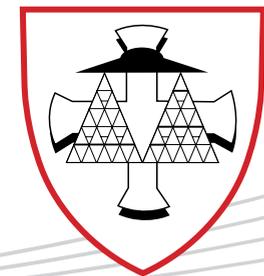


PROSPECTUS



NEWMAN
CATHOLIC SCHOOL





WELCOME

Selecting a secondary school is one of the most important decisions facing parents. This prospectus is designed to give you the essence of what it means to be a part of the Newman community. It cannot, however, replace the real thing, so we invite you to visit the school, to see us at work and to experience our special atmosphere. Every day is an "open day"! You are always welcome; simply contact the school to make an appointment.

VISION AND MISSION STATEMENT

At Newman Catholic School we are committed to the high achievement of all our students. We cultivate success and foster the highest aspirations through excellent teaching.

We are a learning community which has high expectations and actively seeks to celebrate the good in every individual. Newman Catholic School is built on the Christian values of trust, respect and compassion.

We inspire an enthusiasm for life-long learning and are committed to success for all.

"PASTORAL SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO ARE VULNERABLE, IS STRONG. FOR SUCH STUDENTS, SUPPORT BEGINS IN PRIMARY SCHOOL. THIS ENABLES STUDENTS TO TRANSFER INTO YEAR 7 WITH CONFIDENCE."

OFSTED 2015

"STUDENTS BEHAVE WELL AND ARE A CREDIT TO THE SCHOOL. THEY ARE SMART IN THEIR APPEARANCE."

OFSTED 2015



PASTORAL, PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AND WELLBEING

Strong pastoral care is vital to our success and creates a happy, caring atmosphere. As a smaller school, we get to know our students well. This strong pastoral care enables us to support our students in their academic work, varied extra-curricular activities and in their individual development.

Students are placed in form groups with a form tutor. Daily tutor time in form groups fulfils several roles. Firstly, it assists with the smooth running of important routine tasks – registration, sharing information and contact with parents. Secondly, it provides a solid framework for pastoral care and allows time for reflection and collective worship.

Tutors meet with their students on a one-to-one basis regularly to monitor progress and set targets. Students have a clear understanding of their targets and how to achieve them.

Tutors usually stay with their tutor group from Year 7 until the end of Year 11, so that tutors get to know their students well. Heads of Year and tutors ensure that no student's needs are overlooked.

Students' progress, positive attitude, good attendance and effort are rewarded.

There are times when sanctions are required and at Newman we have high standards of discipline, trust and respect. Poor behaviour or breaches of the school's code of conduct are taken seriously and sanctions include detentions at break, lunch time or after school. Parents are contacted in cases of serious misconduct, and the school may use the support of outside agencies, the isolation room or, rarely, exclusion, referring matters to the governing body.

"LEADERS AND GOVERNORS HAVE GOOD ARRANGEMENTS IN PLACE TO KEEP STUDENTS SAFE."
OFSTED 2015

"LEADERS HAVE ENSURED THAT THE SCHOOL IS A CALM, ORDERLY PLACE WHERE STUDENTS BEHAVE WELL." OFSTED 2015



CURRICULUM, TEACHING AND LEARNING

Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 form Key Stage 3 of the National Curriculum and follow courses in English, mathematics, science, religious education, Spanish, ICT, PE, history, geography, design and technology, art, music and citizenship. Students are assessed on a regular basis to ensure they are placed in the appropriate groups or ability sets. At the end of Year 9 students choose the subjects they will take at GCSE.

In Years 10 and 11 – Key Stage 4 – students work towards GCSEs and continue to study the core subjects of English, mathematics, science, religious education, PE and ICT. Beyond that, the curriculum has a choice of pathways so that every student can succeed – traditional academic subjects to GCSE, vocational courses, or practical, work-related options. We have excellent links with employers, colleges and universities to broaden further our curriculum.

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Attendance

We ask parents to report a student absence as soon as possible by telephoning the attendance line on 01228 404769.

This should be confirmed by writing a note in the student's planner or sending a note to his/her tutor. Good attendance is fundamental to success; when children are absent it is difficult to catch up on lost time for course work and missed lessons. Please take family holidays during the school holidays and, where possible, arrange non-urgent medical or dental appointments for after school or during holidays. Students have individual attendance targets and those who achieve excellent attendance are eligible for attendance awards. If your child's attendance gives cause for concern, the school will contact you.

