

ST JOHN HENRY NEWMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL PROSPECTUS



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



WELCOME

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you a very warm welcome to St John Henry Newman Catholic School. We are delighted that our school is named after one of the most influential figures of the 19th Century, a scholar and founder of religious communities. His work and love of learning had a major impact on Catholic theology and education. Our bespoke new school, which opened in September 2020, will provide a Catholic school fit for the 21st Century with outstanding resources and facilities from Year 7 into sixth form. We are an inclusive school and we welcome pupils of all abilities and backgrounds who share our Christian values and our commitment to an excellent education for every child. 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.

“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.”

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VISION & MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to educate our pupils 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 St 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.

Visitors to our school often comment on its inclusive family atmosphere. This supportive environment and our strong pastoral care nurture our pupils on their educational and personal journeys to happiness and success.

“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.”

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“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.”

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LEARNING, THE CURRICULUM & PASTORAL SUPPORT

Initially, pupils follow courses in English, mathematics, science, religious education, Spanish, ICT, PE, humanities (history and geography), design and technology, art and music. Pupils may be taught in tutor groups or sets in some subjects. By Year 9 pupils are guided to the subjects they will take at GCSE.

In Years 9, 10 and 11 pupils work towards GCSEs and continue to study the core subjects of English, mathematics, science and religious education. Pupils will receive guidance on which other subjects they should continue and other subjects which are available. Regular homework is set to support learning.

Chaplaincy

Chaplaincy is a key aspect of St John Henry Newman Catholic School. It is central to the daily routines of our pupils 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.

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 pupils well. This strong pastoral care enables us

to support our pupils in their academic work and in the varied extra-curricular activities, which are so important in their individual personal development.

Pupils 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 monitoring progress. Secondly, it provides a solid framework for pastoral care and well-being, and allows time for reflection and collective worship.

Pupils' progress, positive attitude, good attendance and effort are rewarded – by our system of achievement points, or by extra-curricular activities, trips and visits, or prizes and rewards.

We encourage our pupils 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 behaviour points 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 pupils' personal development and learning.

Transition to secondary school

We work closely with all our feeder primary schools to support a smooth transition from Year 6 into Year 7. By the time pupils 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 pupils with special educational needs or specific talents. We hold a celebratory welcome Mass for Year 7s early in September to mark the next stage in their educational and spiritual journey.

“The quality of provision for the Catholic Life of the school is good. Pastoral provision and support for vulnerable groups of students at Newman is caring and compassionate and of very high quality.”

Diocese of Lancaster Education Service –
Denominational inspection report – November 2018



“In each key stage, students are introduced to and become familiar with issues of social justice, and as well as promoting charitable actions, these experiences enable students to become rounded, caring and proactive young people.”

Diocese of Lancaster Education Service – Denominational inspection report – November 2018

“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.”

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INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Absence

We ask parents to report a pupil absence as soon as possible by telephoning the attendance line on 01228 404769. This should be confirmed by writing a note in the pupil'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. Pupils have individual attendance targets and those who achieve consistently good attendance are eligible for rewards. 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.

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. Newman has a number of staff who offer extra support to pupils when needed; these include a student support officer, attendance officer, senior learning mentors and a school counsellor. Safeguarding of pupils is at the heart of their work.

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 member of the pastoral team, the pupil's tutor or a Head of Year.

“The arrangements for safeguarding are effective”

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“Leaders actively promote pupils' understanding of British values. For instance, pupils learn about the negative effects of discrimination and hate crime. They learn about the value of democracy through the school council elections.”

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School meals

Meals are prepared in the school kitchen and served in the San Lorenzo restaurant. 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 restaurant; 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:

Free School Meals Service,
Parkhouse Building, Baron Way,
Kingmoor Business Park, Carlisle CA6 4SJ
Tel: 01228 606060,
or apply online:
<https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/childrenservices/schoolsandlearning/freeschoolmeals.asp>

Rewards and achievements

Positive attitude, achievement and good attendance are recognised. Parents are informed of pupils' helpful contributions in school. Pupils 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

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.

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 pupils' progress against targets. During the year we hold parents' evenings for all year groups. Pupils in Year 11 take GCSE examinations; sixth form pupils 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 pupil fails to attend for an exam.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Pupils have the opportunity to develop their skills and gifts in a wide range of after-school sporting and leisure activities including football, rugby, netball, rounders, athletics, tennis and cricket. Boys and girls frequently gain city and county honours and older pupils achieve coaching qualifications which helps prepare them for Higher Education and a wide range of careers. Popular after-school clubs include drama, ICT, gardening, 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 if they have concerns about homework. Similarly, parents are asked to ensure that their children complete their homework to the best of their ability. If parents do not have access to the internet, they can request a paper copy of the work or the pupils can stay after school to use the online facilities in the Learning Resource Centre to complete tasks.

Learning Resource Centre (LRC)

Every pupil at St John Henry Newman Catholic School is automatically a member of the school library and can choose from our extensive selection of fiction and reference books. The library is open at lunchtimes, before and after school for pupils to work, carry out research for homework and projects, or to read quietly.

Pupils' property/insurance

We cannot accept responsibility for pupils' 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 pupil's name. Pupils are allocated a locker with a key 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.



“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.”

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Security

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

RSHE

Relationships, sex, health 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, If any parents wish their child 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 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 pupils 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 pupils are on the premises during this time at their own risk and the privilege will be withdrawn from any pupil 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 visits

A wide range of visits is organised, including field study visits in geography and 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 pupils at the Diocesan Youth

Centre at Castlerigg Manor in Keswick. There is an annual overseas visit to Spain to broaden the pupils' cultural knowledge and language skills.

Governance

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 Board. Other Governors are appointed by the Local Authority or elected by parents or staff at the school. The Governing Board meets ordinarily once a term in school, with sub committees meeting more frequently and reporting to full Governing Board 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.

“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



“Pupils also benefit culturally through visits to musicals and theatrical performances.”
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SIXTH FORM

Many of our pupils stay with us after GCSEs to join our industrious, friendly sixth form to study A levels, BTECs, an extended project 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.

The sixth form at Newman is an integral part of the school and plays a key role in our school community. The sixth form tutors are responsible for pastoral care, Higher Education guidance and monitoring academic progress. Our sixth form 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.

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

The sixth formers set important standards for our whole school community. Each year a head student team is elected from the

Year 13s. They, and the rest of the sixth form, are wonderful ambassadors and role models for the younger pupils. We encourage sixth formers to lead by example and to widen their experience by taking part in careers programmes, university visits, community work, fundraising, work experience and a programme of study tailored to each individual.

If you are interested in joining our supportive and challenging sixth form, please contact the school to discuss the range of courses and opportunities we can offer.



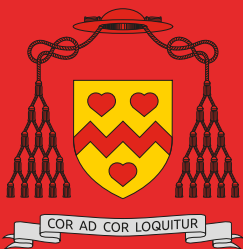


“Leaders ensure that students in the sixth form benefit from relevant programmes to prepare students for the next stage in their education. For example, students are involved in several programmes to prepare them for university. An increasing proportion of students are choosing to study at university when they leave the sixth form.”

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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 but its accuracy is not guaranteed. In particular nothing herein prejudices the right of the Local Authority (Cumbria) 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 nor the Local Authority is legally responsible for any erroneous information contained in this document.



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