



WELCOME

Selecting a secondary school is one of the most important decisions parents make. 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

Our mission is to educate our students in the wholeness of mind, body and spirit through the teachings of Jesus Christ as proclaimed by the Catholic Church by placing Him at the centre of students' lives.

Our school commits itself to the principles of Catholic education and academic excellence, leading our students from shadows and images to the fullness of the Truth, as envisioned by the Blessed John Henry Newman. The school community recognises that excellence in education can best be achieved, and future leaders nurtured, within a living tradition rooted in the Love and Truth of Christ.

We encourage students to cultivate Christian virtue and an appropriate sense of social responsibility.

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

"THE SCHOOL'S WORK TO PROMOTE PUPILS' PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE IS GOOD. THROUGH THE PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND HEALTH EDUCATION CURRICULUM, PUPILS LEARN HOW TO LOOK AFTER THEIR EMOTIONAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH." OFSTED 2019

"PUPILS BENEFIT FROM A WELL-PLANNED PROGRAMME OF INDEPENDENT CAREERS EDUCATION, ADVICE AND GUIDANCE. THIS IS HELPING TO RAISE PUPILS' ASPIRATIONS. AS A RESULT, A HIGHER PROPORTION OF PUPILS MOVE ON TO FURTHER EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT OR TRAINING." OFSTED 2019



“LEADERS ENSURE THAT PUPILS CAN ACCESS A WIDE RANGE OF SUBJECTS THROUGH A BROAD CURRICULUM. SENIOR LEADERS REGULARLY REVIEW THE CURRICULUM TO ENSURE THAT IT CONTINUES TO MEET PUPILS’ NEEDS.” OFSTED 2019

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, humanities (history and geography), design and technology, art and music. Students are assessed on a regular basis to ensure they are placed in the appropriate groups or 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 a technology course. Students can also choose humanities subjects (history and geography), Spanish, art and ICT courses. Regular homework is set to support learning.

Chaplaincy

Chaplaincy is a key aspect of Newman Catholic School. It is central to the daily routines of our students and staff, supporting them in developing their faith and in celebrating the good in everyone. Chaplaincy has a role in many events – such as assemblies, acts of worship, quiet reflection and prayer.

“LEADERS ENSURE THAT PUPILS CAN DEVELOP SPIRITUALLY, MORALLY, SOCIALLY AND CULTURALLY. THROUGH LEADERS’ WORK TO MAINTAIN THE SCHOOL’S STRONG CHRISTIAN ETHOS, PUPILS LEARN ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF MODELLING VALUES SUCH AS SERVICE AND RECONCILIATION.” OFSTED 2019

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, in the varied extra-curricular activities which are so important as they grow, 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, collective worship and for students to follow The Way, which provides focus and direction to our worship in tutor groups and assemblies, and enhances the Catholic Life of Newman School.

Students’ progress, positive attitude, good attendance and effort are rewarded by our system of achievement points, rewards trips, prize draws, badges or certificates.

We encourage our students to be good citizens and to think of others; we have strong links to local charities and hold a range of fundraising initiatives in school.

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 reprimands or detentions at break, lunchtime 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. The school has a Behaviour for Learning policy which supports students’ personal development and learning.

Transition to secondary school

We work closely with all our partner primary schools during the transition from Year 6 into Year 7. By the time students arrive in Year 7 they will be familiar with our school and many of our staff. Our comprehensive transition programme includes open evenings, tours of the school, specialist staff visiting primary schools, a taster day for Year 6, workshops for primary school pupils, meetings with parents, early identification of students with special educational needs or specific talents. We hold a welcome Mass for Year 7s early in September to mark the next stage in their educational and spiritual journey.

“MOST PUPILS ARE CONFIDENT LEARNERS WHO WANT TO DO WELL AT SCHOOL. THEY DEMONSTRATE POSITIVE ATTITUDES TO THEIR LEARNING AND SHOW RESPECT FOR THEIR TEACHERS AND THEIR PEERS.” OFSTED 2019

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Absence

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. Where possible, arrange non-urgent medical or dental appointments for after school or during holidays. Amendments to the law do not give any entitlement to parents to take their child on holiday during term time; any request to do so must be in exceptional circumstances. Parents can receive penalty fines for taking their child on holiday during term time. Students have individual attendance targets and those who achieve consistently good attendance are eligible for rewards and 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 you.

“THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR SAFEGUARDING ARE EFFECTIVE” OFSTED 2019

“THE BEHAVIOUR OF PUPILS IS GOOD. THERE IS A CALM ATMOSPHERE AROUND THE SCHOOL. PUPILS ARE FRIENDLY AND COURTEOUS. THEY ARRIVE AT THEIR LESSONS PROMPTLY. THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF PUPILS DEMONSTRATE RESPECT FOR THEIR TEACHERS AND EACH OTHER.” OFSTED 2019

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.