Charging for school activities

Your child's education is free. You may, however, be asked to pay for optional extras occurring wholly or mainly outside school hours. You may also be asked for voluntary contributions for educational visits/activities organised by the school which take place during school time. You may also be asked to pay for the materials for some practical subjects where you wish to have the finished product. Children are not excluded from any activities on the grounds that a voluntary contribution has not been paid. If parents have difficulty meeting the costs of any school activities they should approach the school in confidence and we will try to support families.

Safeguarding

The school has a nominated member of staff responsible for child protection/safeguarding and follows the procedures set out by the Local Area Safeguarding Board.

Contacting school

Parents are always welcome in school to discuss anything concerning their children. It is helpful to telephone to make an appointment so that we can make sure the relevant member of staff is available. Very often it will be most

helpful to talk with a student support officer, the student's tutor or a Head of Year.

Dining rooms

Meals are prepared in the school kitchen and served in modern, attractive, purpose-built dining rooms. We run an "à la carte" system, with a selection of meals and snacks. We also offer a breakfast and break time service. Students entitled to a free school meal can have a hot or cold lunch from the school dining room. If you think you may get help with this, contact Cumbria County Council, Children's Services by logging on to www.cumbria.gov.uk.

Encouragements and rewards

Positive attitude, achievement and good attendance are recognised. Parents are informed of students' helpful contributions in school. Students who demonstrate consistent positive behaviour and effort are rewarded with a rewards trip at the end of the year. There are also cups and trophies for sport, academic achievement, music and attendance which are presented to individuals and form groups.

Equal opportunities

Equal opportunities is a broad term encompassing a large number of important issues including:
Equality of Opportunity - gender, race, class
Equality of Opportunity - access to the Curriculum
Equality of Opportunity - raising achievement for all

Newman makes explicit its support of equal opportunities through its mission statement: At Newman Catholic School we are committed to the high achievement of all our students. We cultivate success and foster the highest aspirations through excellent teaching. We are a learning community which has high expectations and actively seeks to celebrate the good in every individual. Newman Catholic School is built on the Christian values of trust, respect and compassion. We inspire an enthusiasm for life-long learning and are committed to success for all.

"THE HEADTEACHER'S AMBITION IS CLEAR. ALL STAFF WHO RESPONDED TO OFSTED'S SURVEY STATED THEY WERE PROUD TO WORK AT THE SCHOOL." OFSTED 2015





Examinations and Assessments

As part of the school's continuing drive to raise standards and achievement, data reports are sent to parents each term. These reports detail students' progress and targets. During the year we hold parents' evenings for all year groups. Students in Years 10 and 11 take GCSE examinations; Sixth Form students sit AS and A2 examinations. The School pays the entry fees for public examinations. However, parents may be charged for exam fees if a student fails to attend for an exam.

Extra Curricular Activities

Students have the opportunity to develop their skills and gifts in a wide range of after-school sporting and leisure activities including soccer, rugby, hockey, netball, rounders, athletics, tennis, badminton and cricket. Boys and girls frequently gain district and county honours and older students gain coaching qualifications which helps prepare them for Higher Education and a wide range of careers. Popular after-school clubs include drama, ICT, design and technology, dance, chess, swimming, golf, table tennis, craft, cooking and our homework club in the LRC.

Complaints procedure

We expect parents to contact school if they have concerns about their child's education. As a first step you should discuss your concerns with your child's tutor or Head of Year. If you are still concerned, you should arrange to meet with a member of the senior leadership team.

Homework

The habit of regular study leads to success. Homework is set from the start, and we issue pupils with planners in which they write down their homework timetable. These are regularly checked by form tutors. Parents are asked to contact the form tutor or class teacher if they have concerns about homework. Similarly parents are asked to ensure that their children complete their homework to the best of their ability. Students and parents can log on to *Show My Homework* on the school website to access homework tasks.

Learning Resource Centre (LRC)

Every student of Newman School is automatically a member of the school's Learning Resource Centre. Pupils also have access to computers, including CD ROM reference titles. The LRC is open at lunchtimes and each afternoon for students to work, carry out research for homework and projects, or to read quietly.

