



The Newman

Your College Newsletter

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Nour wins the regional final of the Jack Petchey Speak Out Competition



Nour was presented with his award by Councillor Ryan Hack, The Mayor of Brent. Nour will be representing Brent at the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge semi finals after being named as the borough's winner. Our Year 10 student wowed the judges during his speech called "Brave Step Forward". He was praised for presenting such a confident and controlled speech about 'Escaping your comfort zone'. With references to those that inspired his speech (Tony Robbins, Nelson Mandela and most importantly his father), Nour was able to put across the seriousness of change being necessary in order to grow, which captivated his audience.

The Jack Petchey 'Speak Out' Challenge is a programme run by the Speakers Trust and funded by the Jack Petchey Foundation – a registered charity. The Speak Out challenge took place at Queens Park Community School. Nour has made it through to the semi-finals, where he will battle it out to gain a place in the final due to be held in the Cambridge Theatre, London, in the Summer.

Nour was supported by the Head of English, Miss Gallagher, Mrs Bentley (our Librarian), Friends and Family. Originally from Syria, arriving in Harlesden four years ago - Nour is an inspiring young man, with a dream to keep learning, helping others, and continuously improving himself through a future career in medicine. He is the epitome of his ultimate message; *'The magic happens, not in comfort, but in courage.'*

Nour said "I was nervous at the start but I was not there just to win but to enjoy the moment because moments like this are unforgettable and would stay with me forever. I could hear my own heart beat loudly echoing in my ears. [When they said] 'the first place goes to Nour', my heart relaxed filled with happiness. I could hear my English teacher saying well done and my friends Caleb and Ricardo ran and gave me a hug. That day was one of my best days ever."

Headteacher's Message

Welcome to this edition of the Newman for the first Half Term of 2026. Students have been excelling across the curriculum, no more so than Nour, who in the front cover story, has shown the importance of oracy and public speaking.

We will be moving towards a new catering company, Hertfordshire Catering Limited (HCL) by the end of March, and we look forward to investment in the kitchen facilities also.

Finally, on a personal message, I would like to inform the Newman Community that I shall be departing after sixteen wonderful years at NCC. I am taking the opportunity to lead my boyhood school from September 1st. Newman is a special place, and I shall follow its next chapter closely. Thank you to all members of the school community for your support over the years.

Warmest regards, Mr Dunne.

Extended School Activities



Every Red week Wednesday after school join Mr Hughes and Mr Griffiths for the Tea and Philosophy Club. They meet and discuss a wide variety of religious and philosophical issues, exploring life's big questions.



Puzzle Fridays at lunchtime on Friday in the Library. Join Mrs Bentley and get involved in solving puzzles!

Cooking up a storm!

Students in Years 9 and 11 have been engaged in preparing delicious dishes with Miss Taki. Year 9 made cheese and onion triangles. Year 11 made vegetable noodle stir fry. They have been learning knife cutting skills as well as preparing healthy food.

Key benefits of food technology in schools include:

- Life Skills and Health:** Students learn to cook, improving their self-sufficiency, confidence, and ability to make informed, healthy food choices for a balanced diet, which helps combat obesity.
- Academic Application:** The subject brings classroom learning to life, such as applying mathematical skills (weighing, measuring), science (biological and chemical reactions), and literacy (reading recipes, evaluating work).
- Safety and Hygiene:** Students learn the importance of food safety, hygiene, and safe equipment usage.
- Cultural and Social Awareness:** Students explore different, international, and traditional cuisines, fostering respect for cultural, social, and dietary diversity.
- Sustainability and Ethics:** The curriculum encourages understanding of food waste, environmental impact, and social responsibility within the food industry.
- Career Opportunities:** It introduces students to the hospitality and catering industry, helping them gain skills for future employment.
- Practical Skills Development:** Students learn to plan menus, budget, and use equipment independently.



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Careers Focus- Life in the Army Band

One highlight this term is definitely the visit of by the Army Engagement Ensemble. On January 20th we were the first school in London (and only one of four chosen) to be visited by them. This was only made possible by our ongoing partnership work with Warrant Officer Katherine Robinson. Students in Years 9 and 10 as well as staff were treated fantastic to musical performances.

A careers presentation also gave students a greater understanding of life in the British Army; who they are, what they do and how they contribute to society. The Army Engagement Ensemble are high-energy, contemporary brass band featuring British Army musicians on a variety of instruments including saxophones, trumpets, trombones, tubas and drums. Their music is more than just entertainment - it's a powerful tool for connection and engagement. The Royal Army Music Corps has more than 700 soldiers nationwide serving in a variety of bands. As a public face of the UK military, they provide support on ceremonial duties and build bridges with the community. Our students had the the chance to ask questions, meet and talk to the band afterwards.



A Beautiful Visual Rosary

Students created a beautiful Rosary display to accompany their new topic about how Catholics pray. as part of the RE curriculum, EAL KS3 Pathway class P3A made a Rosary for the RE class display. The activity formed part of their new Spring term topic, as they learn about how Catholics Pray, the Rosary and its mysteries.



Design a Badge Competition

The theme of this year's badge competition is **CREATION**.

St Francis of Assisi said that all creation was our brother or sister. He loved animals, birds and all of nature.

The badge is based on the life and preaching of St Francis of Assisi. This year is the 800th Anniversary of his death.

The winner will be announced in March, with their badge being made to share this theme for the year.



Personal Development

The curriculum teaches our students the necessary skills, knowledge and understanding they need to lead a positive, independent life and navigate their way through society. Our personal development curriculum has three strands including- Health and Well Being, Careers and Living in the Wider World, Relationships and sex education (RSE); citizenship and British values; personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE); religious education; careers; and wider enrichment opportunities.

This term in our Drop Down Days, we have focused on Health and Well Being with workshops on First Aid with Mr Finnie, AI Education with Anita Whittaker from Innovative Opportunities, Personal Safety with PSCO Martin Wells from Harlesden Kensal Green Police and Mental Health from the US Charitable Trust.

Year 7 recently had a Your Life You Choose Workshop <https://www.ylycbrentbarnet.org.uk/> arranged by the Brent Magistrates. The purpose of this is to deter young people from crime, raise awareness of the consequences of their choices and empower them to make better decisions and keep themselves safe. They had workshops from the Brent Magistrates, Daniel Spargo Mabbs Charity <https://www.dsmfoundation.org.uk/> Say No to Gangs and the London Ambulance Service.



Business Studies Visit to KPMG

Mr Albert and Mr Connors took a group of Year 12 and Year 13 students to KPMG's Canary Wharf office for an outstanding workshop which broke down the potential Career opportunities that could await our students in the future. Students were treated to a tour of the office, a breakdown of KPMG and had a eye opening session on AI. The day finished with students pitching their own Business ideas to KPMG staff. KPMG is a global organisation of independent services firms providing Audit, Tax and Advisory services. It is one of the Big Four accounting firms, along with Ernst & Young (EY), Deloitte, and PwC. KPMG advises key organisations across sectors like public service, finance, and healthcare on issues such as climate change, technology, and economic growth. The firm also collaborates with governments and non-profits to enhance public services and design social programs for communities.

