



## Mahek has been encouraged to pursue her scientific goals by the caring staff at Cardinal Newman Catholic High School

Chirag and Binita live in Warrington with their daughter, Mahek, aged 16.



### Helpful staff

Talented scientist Mahek is now trying to choose whether to study to become a doctor or to study to become a vet and she is planning to do voluntary work at both a hospital and a veterinary surgery after her GCSEs to help her decide. Her father, Chirag, says: "We are very pleased with the way the staff at Cardinal Newman have encouraged Mahek with planning her career. The teachers have always been very supportive of her. It was her science teachers who encouraged her to think about a career in science and arranged experiences such as visiting Manchester University to see the labs and do some training there."

### Enjoying friendships

Mahek has come a long way since she joined Cardinal Newman in Year Nine after moving from India to live in Warrington. Chirag says: "We went to look at Cardinal Newman and could see immediately that it was a good school and so we were happy for Mahek to start there. Mahek enjoyed lots of things about the school straight away, she made friends with other children and immediately felt comfortable there. I would say that the thing about the school she has enjoyed the most has been having the company of her friends."

***Service: Compassion: Forgiveness: Truth***



### Advice on values

Mahek says: "Cardinal Newman obviously felt very different from my school in India, but on my first day there, I met a girl in the library, and we became friends. We are still the best of friends to this day. I like the fact that Cardinal Newman is a Catholic School and that the school aims to teach all students good values. All religions are welcome at the school and all students are included. The school chaplain is very helpful and supportive of students who have any issues and will always make time to provide them with the emotional support they need. Students are actively encouraged to build positive relationships with teachers and other students and form time prayers and year group assemblies that take place every week remind us of the important values of service, compassion, forgiveness and truth."

### Scientific discussions

"The staff have always been very helpful to me, and it was the Headteacher, Ms Langstaff, who encouraged me to set up a medical society. There are currently 11 members and we meet at lunch time once a week to discuss a variety of medical papers from scientific journals. Ms Langstaff recommended that I select articles from the British medical Journal and I try to pick ones that

aren't too difficult for everyone to understand. We have had some interesting discussions about antibiotics and new vaccines, and we have discussed issues such as resistance to antibiotics and have tried to explore different ways of resolving this issue.

### Obtaining work placements

Mahek says: "I am going to college next year to study for my A levels and then I plan to go on to university. I am going to have to decide whether I want to be a doctor or a vet, but the work placements that the school have helped to arrange at Warrington Hospital and at a local veterinary surgery, will really help me to make that decision. I am grateful for all the help the teachers have given me,"

### Happy community

"I think what makes Cardinal Newman feel so special is that it is a small community where everyone gets on really well with each other. The teachers are always very supportive and will go above and beyond to encourage the students to pursue their individual goals."



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