Duty to prevent

As a statutory requirement, the school has to be alert to signs of radicalisation. Staff at Newman have received training on this.

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.

School meals

Meals are prepared in the school kitchen and served in canteens. We offer a selection of hot and cold meals and snacks. We also offer a breakfast and break time service. Drinks are available from our school canteen; please note that fizzy and energy drinks are not allowed in school. If you think you may get help with the cost of school meals, contact the Free School Meals Service, Parkhouse Building, Baron Way, Kingmoor Business Park, Carlisle CA6 4SJ; tel: 01228 606060.

Rewards and achievements

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 rewards trips and their names are entered into a prize draw every term.





Equal opportunities

At Newman Catholic School, we are committed to ensuring equality of education and opportunity for all pupils, staff, parents and carers receiving services from our school, irrespective of race, gender, disability, faith or religion or socio-economic background. We aim to develop a culture of inclusion and diversity in which all those connected to our school feel proud of their identity and are able to participate fully in school life.

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 A level and BTEC 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, netball, rounders, athletics, tennis and cricket. Boys and girls frequently gain city and county honours and older students achieve 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, chess, craft, cooking, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and the homework club in the Learning Resource Centre.

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. A copy of the complaints policy is available on the school website.

Homework

The habit of regular study leads to success. Homework is set from the start. Parents are asked to contact the form tutor or class teacher they have concerns about homework. Similarly parents are asked to ensure that their children complete their homework to the best of their ability.

Learning Resource Centre (LRC)

Every pupil of Newman School is automatically a member of the school junior or senior libraries and can choose from our extensive selection of fiction and reference books. The library open at lunchtimes and each afternoon for students to work, carry out research for homework and projects, or to read quietly.

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, should be clearly marked with the student's name. Students are allocated a locker with keys in which they should keep personal items, outdoor clothing and PE kit. Accidents, which are not the fault of the school or the Local Authority, should be covered under parents' personal accident insurance.

Security

Newman School endeavours to ensure the safety of students, staff, belongings and the site as effectively as possible. We continue to research both the feasibility and resources for continued improvements in this field.

Human Relationships and Sex Education

Human relationships, 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.

“LEADERS ENSURE THAT THOSE PUPILS WITH SEND ARE IDENTIFIED QUICKLY AND RECEIVE APPROPRIATE SUPPORT. LEADERS ENSURE THAT TEACHERS ARE AWARE OF THE NEEDS OF THIS GROUP OF PUPILS.” OFSTED 2019

Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND)

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 SEND 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.

Educational and Enrichment Visits

A wide range of visits is organised, including field study visits in geography, history, as well as theatre visits

and educational visits of a broader nature. Days of Reflection are organised for all year groups to develop a greater understanding of themselves and their faith journeys. In recent years we have held a residential week for students at the Diocesan Youth Centre at Castlerigg Manor in Keswick, and educational visits to France and Spain.

The Governors

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 governor please contact the Clerk to the Governors at the school.

“PUPILS ALSO BENEFIT CULTURALLY THROUGH VISITS TO MUSICALS AND THEATRICAL PERFORMANCES.” OFSTED 2019

“THE GOVERNING BODY ARE WELL INFORMED ABOUT THE SCHOOL. THEY HAVE A DETAILED KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THOSE ASPECTS OF THE SCHOOL THAT REQUIRE FURTHER IMPROVEMENT” OFSTED 2019





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 extra-curricular activities in media and drama. 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.

“THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION TEACHING TEAM IS DEDICATED AND PROFESSIONAL. SOME OF THE TEAM HOLD SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE SUBJECT AS WELL AS THEIR WIDER DUTIES ACROSS SCHOOL.” DIOCESE OF LANCASTER DENOMINATIONAL INSPECTION REPORT 2018

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 a range of courses, including product design and construction. 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/Catering

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 and choir 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 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. 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.

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





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.

SIXTH FORM

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

time. The sixth form has its own common room and study room. We want success for all of our sixth formers and combine challenge, enrichment and support to help them achieve this.

The sixth form at Newman is an integral part of the school and a key part of our school community. The sixth form team is 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.

The students in Years 12 and 13 set important standards for our whole school community. Each year a head student 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, work experience and a programme of study tailored to each student.

We encourage our students to study independently, to develop their skills and to make efficient use of their

“LEADERS ENSURE THAT STUDENTS IN THE SIXTH FORM BENEFIT FROM RELEVANT PROGRAMMES TO PREPARE STUDENTS FOR THE NEXT STAGE IN THEIR EDUCATION. FOR EXAMPLE, STUDENTS ARE INVOLVED IN SEVERAL PROGRAMMES TO PREPARE THEM FOR UNIVERSITY. AN INCREASING PROPORTION OF STUDENTS ARE CHOOSING TO STUDY AT UNIVERSITY WHEN THEY LEAVE THE SIXTH FORM.” OFSTED 2019