



# Ana is off to a flying start at secondary school thanks to the supportive staff at Cardinal Newman Catholic High School

Helen and Kevin live in Warrington with their children, Ana, aged 12, and Zac, aged 7.



## New friends

Ana settled in quickly after moving up to Cardinal Newman Catholic High School from her primary school. Her Mum, Helen, says: "Ana soon made new friends and has enjoyed going along to the after-school clubs, doing drama and learning the piano. We chose Cardinal Newman because we are a Catholic family and we had also both attended the school."

## Warm welcome

Ana's primary school was one of the feeder schools for Cardinal Newman and the majority of her classmates went up with her. "Whilst Ana has remained friends with a few of the children from her primary school, she has made lots of new friends too. We think it has done her good to meet new children. Cardinal Newman did a

lot to prepare her for the move up to secondary school. Ana really enjoyed attending their summer school in August, participating in lots of activities and getting to know other students and some of her teachers. The school also sent her a postcard welcoming her, which we thought was a nice touch," Helen says.

## Happy at school

"Initially we had to get used to the different systems and the variety of apps used for communicating with parents, but we were invited to attend a talk for new parents, where everything was explained clearly, and this really helped. Ana came out buzzing after her first day at Cardinal Newman and we could tell she was very happy. The children are assessed after the first few weeks and are then put into sets for some of the core subjects. Ana was unsure about this

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to begin with because she wasn't with some of her friends, but she has adapted well."

### Varied activities

"There are lots of lovely after school clubs put on by the teachers that are free of charge and open to all the children. Ana has chosen to do Drama, Music and Netball so far and has really enjoyed them. She has also been given the opportunity to learn the piano during the school day, with a tutor coming in from outside that we pay for. Her favourite subject at school is Drama and we think she will probably want to do it for GCSE. Her father is an actor and she enjoys practising his lines with him. She also loves Maths. We have just received her second school report and she is achieving above expectations in almost everything." Ana says: "I am pleased there are lots of after school clubs so everyone can get involved and that there is something for everyone."

### Good values

Helen says: "Cardinal Newman have high expectations of the children and we are happy with the ethos of the school and the way Catholic values are embedded in all that they do. Ana sang in the

choir for the school Easter service, 'Peter's Passion' and students get opportunities to celebrate all the other Christian festivals too. It is important to get the balance right to suit everyone at the school and we think Cardinal Newman achieve this well.

### Caring teaching staff

"We've worked with the school to resolve one incident Ana has had and it was dealt with really well. Ana's form tutor and her head of year listened to what Ana had to say and met with me to discuss the issue. The situation was resolved, everything remained confidential and we were happy with how it worked out. We feel confident that we can always contact Ana's form tutor if we need to because she will stay with her for the next five years. We were given the chance to meet Ana's form tutor at an open evening a few weeks after Ana started and she was able to reassure us that Ana was settling in well." Ana says: "The staff at Cardinal Newman are very supportive and I know if I ever need anything I can go along to pastoral care, my form tutor, head of year, or any other members of staff."



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