



Talented writer Eliza is being encouraged to fulfil her creative potential by the helpful teachers at Cardinal Newman Catholic High School

Roxana and Lucien live in Warrington with their daughter, Eliza, aged 14, and son, Andrei, aged 10.



Constructive comments

Budding author Eliza is grateful for the way teachers at Cardinal Newman have encouraged her with her creative writing. Eliza says: "I enjoy writing stories and creating different worlds and characters in them. I am pleased my teachers have been willing to look at pieces of writing I have done at home and comment on them. I want to write a full-length book aimed at the Teenage and Young Adult markets when I am 16 and I hope to study creative writing at university."

Enjoying reading

Eliza spoke no English when she came to England with her family from Romania at the age of nine. She says: "I struggled to learn English when I was in Year Five and Year Six at primary school but

I had a good understanding of English by the time I started in Year Seven at Cardinal Newman. I love reading and particularly enjoy the fantasy genre and I have ambitions to write and illustrate my own book as I have a love of art."

Making new friends

Her Mum, Roxana, says: "We would like to express our gratitude to the staff at Cardinal Newman for everything they are doing to help Eliza fulfil her potential. She joined Cardinal Newman because it was the closest school to where we live and many of her classmates from junior school were also going there. Eliza had been attending primary school in England for only two years following our move from Romania so that my husband could further his career. Eliza loved Cardinal Newman from the very first week.

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We were nervous about her starting secondary school but were pleased with the way she was welcomed and the friendships she formed. We are very proud of the talent she has for writing and how this talent has been nurtured at school.

Love of writing

"Eliza wants to write children's books and would like to do her own illustrations. She has had different English teachers in Years Seven, Eight and Nine and they have all supported her passion for writing. Eliza won a short story competition for young writers and has had her story published in a magazine. She has also participated and performed well in the many different writing competitions within the school.

Confidence building

"We are particularly pleased Eliza enjoys reading because English is not her first language. She is very ambitious and keen to improve her vocabulary and she studies words and phrases to incorporate into her writing. Her teachers encourage her to write all the time and are helping to build her self-confidence. We are very grateful for everything the staff at Cardinal Newman have done for her. We are in no doubt that we chose the right school for Eliza and are pleased that her brother, Andrei, is starting there in September.

Finding inspiration

"Eliza likes the fantasy genre and *The Lord of the Rings* by J R R Tolkien is one of her favourite books. She takes her inspiration from everyday life and when she is out, she will sometimes see a person that she can use as a character in one of her stories," Roxana says.

Christian values

"We love the way all children are valued at Cardinal Newman regardless of their backgrounds. Although we miss Romania, we feel our children are getting many more educational opportunities here. We are a Christian Orthodox family and are very happy with the values the children are taught."

Learning about compassion

Eliza says she loves the diversity of Cardinal Newman. "There are a lot of good people and kind teachers at the school. I enjoy collective worship, which for the last two years has helped me to learn important values, such as the importance of showing compassion and forgiveness to others."



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