



The Newman

Your College Newsletter

Issue 42 October 2025



A New Block to Inspire Students

Cardinal Vincent Nichols officially opened the new Saint Carlo Acutis Block at Newman Catholic College

Newman Catholic College was honoured to welcome His Eminence Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster on October 15th, for the ceremonial opening and blessing of its new Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Additional Resource Provision Block; the "Saint Carlo Acutis Block". Named after the newly-canonised London-born saint, the facility houses the new special needs provision, marking a significant milestone in the school's commitment to inclusive Catholic education.

The event, which brought together leaders of local Schools and Trusts also building similar provisions, local Catholic Parish Priests, NCC Governors (past and present) instrumental in the design of the space, and representatives from Morgan Sindall, the contractors for the site. In the presence of the Cardinal, and students of Newman Catholic College, they celebrated the fruition of a project designed to offer specialised support to students. The new building is highly visible on the approach to the school, and is the second new block to be built on site in the past three years.

The Cardinal's visit commenced with the renewed blessing of the College Chapel, led by the Cardinal and representatives of the school's liturgy group. This day marked fifteen years and one day since the Cardinal himself originally opened and blessed the NCC chapel on October 14th 2010. His Eminence shared memories of his visits to the school as he spoke with students about the importance of our chapel space.

The official ceremony to open the Saint Carlo Block began with a symbolic gesture: Cardinal Nichols was invited to plant a new apple tree at the entrance, signifying growth and nurturing. This was followed by the cutting of the ribbon by the Cardinal and NCC student Keyondre Ebanks, and the unveiling of a commemorative plaque.



Blessing for 'Galilee'

The formal blessing ceremony, conducted within one of two new main classrooms, dedicated the new space to its mission. In his address, Cardinal Nichols spoke of the importance of providing a nurturing and specialised environment for all young people, particularly those with additional needs, and praised the school's dedication to its students.

The name Galilee was chosen to reflect where students can meet Christ and one another, find their strengths, and embark on a path of growth. Galilee also echoes the Middle Eastern heritage of some of our students. Saint Carlo Acutis' words were used to inspire students to celebrate their individuality and use their differences as a strength.

"The opening of the St. Carlo Acutis Block provision is not just about a new building; it's about renewing our promise to every student at Newman Catholic College," said Headteacher Andy Dunne. "We are incredibly grateful to Cardinal Nichols for his blessing and to everyone who has helped us create this truly special place where all of our students can flourish."

"All people are born as originals but many die as photocopies"

St Carlo Acutis



Headteacher's Message

Welcome to the latest addition of the Newman.

In the past 3 years, we have had two major developments on the school site, both buildings supporting the education of students with Special Educational Needs. The development of the Carlo Acutis block is an exciting vision of NCC's potential future, and we are proud to be supporting students with recognised needs in our local community.

In this latest Newman edition, there are some wonderful examples of the wide range of cultural experiences and visits from which our students benefit.

Student learning in class is always purposeful and focused: As we enter the season of Mock exams for Years 11 and 13, and in-class assessments for all other year groups, we wish our students the very best of luck.

We have hosted our NCC6th Open Evening, and Year 11 student applications to continue their studies here next year are welcome. We are pleased to continue expanding our curriculum offer, shared with the Sixth Form of St Claudine's School.

Best wishes and God Bless, Mr Dunne



Celebrating Black British authors in the library

To launch our Black history Month activities in school, the library, in collaboration with our Black Caribbean Heritage Student Coordinators Mr Albert and Mr Henry, welcomed back DD Armstrong for a discussion with Year 10 students. DD is an award winning author, filmmaker and playwright and he brought his book Ugly Dogs Don't Cry to share with our students. Ugly Dog's Don't Cry is currently included in Jacaranda Books Black History Month collaboration with Tesco.

The selected titles on sale in 55 Tesco UK stores celebrate the richness and diversity of Black narratives in a landmark partnership. Over traditional drinks and snacks DD and students enjoyed a wide ranging conversation about his journey to becoming a writer, his influences, working process and what he is currently working on, as well as discussing broader issues around representation in Literature and resilience in overcoming obstacles. Each student left with a copy of the book to read and we look forward to further discussions about it! Students have been invited to celebrate Black British authors in the library this month with a variety of titles to read.

