



The Newman

Your College Newsletter

Issue 38 May 2025



Royal Visit to Newman Catholic College

Newman Catholic College was visited by a member of the Royal Family on the 7th May. The Duchess of Edinburgh visited the school through her patronage of London Children's Flower Society. The visit gave Newman Catholic College an opportunity to celebrate the school's Gardening Projects, our Community Work including our Foodbank and Community Garden, and to discuss the work of our school.



A number of dignitaries were invited to the event, including Councillor Tariq Dar MBE, Mayor of Brent, Shirley Parks, Director of Education Partnerships and Strategy at Brent Local Authority, and members of the London Children's Flower Society. The governing body was represented by Mrs Serena Balfour.

The Duchess's visit commenced with a tour of the school's entrance gardens, led by Mr John Roche, Chaplain, and Ms Joanne Englishby, Care Lead for Looked After and Disadvantaged Students. Her Royal Highness had the opportunity to view the memorial garden and front lawn, and was introduced to students actively involved in the school's Sixth Form Enrichment Gardening Club.

A special moment followed as The Duchess planted commemorative 'Duchess of Edinburgh Chrysanthemum' flowers and potted 'Duchess of Edinburgh Clematis', symbolising her continued support for the London Children's Flower Society and for Newman Catholic College.

The visit then continued to the NCC Foodbank, established in partnership with Caritas, a Catholic charity, during the Covid-19 lockdown. Led by Ms Sue Grace, Assistant Headteacher, Her Royal Highness met with dedicated student and staff volunteers, learning about their vital work in supporting the local community. H.R.H. accepted a donation of school-made strawberry jam, which had been made by the foodbank volunteers.

In the main school site, Her Royal Highness and Ms Murphy, Deputy Headteacher, then introduced the chairs of the NCC Student Council and our Head Boy and Head Girl, and Ms Patel (Link Worker with AllChild). The Duchess also had the pleasure of meeting Apollo, the school's therapy dog.

Her Royal Highness was presented with special gifts from the school: a limited edition badge commemorating the Catholic Church's Jubilee Year of Hope, designed by the Head of Art, Ms Sachelle Linton, and a portrait of St John Henry Newman, the school's patron, by Year 10 student Osman Mohammed.

Mr Dunne says, "We were so pleased that Her Royal Highness came to recognise the work of staff and students both in the school grounds and in our community endeavours. The Duchess spent a lot of time in conversation with individuals taking a keen interest in their work, and she showed great knowledge of inner city education. It was a great experience for our students to meet her and share the story of Newman Catholic College with such pride".

Huge thanks to all of the staff and students who have worked tirelessly to ensure that both the grounds looked resplendent, but also that the visit was successful.



Photographs thanks to
<https://amandarosephoto.co.uk/>

Headteacher's Message

Welcome to this new format of 'The Newman'. It will be published at the end of each month, and will therefore be more up-to-date and concise. Any additional news stories from the month will be found on the news section of our website. Thank you for taking the time to explore our latest community and educational activities.

I would like to send my prayers to Pope Leo XIV as he begins his mission. May he guide the church on its path to peace, social justice and equality.

It has been a significant month for the school, and you will see we had a royal visit, but this edition contains many stories of student excellence, adventure and learning. I hope these snapshots of life at Newman are heart warming and inspiring.

Mr Dunne



Performing Arts

Year 13 students went to the theatre to see 'The Revlon Girl, a play by Neil Anthony Docking. They are the most wonderful students, and they thoroughly enjoyed and understood the play. This is a testament to the work and opportunities the school has done with them



Geography Field Trip



On the 1st May Geography Year 10 and Year 12 Students took part in a Field Trip to Epping Forest. They used quantitative and qualitative methods by studying a river. They investigated how and how why river characteristics change as you go down stream. They explored the interactions between human and physical influences in impacting river environments and river discharge.

UKMT Junior Maths Challenge

Students from year 7 and 8 enjoyed taking part in the UKMT maths challenge at the start of the summer term. Hundreds of thousands of students around the UK sit the Junior Maths Challenge paper each year and only students scoring in the top 50% received certificates.

