

Our Headteacher, Mr Coyle, was among a host of speakers at the event which was hosted at Newman Catholic College in September.

The project is seeking to create a three-year higher education training programme based at

the Dekwanh Centre, South East Beirut, and the Ain El- Remmaneh Centre, South Beirut.

It is part of a two-year fundraising drive to help displaced Syrian child refugees and disadvantaged Lebanese students.

Mr Coyle said: "It was very much a show of faith in action with people coming together from our community and beyond to make a positive difference in the lives of others.

"It is a project very close to our hearts here at Newman Catholic College and we are delighted to have received such incredible support."



Artist, Keisha Morgan, gave an insightful address to our students as part of this year's Black History Month celebrations.

Awesome events help mark Black History Month

THE school marked Black History Month with a series of activities and events celebrating current and historical BAME figures.

Actor, rapper and former student Bashy talked to youngsters about his Caribbean heritage before taking questions from students.

Artist Keisha Morgan took an assembly for all students, discussing her poetry and there was also a podcast with Headteacher Danny Coyle and Ugly Dogs Don't Cry author, DD Armstrong.

Meanwhile, each subject department at the school was tasked with developing their own Black History Month-inspired project.

There was also an inspiring talk from the Westside Young Leaders Academy which focused on the historical timeline of African leaders.

Teacher, Ms Donne, said: "Black History Month is an incredibly important time for Newman Catholic College because it gives us time to reflect on the many achievements of the black community."



Ugly Dogs Don't Cry author, DD Armstrong, meets some of our students.

Sessions focus on African monarchs



WESTSIDE Young Leaders have been teaching our students about the long history of African Kings and Queens to mark Black History Month.

Instead of focusing on slavery, students have been given an alternative vision of black history as part of the insightful sessions.

Year 9, Joene, said: "You sometimes feel in your education that the only thing that they teach you about is black people being slaves."

"That is not how I want to see myself, so learning about the line of Kings and Queens in Africa was very inspiring to me."

"It is really important that you know your history because then you know who you are and how to impact the world in your time. Westside Young Leaders are very good at that."

WEMBLEY Stadium played host to a borough-wide careers event attended by our sixth form students.

They were among more than 100 youngsters looking to gain an insight into life working in investment banking and finance as well as jobs in law, construction and government.

Multinational firms hosting talks and workshops at the My Future Careers event, held in November, included BlackRock, Goldman Sachs and Aviva Investors.

Other workshop sessions were delivered by the Ministry of Defence and local contractors John Sisk & Son and the Wates Group.

Students also heard from Gavin Lewis (BlackRock) and Kene Ejikeme (Goldman Sachs) about their personal journeys in investment banking.

Student Haneef, said: "It was a fantastic way to expand my knowledge about different careers. I particularly liked the fact that they used genuine people from similar backgrounds as myself.

"It was especially useful to gain detailed information about apprenticeships, as people my age are often less informed about this route into employment as there is a huge focus on university."

Meanwhile, the school and its partners came together in October to host a careers event.

Our sixth form students attended the careers fair aimed at raising awareness of future employment prospects and supporting developing job opportunities.

An added focus was on employment prospects for members of the Black community at the event held at Brent Civic Centre.

Headteacher, Mr Coyle, said: "Brent is a great place in which to work and live and this event is designed to support the incredibly talented people in our borough."

Head Girl, Maryam, said: "It made me think about the career I want to go into and what I need to do in my studies to get there."

The school partnered with Brent Council, Ultra Education, West Side Young Leaders, Young Brent Foundation and Jason Roberts Foundation.

Our students heard from a panel of five successful professionals at the annual Women's Conference hosted at the school.

The panellists shared their stories and answered students' questions.

Speaker, Tanvir Hasan, is an architect who has worked on heritage sites all around the world.

She said: "Being a person of multiple ethnicities, connections and heritage, makes you a person who can communicate and bring more colour to the world."



Careers event has plenty of options



Sixth form students gained a lot from the careers event at Wembley Stadium.

Resilience key to sessions

STUDENTS took their learning beyond the classroom at a specialist drop down day, focused on developing resilience.

They took part in four themed sessions where they learnt about the danger of crime, how to perform CPR, health and wellbeing as well as yoga and self-defence.