PTFA

The PTFA runs fund raising events and activities for staff, students, governors and parents throughout the year. The school really appreciates their dedication and support which benefits our students in many ways. If you would like to join in with the PTFA call the school for further information.

Students' Property

We cannot accept responsibility for students' private possessions and it is important that these are looked after carefully. Parents might consider including their children's property on their own domestic insurance policies. All clothes, especially PE kit and school uniform items – such as blazers and ties – should be clearly marked with the student's name. Students are allocated a lockable locker in which they should keep personal items, outdoor clothing and PE kit.

Relevant Documents

Parents have a right of access to what the Government describes as "relevant documents", for example statutory instruments, Trust Deed, LA curriculum policy statements. Please let school know if you want to have copies of these or any other documents. Some are provided 'at cost'.

Security

Newman School ensures the safety of students, staff, belongings and the site as effectively as possible. Recent additions have been CCTV cameras with video recording, security fencing, bike sheds and inside-only opening doors. We continue to research both the feasibility and resources for continued improvements in this field.

"A GOOD RANGE OF EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITY IS OFFERED AND THIS IS VALUED BY STUDENTS."
OFSTED 2015

Sex Education

Human relations, health and sex education are covered gradually, at intervals, during the children's time in the school, more especially in RE, citizenship and science programmes. The declared aims of the School are to educate the whole child, and if any parents wish their son/daughter to be excused from these lessons they should contact the Headteacher.

Special Educational Needs

A child has special educational needs if he or she has a difficulty which calls for special educational provision to be made for him or her. Such support may involve withdrawal from certain classes for individual or small-group teaching or in-class support. A child's difficulty may be through a learning difficulty, a behavioural problem or a physical disability. The school's full SEN policy addresses these varied problems and identifies individual requirements, allocation of resources and staffing policies. Our learning support team aims to provide extra help for students with special educational needs to enable them to reach their full potential.

Supervision

Pupils are admitted into the school building before school starts in the morning but we do not provide pre-school supervision until 8.45 am. This need not present a problem, though students are on the premises during this time at their own risk and the privilege will be withdrawn from any student who misuses it. At breaks, lunch time and after school, members of staff are on duty around school. It is school policy that pupils in Years 7-11 may not leave school at lunch time or break time.

Syllabuses and Specifications

Subject leaders and teachers will be happy to answer any enquiries from parents.

The 1944 Education Act

In accordance with the Act, parents have the right to withdraw their children from religious instruction, the daily act of collective worship or sex education. Please

contact the Headteacher directly if you have any queries about this who will discuss alternative provision made for pupils who are withdrawn.

Transport

Assistance may be available with transport for students. Parents should contact the Local Authority for details.

Visits

A wide range of visits is organised, including educational visits in science, geography, history, RE, and design and technology, as well as theatre visits and educational visits of a broader nature which substantially improve language and social skills. In recent years we have held a residential week for students at the Diocesan Youth Centre at Castlerigg Manor in Keswick. We organise annual visits to France, sixth form visits to London and to higher education establishments and links with Peru.

The Governors

Newman is a Voluntary Aided School. The Governors' responsibilities and power are laid down in Articles of Governance. They are involved in deciding what is taught, setting standards of behaviour, interviewing and selecting staff and deciding how the school budget is spent. The Bishop, on the recommendation of the local clergy, appoints the Foundation Governors and they are in the majority on the Governing Body. Other Governors are appointed by the Local Authority or elected by parents or staff at the school. The Governors meet ordinarily twice a term in school, with sub committees meeting and reporting to full Governing Body meetings. If you wish to contact the governors or are interested in becoming a school governor please contact the Clerk to the Governors at school.



“STUDENTS BENEFIT FROM HELPFUL GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT FROM TRANSITION FROM PRIMARY SCHOOL TO MAKING CHOICES ABOUT SIXTH FORM OR EMPLOYMENT.” OFSTED 2015



DEPARTMENTS

English

The English department aims to motivate students of all ability to achieve their full potential in the skills of communication – reading, writing, speaking and listening. The English department also offers courses in drama and media studies. Our highly skilled teachers inspire students in the study of books, poetry, plays and other media. A highlight of the school calendar is a Shakespeare production performed by students from all year groups.