We are very proud to announce that are Carlos Bernal Ramirez, Lucas Da Silva, Mousa Mosa, Ridouan Abdulrahman, Guilherme Carvalho, Odell Grant, Milton Kalenga, Tony Trinh Nguyen and Riley Ranger are bronze certificate winners and Ali El Moussawi, Jordan Bongog, Justinray Cabaquit, Elliot Floris, and Kaua Ravi De Morais are all silver certificate winners.

There will, as always, be plenty of opportunity for students to get involved with Maths Challenges next year. We will continue to enter students from Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 for the individual challenges. The students involved this year have thoroughly enjoyed it and this would be a great experience for your son, so do encourage them to get involved in the new school year. For more information about UKMT please visit www.ukmt.org.uk



Citizenship

Stop bullying and racism

Always report racism

STOP RACISM



What is the racism in school?

- When someone is discriminated against (singled out) because of their race, the colour of their skin, their nationality, their accent or first language, or their ethnic or national origin
- Bullying is unwanted aggressive behavior by a person or group that targets another person or group. There is often a power imbalance that is either real or thought to be real. Bullies use their power to control, frighten, or threaten their victims.

If you are being bullied in school so you can talk to teachers or Head of Year because they will be help you in any situation.

Year 11 Citizenship students have created informative Posters as part of their course.

These are to spread awareness of different social issues. Skills include Critical Thinking and Debate: enabling students to analyse information, form reasoned arguments, and engage in constructive debate.

Community and Social Issues: Students explore various social issues and learn about the importance of community involvement and responsible citizenship.



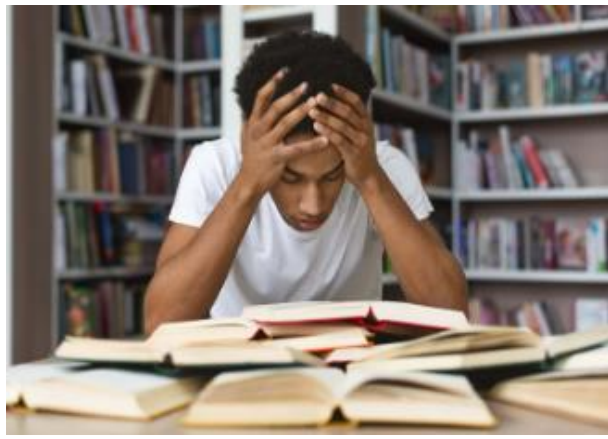
Safeguarding Updates

Mental Health - Suicidal Thoughts in Young People

Mental health is everything! Mental health is more than just a small part of our lives. It's connected to every little thing we do, every place we go and every person around us. Mental health is our physical health, our finances, our relationships. It's part of our defining moments and the day to day. It is not uncommon for young people to experience emotional distress or poor mental health as they navigate adolescence. However, any talk of hopelessness, self-harm, or suicide should never be dismissed or minimised. Suicidal thoughts are a clear indication that a young person is struggling and needs support. Recognising the signs can be difficult. Changes in behaviour, withdrawal from others, or increased risk-taking may signal deeper concerns. It's vital to create a safe, non-judgmental space where pupils feel able to talk. These conversations can be uncomfortable, but they can also be life-saving. Papyrus, <https://www.papyrus-uk.org/> a national charity dedicated to preventing suicide in young people, offers practical advice on how to take these concerns seriously and respond appropriately. See the link below for some practical tips:

Exam Revision and Stress – NSPCC

Out of 1,647 calls made to Childline <https://www.childline.org.uk/> from 1st April 2024 to the 31st March 2025 an average of 137 each month regarded exam or revision stress. This data set demonstrated a peak in May 2024, with 359 calls centred around these issues. That particular month showed an increase of two and a half over the norm. 50% were calls with young people aged 12 to 15, while 39% were from pupils aged 16 – 18. Childline has published a page breaking down this data, and is well worth the read. See the link below that provides students and parents with some practical tips on how to cope during exams. <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/> <https://tinyurl.com/54e2e5mb>