Ms Bentley, Librarian

History of Early Number Systems

As part of the year 7 curriculum, students studied the development of early number systems around the world. Did you know that the oldest mathematical artefact currently known is the Lebombo bone? A tally stick with 29 notches, it has been conjectured that this is evidence of lunar calendar tracking and an example of time-based arithmetic logic. It was found in the Lebombo mountains in Swaziland and has been carbon dated at over 43000 years old. Students have the opportunity to learn about mathematics from around the world throughout the Newman maths curriculum by finding out about historical and modern-day mathematicians.



Students serving and ministering at our School Masses

Students and staff have embraced the new academic year at Newman. Prayers, the liturgy of the Word and alongside Form and Year group Masses. Tradition has it that all staff prayers start the term with Year 11 celebrating the first Mass of the year.

The Fides Actio (pupil liturgy team) is well established. Pupils are helping with setting up and delivering collective worship. Reading, serving and taking part in their own way.

We are blessed to have such an experienced team. During September the new Y7 students ask to join. This year there were more than usual volunteers. They are keen to get involved and support the prayer life of the school.

Arthur our chief server and eucharistic minister is on-board to assist in training and guiding the novice servers through the celebration of the Mass. Year 7 Fides Actio pupils were enrolled by Fr Brendan during their Y7 & 8 Mass. They were very excited and keen to be involved.



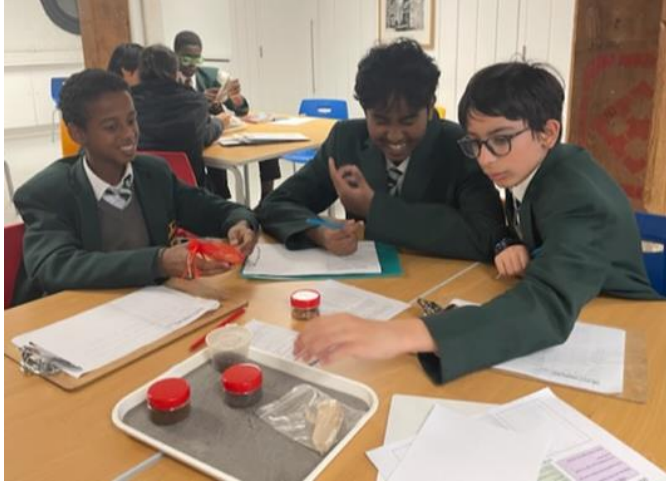
Mental Health and Well Being

Year 7 took part in a Mental Health and Transition workshop with Samsam (our Educational Mental Health Practitioner). The workshop focused on anxiety. Students learnt tools and relaxation techniques that will help them restore balance.



Young City Poets

Year 9 students visited the Museum of London Docklands, as part of the National Literacy Trust's Young City Poets initiative. The students enjoyed handling artefacts and learning more about the history of London's docks, trade routes and migration.



In partnership with
PILOT x **National Literacy Trust**
 Change your story

your **CITY**, your **VOICE**,
 your **POEM**.

London Rhyme
 London is not where I grew up,
 even though I sometimes think I did.
 I moved lots of times and
 I'm still able to use rhyme.
 I have many memories,
 so please do remember me.

Aboubakar, age 14
 Inspired by a visit to
 Oldfield Art Gallery

Young City Poets:
WHERE WILL YOUR WORDS TAKE YOU?
www.literacytrust.org.uk/young-city-poets-billboards



Congratulations to Aboubakar in 10J whose poem has been selected for a billboard campaign that Pilot Pens are running. Aboubakar took part in the Young City Poets competition last year.

Look out for Aboubakar's poem which will be displayed on billboards across the UK throughout November.

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Business Insight Visit to Snapchat Headquarters

Welcome to the world of Augmented reality! Year 13 A Level and Level 3 students have been working with Making the Leap makingtheleap.org.uk a social mobility charity that aims to make a big difference.

They work with young people to develop the skills, behaviours and attitudes that will allow them to fulfil their potential and get into meaningful employment. This visit focused on Degree Apprenticeships. They took part in the Snapchat 2025 Hackathon challenge, creating a lens or filter design that explores the idea of community.



Roehampton University Trip

In partnership with Into University <https://intouniversity.org/> Into University support young people to realise their ambitions, achieve their academic potential, develop vital skills and gain experience of the world of work.

Our students visited Roehampton university. They took part in a law workshop and had a tour of the University grounds.