Year 7, Riel, said: "Learning how to do CPR was important because one day I might need it to help out a friend or

member of my family."

Fellow Year 7, Charles, said: "My favourite part was the session with the police officer who taught us about the dangers of getting involved with the wrong crowd."

Yousef added: "I liked two CPR and the police officer sessions. They were both very informative and helped me understand more about how to deal with certain situations."



SIXTH FORM students got the chance to try a range of different cuisines during a trip to Box Park Wembley.



Mr Coyle was delighted to meet supporters of Zico's former club, Flamengo, who kindly donated much-needed items to the school's foodbank.

Brazil legend sends message to school

INTERNATIONAL footballing legend, Zico, sent a personalised video message to our Headteacher, Mr Coyle, thanking him for our foodbank.

Zico's former team in Brazil, Flamengo, have a supporters' club in London who earlier this year donated to our school foodbank.

The supporters' club still have a connection with Zico, and encouraged Mr Coyle to record a video message to the soccer superstar.

And, although he is now busy coaching football in Japan, the World Cup star took the time to record a 'thank you' message to Mr Coyle.

In it, he thanked him for the hard work the school is doing to support the community locally with the foodbank.

Mr Coyle said: "As a young football fan, Zico was a big hero of mine. Growing up watching him in World Cups is one of my fondest memories.

"For him to record a special message for our school, and to praise us for our foodbank, is really very special."



Brazilian football legend, Zico, took time to send a message to the school from his home in Japan.

Zico was a big hero of mine. Growing up, watching him in World Cups, is one of my fondest memories...

HEADTEACHER, MR COYLE

Officer's accolade



OFFICER Gary Weedon says he is absolutely delighted after winning the Safer School Police Officer of the Year award.

PC Weedon is a familiar face around the school, helping out with our holiday camps and being on hand to support our students.

And it seems his hard work and dedication has not gone unnoticed after being nominated by his boss, Sergeant Sheer, at the local police station.

Sadly, PC Weedon was unable to attend the ceremony – held at Scotland Yard – as he was having surgery, but he was grateful to receive the honour.

He said: "To be honest, I was chuffed because it shows that the hard work I put in has paid off.

"I was glad to be nominated but it is about the relationship I am able to have with the students because I am around so much.

"That is down to the school because they have been great with allowing me to develop relationships with the students.

"This is the model of how it should be at all schools. This is what helps to bring down barriers and allows for us to have a better relationship with the community."

TOP TWEET



Newman Catholic Coll Retweeted

Dawn Butler MP 🍷💙🇬🇧 · 21/11/2021

We have some amazing schools in Brent. Newman is one of the best! So much love and care for the students and the staff.



STUDENTS got a taste of the opera at Christmas-themed show.



BRIGHT Year 10 students got a first-hand insight into life at one of the world's top universities on a trip to Magdalene College Oxford.

PHOTO CALL



OUR sixth form students organised a surprise birthday for teacher Mr Hughes.



OUR students took the opportunity to watch 'All the beds I have slept in.' This play was based on the experiences of the actors who came to the UK as teenage asylum seekers.



YEAR 11 pupils demanded action climate change in an assembly.

EVERY afternoon students have the chance to develop their intellectual curiosity, learn a new school or play a wide variety of sport, as part of our range of extended after-school activities.



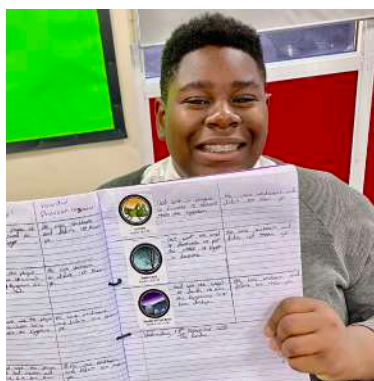
LOCAL Italian restaurant, Terra Trattoria, gave students a masterclass in how to make bruschetta.



STUDENTS made food from Jamaica to mark Black History Month.



OUR new Student Council leaders, Wali and Moussa of Year 10.



YEAR 8 students showcased their RE classwork with pride.



STUDENTS learned the value of teamwork when planting bulbs for the Spring bloom.