



# Leia-Rose has made the most of the opportunities to fulfil her potential in the stimulating environment of Cardinal Newman Catholic High School

Sheena lives in Warrington with her son, Eoin, aged 19, and daughter, Leia-Rose, aged 15.



## Valuable experience

Leia-Rose is grateful for all the exciting opportunities she has been given while attending Cardinal Newman which have included becoming Head Student and being elected as the deputy representative for Warrington in the UK Youth Parliament. Leia-Rose says: "The staff at Cardinal Newman offer you opportunities to explore the things you are passionate about and help you develop the skills and confidence to succeed. My appointment to the role of Head Student really widened my experience and skillset and giving presentations and making videos has led to me becoming involved in politics."

## Excellent reputation

Her Mum, Sheena, says: "I chose Cardinal Newman for Eoin because it was a Catholic High School and had a really good reputation. The school has gone from strength to strength under the leadership of the fantastic Headteacher. When Leia-Rose started in Year Seven, most of her primary school went up with her so she settled in quickly and has always done well academically too."

## Good to talk

Leia-Rose remembers being invited to join a group for children with divorced parents when she was in Year Seven. She says: "It was good to hear about other people's experiences and to talk about my own. The group sessions really helped to increase my confidence when talking with other people. In Year Eight, I asked my Head of Year if I could move to another form group as I wasn't happy where

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I was. He listened to what I had to say and acted swiftly to resolve the situation for me. Teachers at Cardinal Newman do their best to support students and ensure we are happy.”

### Aiming high

“When I was In Year 11, I applied to be a prefect along with some of my friends. At the bottom of the application form, there was a tick box that asked you to indicate if you would like to be considered as a Head Student. My friends encouraged me to tick yes and I made the decision to seize the opportunity and made a video about what I would do if I was appointed. I was amazed when I heard I had been chosen.”

### Working for charity

“As part of the role there were lots of meetings with the Headteacher and although it was terrifying to begin with, I quickly got used to this. When she asked us to nominate a charity to raise money for, I suggested Stop Hate UK. This charity work to challenge hate crime and discrimination and our fundraising events included a movie night and a Christmas Jumper Day. To promote the work of the charity and raise money for it, the head students attended assemblies and spoke to each year group about why we were working for this particular charity. We managed to raise £1600 for them which was a great achievement.”

### Taking up politics

“I joined the medical society at school and there was an opportunity to go and meet people working in the NHS. While I was there, I saw an advert asking for people to apply for the Youth Parliament and asking candidates to write 500 words about what they would do if elected. I wrote my 500 words and sent it off and got through to the next round. I was then asked to write a speech and go along to Warrington Town Hall to record it. Once recorded, the speeches were sent to local schools so students could vote in their classrooms. The results were then counted, and I was offered the role of deputy representative for Warrington. This involves going to youth groups and speaking to young people about what they want to change and improve about Warrington.

### Kind staff

Sheena says she has liked all the staff she has met at Cardinal Newman. “They are always very welcoming when you go in and you feel you can ask them about anything you need to know. I love the Catholic ethos of the school and the way they teach good values. I think it makes the children kinder and nicer to each other. Both Eoin and Leia-Rose have had a great experience at the school and have thrived there. Leia-Rose has been encouraged to fulfil her potential and I am very proud of what she has achieved there.”



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