



Talented sportsman Jackson is flourishing thanks to the high-quality teaching staff at Cardinal Newman Catholic High School



Sarah and Mark live in Warrington with their son, Jackson, aged 14.

Excellent opportunities

Sarah and Mark have been delighted to see Jackson make the most of all the sporting opportunities he has been offered during his three years at Cardinal Newman Catholic High School. Sarah says: "Jackson has been given some great opportunities and in Year 8 he was selected to participate in the Warrington Schools Youth Rowing Programme. Cardinal Newman chose five boys and five girls from across years eight and nine to follow the programme and every week Jackson gets two hours of expert coaching and training at Warrington Rowing Club and he thoroughly enjoys it."

Rowing talent recognised

Sarah says that during lockdown Cardinal Newman facilitated the use of one of the school's rowing machines to enable Jackson to continue his training at home. She says: "When he competed in his first indoor rowing competition against other schools, Jackson came first in his age group. He was then asked to compete in a national competition and came seventh. Following this, GB Rowing contacted Cardinal Newman to invite Jackson to take part in a trial for their talent pathway and we are currently waiting for the result." Jackson says: "I am thrilled to have been given the opportunity to do rowing and always look forward to going out on the river on Mondays."

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Stand out school

Sarah and Mark had considered other schools, even though Cardinal Newman is the nearest secondary school to where they live. Sarah says: "I had some insight into secondary schools as I am Headteacher of a primary school and I knew Cardinal Newman had a fantastic reputation. When we first visited Cardinal Newman, the school stood out from all the other schools we looked at due to the passion of the Headteacher and direction she wanted to take the school in. We knew Jackson would probably be the only child going from his primary school, but he was also very impressed with Cardinal Newman and he settled well in Year Seven. He is capable academically and enjoys English and Geography, but he absolutely loves sport over everything else."

Leadership skills encouraged

Sarah says that Jackson also enjoys playing for the school rugby team and is proud to have been the team captain in Years Seven, Eight and Nine, although they have had an unsettling time because of Covid 19 restrictions. Jackson says: "Although rugby has been difficult over the last couple of years, it is great when we do get the opportunity to play as a team. I really enjoy leading the team and was delighted to be chosen to take part in a sports leadership course. I love working with younger children and motivating them to do well."

Swimming success celebrated

Sarah says: "Out of school, Jackson is a keen competitive swimmer and the PE staff at the school have taken a keen interest in his achievements and will always talk to him about his training with Warriors of Warrington. Although swimming is not currently part of the curriculum at Cardinal Newman, the staff follow his progress and the times he is achieving and celebrate his successes via their social media pages and weekly newsletters".

Inspiring teachers

"Mark and I feel that Cardinal Newman has exceeded our expectations and we have seen Jackson thrive and grow in confidence since starting there. He is motivated to do well and doesn't need reminders to complete the tasks he is given. We like the pastoral support the school offers students. We are not a Catholic family but believe the Catholic ethos of the school helps to teach students important values that they are encouraged to demonstrate in their daily lives." Jackson says: "I have always enjoyed attending the school and learning about different things. I would definitely encourage other families to choose Cardinal Newman when they are looking for a good secondary school. The school have some great teachers who motivate you and inspire you to achieve your targets."



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