



The Newman

Your College Newsletter
Issue 44 December 2025



Pilgrims of Hope

Year 7 visit Westminster Cathedral for Advent Pilgrimage



Above: Students and staff gather outside Westminster Cathedral

Right: Students gather around the baptismal font, learning about John the Baptist.

On December 16th, the Year 7 students visited Westminster Cathedral in London to mark the Jubilee Year of Hope.

Our Chaplain, Mr Roche, led the trip to visit the seat of the Catholic Church for our Diocese of Westminster. The visit began with mass, which was celebrated in Latin,

Students were then treated to a guided tour of the cathedral, completing a pupil passport of the iconography and artwork in the Cathedral. Students had access to visit the altar, view the mosaics and statues of their patron saints, and even located the dedication to Saint John Henry Newman.

As the Year of Hope comes towards a close in January, we have focused this term on raising money for The Passage, a homeless charity based next to the Cathedral. We hope to share messages of hope with those people who rely on The Passage to support them, off them shelter, and find them work and stability. We thank all students for their charitable donations and support for the charity this term.



Headteacher's Message

Welcome to this seasonal edition of The Newman, the last of 2025.

In this issue, you will see the extensive community work that staff and students have undertaken in the build up to Christmas. A definite highlight of the term was the performance of "Treasure Island", and I would like to thank Ms Whittaker, Mr Joseph and the returning Ms Gunning for their tireless efforts in creating such a wonderful production.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all families, governors and community members for their support for our school. We all wish you a very Merry Christmas, and look forward to another successful year at NCC in 2026.

Merry Christmas and God Bless, Mr Dunne

A Level History Trip to Hampton Court Palace

Our Newman A Level Historians went to Hampton Court as part of their revision of Rebellion and Disorder in the Tudor Times. We had an excellent Tutor who took pupils through the steps of how to evaluate sources and link them to the context: Pupils were able to cross reference the evidence and use it to show how, for example, wealth in the Tudors changed over time and to recognise why the Tudors witnessed a Mid Tudor Crisis. Our pupils became experts into linking written evidence with the visual as they were being shown around the Tudor part of the Palace! Well done to our NCC6 Historians, who represented our school very well and showed what, as the Tutor kept saying, intelligent pupils you all are!



NCC in the Community

Community Engagement is something we want our students to be involved in as this helps them to become well informed individuals who believe they can make a difference in society.

We were invited to join the local community to decorate the Park Parade Christmas tree for the 3rd year running. Our Student Council, Foodbank volunteers and Staff gave their time after school to help. The purpose of the tree is to bring the community together and was initiated by local businesses Nilly Flowers and Janie Lightfoot Textiles. This event was attended by our local Councillors Mili Patel and Matt Kelcher.



Serge Betsen visits NCC

Year 10 PE Students were visited by Serge Betsen, former French Rugby Union and French International Player. He was very popular with our students and shared knowledge and experience with them. Serge is an advocate of Peace and Sport as a tool for dialogue and social cohesion. We are very grateful to Otis Roberts, our alumni from the Jason Roberts Foundation for making this visit possible.



www.ncc.brent.sch.uk

@nccbrent



The Last Days of Pompeii

Geography students visited the Pompeii Immersive Exhibition at Excel London. This transported them back to 79 AD to witness one of history's most dramatic events unfold. Students went on a journey through multiple rooms, showcasing reconstructed Roman architecture, vivid frescoes, artefacts and replicas. They saw recreated streets and domestic scenes, giving a textured sense of Pompeii's vibrant daily life before catastrophe struck. Their highlights included a 360-degree digital experience, a seated VR adventure where they entered the coliseum and witnessed a gladiator fight.



Sixth Form Enrichment

Every Wednesday afternoon our Sixth Form Students take part in Enrichment Activities. Our Sixth Form Enrichment Programme is designed to promote the skills needed to succeed in everyday life, developing "soft skills" that employers and universities look for, while also giving students the opportunity to find out more about their interests and develop cultural capital.

Sixth form enrichment activities can boost university and job applications by building skills like leadership, confidence, and time management, while also improving personal well-being, social connections, and subject understanding through unique experiences. These provide a well-rounded education beyond the classroom.

At Newman we offer Podcasting, Primary School Mentoring (thanks to Harlesden, Furness, Newfield and St Robert Southwell Schools) Floristry (thanks to Nilly Flowers) Gardening, Chess, Hair and Beauty, Innovative Opportunities exploring Careers in construction and engineering (thanks to Anita Whittaker), Fitness, Tennis (thanks to Will Jenkins and Elmwood Tennis Club) and Street Food/Cooking.



Treasure Island



Treasure Island was performed on Monday 15th and Wednesday 17th of December. The audience thoroughly enjoyed the show. Congratulations to our fabulous cast and crew of Treasure Island. What a pleasure to work with you all for the last three months, you have outdone yourselves. We are all so sad to see Ellie go, and wish her safe travels! Miss Whitaker



Former student Juan Diego delivers the first Inspire Lecture to current students

NCC hosted their first ever Inspire Lecture which is a workshop tailored directly to our boys to highlight excellence in different career fields so that students can see what having high aspirations can lead to for their life and career. It also allows our students to speak and network with industry specialists and ask questions specific to that career field. The workshop was delivered by Juan Diego and colleagues of his from Roche which is one of the leading data and Bio-tech labs within London and Europe. Juan Diego donated his time to return back to the school in order to talk to our current cohort of year 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 students (which totaled over 100 students) about his own journey in school and joining from Colombia with no English, to working hard during his GCSE's and time in sixth form and spoke about what he did to help him stand out and progress to where he is now. Juan Diego and his colleagues then had a Q&A session with our students where they expressed concerns or sought clarity on what it would be like to work within the science industry. Multiple students were engaged and had glowing feedback on the first Inspire Lecture.



AllChild X Reclaimed

This term AllChild started their sessions with Reclaimed, where they take a unfurnished piece of wood, and create a piece of Art. They boys have loved sanding the wood block to start their project off and painting it to start to bring some life into the wood block. They then have picked a image that where they will be nailing and creating string art! Stay tuned for the final product!



Christmas Jumper Day



Our chosen charity is The Passage <https://passage.org.uk/>. We had an Own clothes/Christmas Jumper Day and raised **£449.72**. Students and staff entered into the Festive Spirit. We also held two cake sales which were very popular and raised **£133**.