Art



Congratulations to Osman the winner of our Newman portrait competition. Osman painted this wonderful portrait of our school patron, St John Henry Newman. This was presented to the Duchess of Edinburgh



Sixth Form Enrichment

Congratulations to our Sixth Form Enrichment Hair and Beauty Students. They completed training to achieve their Hair and Beauty Diplomas with instructor and parent, Michele Hunter <https://www.michelelondon.com/>



Physical Education

Mr Finnie has arranged fortnightly Skiing sessions at the Snow Centre in Hemel Hempstead. The aim of these sessions is to enrich the lives of the students with opportunities to develop emotionally and physically through skiing. Thanks to Snowbility Charity for this opportunity



Jason Roberts
FOUNDATION

We appreciate our partnership with the Jason Roberts Foundation and the opportunities given to our students.

Our students took part in the Brent Community Cohesion event on Sunday 11th May which brought the community together through sport, culture and connection.

The foundation has empowered our students and given Sports Leadership responsibilities and part time paid work too.





Careers- Army Life

Year 10 Students took part in the Army 'Look At Life Experience' on Tuesday Tuesday 13 May 2025. It was a fun, immersive and interactive experience designed to show the best of what the Army offers.

Students experienced a rotation of activities involving weapons, vehicles and specialist roles. They were able to engage with Soldiers and Officers of all trades- combat, engineering, HR and Finance, chefs, IT and Communications, medical, logistics and music. The day highlighted the interpersonal skills required for a career in the Army.

'It was fun because I got to learn what jobs they did'
George

'Army look at life stayed true to its name. I learnt all the basics about what a day in the life of an army soldier is really like.' Victor

The ration's and survival skills showed us what you had to do to survive. The fitness challenge stretched your mental capacity' Josh

Apollo Our Therapy Dog

Apollo has turned 1 so he is now eligible for Therapy Dog Training. He is already having a positive impact with our students. Comments from students include .. *'I hated going to primary school but I love coming here, because Apollo makes me happy'*, *'When I am angry about something I come in and 5 minutes of stroking Apollo makes me forget why I was so angry'*, *'Apollo has helped me make friends with other boys.'* *'Apollo has made a big difference to me. He is a calming influence and a place I can go when I am angry and need to calm down.'* *'Apollo helped me de-stress before the mocks.'*



As a school we want Apollo to have the same positive impact with more students. Therapy Dog Training will enable this. Apollo and three adults will undergo a year long programme which encompasses tricks, advanced training, helping those with a fear of dogs and intervention strategies. Once completed Apollo will be a certified therapy dog and will go into classes and interact with many more students

Councillors Mushiso & Mohmood inspire the next generation of Politicians!

We were greatly privileged that two Councillors from opposing Parties: Councillor Mahmood, Labour for Ealing and Councillor Mushiso Conservative for Hounslow, came to our school.

They inspired our Year 10 pupils and Year 12 History and Politics pupils, to become the future generation to shape our country and deal with their current issues, for example, dealing with the Environment!

We learnt about how both Councillors arrived at their post with courage and determination....we heard how important it is to never give up and speak up for what we believe and know what is right. Well done to all of our pupils who listened intently and asked good questions.



Religious Education Habemus Papam-Pope Leo XIV



On May 8th Pope Leo was elected the 267th Roman Pontiff of the Catholic Church

Prayer for Pope Leo XIV

Faithful God,
You guide us on the path of life
and your goodness is our constant
companion.
Be with our new Shepherd, Pope Leo XIV,
in his service of the Church.
Fill him with the power of your Spirit,
the peace of your presence
and the compassion of Christ.
May he walk with you,
in wisdom and humility,
and lead us, together with all God's people,
to embody your love for the world. Amen.

Dates for your Diary

Summer Half Term: Monday 26 May 2025 – Friday 30 May 2025
Wednesday 30th May PTA Meeting 6.30pm
Saturday 5th July Community Day 1.00pm-4.30pm
Tuesday 15th July School Drama Production- 'Nation'.
Friday 18 July 2025 Term Ends
Staff Days: Monday 21 July 2025 and Tuesday 22 July 2025
 (School Closed to Students)



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