Mathematics

The mathematics department strives to ensure that our students have an enjoyable and fulfilling mathematics education. Our specialist mathematics teachers make sure that students are taught in appropriate ability sets. Regular assessment of students ensures that there is flexibility and movement between sets. Students from all year groups have the opportunity to take part in national mathematics competitions and extra-curricular activities.

Science

Through a range of courses in Key Stage 3, Key Stage 4 and Sixth Form, the science department aims to stimulate high quality learning and thinking in science and to extend students' factual knowledge and understanding. Learning to investigate is an essential skill in science, and our team of specialist teachers ensures that students in all year groups will

- Acquire an understanding of key scientific concepts
- Develop the skills of disciplined but imaginative scientific enquiry
- Develop the skills to plan and carry out investigations safely
- Be challenged to draw conclusions from their investigations
- Study the practical applications of science, and the effect they have on our society and economy

- Explore moral dilemmas that scientific investigation and discovery may cause
- Demonstrate responsible attitudes towards safety
- Show a respect for living organisms and the environment
- Be well prepared to go on to employment, training or further study
- Be able to relate acquired skills, knowledge and understanding to solve problems or help the understanding of real life issues

Religious Education

Staff, parents and student peer groups all set an example of Christian attitudes and behaviour throughout the life of the school. Catholics believe that Religious Education is not one subject among many but the foundation of the entire education process. The beliefs and values it communicates should inspire and unify every aspect of the school. Religious Education provides the context for the school curriculum and offers living experience of the life of faith in its practical expression, stamping the Catholic School in every aspect of its operations with its distinctive Catholic character.

The curriculum contributes to the general ethos of the school. Assemblies and prayers are important, as are the observance of the liturgical seasons and feasts.

The Chaplain spends time in the school working with the staff and students. In this way and through other contacts, such as days of reflection, the children come to know a parish priest, a relationship that will be important during their formative years and, we hope, a model for their adult lives. All year groups celebrate Masses together with our staff and chaplaincy team and a rich religious programme is in place. We consciously try to create a Christian ethos in our relationships with others.

“SPIRITUAL, MORAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IS PROMOTED WELL. THIS IS DEMONSTRATED NOT ONLY IN STUDENTS’ GOOD BEHAVIOUR, BUT ALSO IN THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF BRITISH VALUES, INCLUDING TOLERANCE AND RESPECT. CONSEQUENTLY, STUDENTS ARE PREPARED WELL FOR LIFE IN MODERN BRITAIN.” OFSTED 2015

Modern Foreign Languages (MFL)

Lessons in modern foreign languages (Spanish) at Newman aim to equip our students with the confidence, skills and knowledge to understand and communicate in a foreign language. The majority of our students take a GCSE qualification in Year 11. In addition, students acquire a knowledge and understanding of the culture of other European countries. Students in all years show positive attitudes to their work, as often shown by their enjoyment of the subject in response to strong specialist teaching in MFL.

History

Our history department aims to inspire students' curiosity about the past – in Britain and in the wider world. The skills of investigation, analysis and research are developed through all year groups. We take an interactive approach to the teaching of history, making use of artefacts, educational visits, specialist visitors, ICT and audio visual techniques. We aim to bring the past to life.

Geography

We explore geography in a range of exciting ways – from maps and photographs to DVDs, current affairs and field trips. Three main elements form the core – physical, human and environmental geography. In Key Stages 3 and 4 students take part in local field trips wherever possible to enhance and enrich their learning.

Design and Technology

Our Design and Technology Department is well equipped with the latest resources to enable students to develop a wide range of skills and the ability to research and present their findings. Students also develop ICT skills within their work. The department offers courses in construction, product design and graphics courses. We also benefit from close links with local businesses which provide our students with opportunities for working on real life projects. We aim to provide our students with a rich and varied learning experience within a friendly and happy environment. Our students are equipped with relevant and transferable skills.

Food Technology

In our well-equipped teaching rooms we aim to provide our students with a rich and varied learning experience within a friendly environment. Students are equipped with relevant, practical and transferable skills.

