



Dear Year 6 ,

*I am writing to you to warmly welcome you to our Cardinal Newman Catholic School community. As you will be joining us in September, I am going to tell you all about our wonderful school, my personal experience when I first started and a few tips along the way.*

*When I first started Cardinal Newman, I was extremely excited but also super nervous. Everything was ten times bigger: the school site, the number of people. It was like a whole new world. The teachers were very supportive and friendly. I quickly settled in. My tutor explained everything on the first day, how to find our way around the school, our timetable and what it means and answered all of our questions.*

*Don't be afraid to ask any questions. If you are unsure of something, then just ask. The teachers will be happy to help you out.*

*Getting to school on your own is a new responsibility that you take on as you start secondary school. Although some students are dropped off and picked up, most of us take the bus. We have a school bus (no.5) which drops you off right in front of reception. I recommend that if you are going to take the bus, you check what bus you have to get and its route. Before starting school, you should also go to school by bus with an adult to make sure that you know what you are doing.*

*Uniform is a very important aspect of school life here at Cardinal Newman, not only does it make you look smart, but you are also representing our school whilst wearing it in public. Our uniform is as shown in the welcome booklet. A black blazer with school logo, black jumper with school logo, plain white shirt, clip-on tie, black tailored trousers or a black pleated skirt and black shoes.*

*A big argument as to why I have enjoyed Cardinal Newman is that it offers a wide variety of subjects and with the two-week timetable system that we have here, we get to do all the fun subjects like art, graphics, woodwork, food tech more often.*

*Personally, my favourite subject is science. (I especially enjoy chemistry and biology). We do lots of different experiments which deepens our knowledge and also puts it into action. We have a large science building full of labs.*

*My favourite part of year seven so far must be just meeting new people, making new friends and having all these amazing opportunities at my fingertips. Cardinal Newman really is the place to be.*

*Now more about the school... specifically the canteens. We currently have two modern canteens. The food here is delicious and each day there is a variety of meals and snacks to choose from. Here are a few examples: chicken burger, jacket potato, roast dinner, baguettes, croissants, garlic bread, muffins... We also have a finger ID system to pay for our food so we do not have to worry about losing our money.*

*At Cardinal Newman School, we believe that Religious Education is an integral part of each child's moral, spiritual and social development. We have our Lay Chaplain (Laura Byrne) who accompanies students on their journey of faith through chaplaincy work. We have a school chapel where class Masses are held. We also celebrate Mass on special occasions like the Feast of Saint John Henry Newman our school patron.*

*Lastly, I would like to talk about our enrichment activities. Every week, your Head of Year sets you a task that has something to do with what is going on in school or the world. For example, following the death of George Floyd, we were asked to write an anti-racism speech. It allows us to reflect on the events and think of how we can make a change and make the world a better place.*

*Overall, I think that Cardinal Newman is wonderful and you are going to love it. I hope to see you all in September, looking nice and smart in your new uniform.*

*Best wishes*

*Oliwia Luszc*