Music

Our music department aims to offer a wide opportunity to all students to perform and compose music and learn about a broad range of musical styles and cultures. Students use a range of musical instruments and the voice to give performances to their classmates, other year groups and a range of other audiences. This gives the pupils the skills of self-confidence and creativity. The state-of-the art facilities enable quality work to take place and students to achieve the highest standards. As well as curriculum music for all, there are also a number of students who learn to play a musical instrument with one of the peripatetic teachers who visit the school. Our students have been exceptionally successful at the annual Carlisle Music Festival with their vocal and instrumental performances.

Art

The Art rooms offer a stimulating teaching environment which encourages students' curiosity, interest, creativity and enjoyment. An annual exhibition of student's GCSE and A level portfolios is well attended by parents, governors and the local community.

ICT and Business Studies

The school is equipped with state of the art ICT equipment and software programmes, and students receive tuition in ICT from Year 7 to Year 11 and in sixth form. In Years 10 and 11 students follow a nationally accredited course in ICT and can opt to develop this further in the sixth form. Business Studies is a popular option at GCSE and in the sixth form. Computers are a learning tool in all subject areas. The ICT resources in the ICT rooms and in the libraries are available after school and at breaks for course work and research by students.



“THE CURRICULUM IS BROAD AND BALANCED.” OFSTED 2015



Physical Education

What can your child expect from Physical Education activities at Newman?

- Every child matters, whatever his/her ability
- To enjoy learning in a safe and friendly environment
- Excellent extra-curricular activities – from dance to rugby, athletics to tennis, badminton to rounders
- The opportunity to gain qualifications – such as junior sports leader, athletics official, coaching qualifications
- GCSE PE courses
- Courses in the sixth form
- Inter-school sporting fixtures and competitions
- Development of leadership skills to support younger students

SIXTH FORM

The majority of our students stay with us after GCSEs to join our industrious, friendly Sixth Form to take A levels, BTECs, GCSE subjects, extended projects or vocational courses. Admission to the sixth form follows a discussion with our head of sixth form to ensure the best course of study possible is arranged.

The sixth form at Newman is an integral part of the school and a key part of our school community. The sixth form tutors are responsible for pastoral care, Higher Education guidance and monitoring academic progress. Our students work hard to fulfil their potential and acquire the skills and confidence to move on to higher education, further education or into the career of their choice.

Information Advice and Guidance

Careers education and work experience are well developed. We enjoy links with local businesses and employers. In sixth form students take advantage of a full programme of tutor support and guidance on career choices and applying for further and higher education, as well as visits by external speakers. Students also have the opportunity to take part in the Young Enterprise competition and the teams are frequently among the award winners.

Younger students take part in a variety of careers events, including events with visiting speakers and a “preparing for employment” day with local businesses and trainers.

We encourage our students to study independently, to develop their skills and to make efficient use of their time. The sixth form students have their own area for study and discussion. We want success for all of our sixth formers and combine challenge, enrichment and support to help them achieve this.

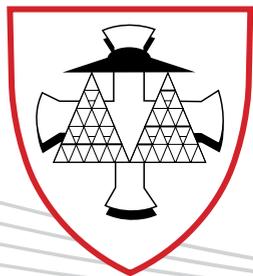
The students in Years 12 and 13 set important standards for our whole school community. Each year a head boy and head girl team is elected from the Year 13 students. They, and the rest of the sixth form, are wonderful ambassadors and role models for the younger students. We encourage sixth formers to lead by example and to widen their experience by taking part in Young Enterprise, community work, fundraising for charities and support for younger students.

“SIXTH FORM PROVISION IS GOOD.” OFSTED 2015 – NEWMAN SIXTH FORM

“IN 2014, ALL STUDENTS WENT ON TO UNIVERSITY, COLLEGE OR EMPLOYMENT. GOOD LEADERSHIP OF THE SIXTH FORM HAS ENSURED THAT TEACHING IS PREDOMINANTLY GOOD AND CLOSE CHECKS ARE MADE ON STUDENTS.” OFSTED 2015 – NEWMAN SIXTH FORM

Disclaimer

The information supplied in this document is in accordance with information at present available to the Governors and is believed to be correct as at the day of printing (ie, September 2015) but its accuracy is not guaranteed. In particular nothing herein prejudices the right of the Education Committee or any of its Sub-committees or the Governors or the Head of the School to make any decision relating to the school as it sees fit, without regard to whether this will affect the accuracy of any matters contained in this publication. Further, neither the governors nor the school is legally responsible for any erroneous information contained in this document.



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