

The History of Newman University

1978-1987

Principal of Newman College of Higher Education
1984 to 1994
DR. JOAN CUMING



1978 Berlin Trip



1979 Talent Night



1982 The 4 Ds



1978 Christmas Ball



1979 NABIAN BYRING 1980



Biology field trip 78-79

New O-level for Catholics

Nearly 2,000 children have taken an O-level examination in Catholic religious studies under a new scheme run by the University of London. The 2½-hour exam covers the Gospel of St. Luke, Roman Catholic doctrine, the Sacraments and Catholic moral teaching. Most of this year's candidates came from the United Kingdom, but pupils in Ireland and Zimbabwe also took part. The syllabus for the exam was drawn up by a group of Catholic schools and serves as an alternative to the existing religious studies O-level. The questions are designed to challenge the understanding of the candidates while eliciting the teaching of the Church. Examples of such questions could be "Discuss the belief of Catholics that the Mass is a memorial service that is for real" or "How would a Catholic reply to someone who said that death has no meaning, that is simply the end?" "Catholics do not have to agonise about what is right or wrong. The Church gives them the answers! How far do you agree?" and "What position has Vatican II taken with regard to the morality of nuclear armament and nuclear warfare?" The examination is not designed to test commitment in any way, but to test a candidate's knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith.

The threat of closure...
9th August 1982 - Simon Quinlan was about to have a holiday and he thought he would water the plants. On checking the post he found a letter from the Department for Education and Skills (DES) showing that the College had not been allocated an intake of pre-service students for the following September. Later that day, the Secretary of State for Education, announced the proposal to close Newman College.

The fight to keep Newman open
30th September 1982 - A crucial meeting took place at the DES in London. Newman was not closed because of mass local support and petitions from Newman staff and students, which were presented in London. 7,500 signatures in one week were collected from Northfield, Harborne and Bartley Green. There were letters from Catholics who were concerned for Catholic Education, joined by parents and locals with discussion from national and local MPs, securing their support. Otherwise Newman College would have closed in 1986.

8th November 1982 at 3:30pm a courier delivered a letter from the DES to the College with information that Newman had been allocated a recruitment figure and thus survived.



1984 Newman College staff and students



1986 Students

25 February 1983
Northfield Messenger
- Cardinal who loved Birmingham was certainly a man of letters

Newman College closed its doors in 1986. The Roman Catholic churchman, who may be considered a saint, was said to be buried in a simple grave at Lambeth Palace, London. The lighter side of his life, however, was that he could be very amusing. Newman College closed its doors in 1986. The Roman Catholic churchman, who may be considered a saint, was said to be buried in a simple grave at Lambeth Palace, London. The lighter side of his life, however, was that he could be very amusing.

1978 1979 1980 1981 1982 1983 1984 1985 1986 1987

Newman celebrated its 10th Anniversary with a mass held by Archbishop of Birmingham, George Patrick Dwyer. By this time more than 2000 students have passed through the door.

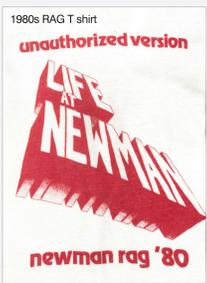
Newman now has approximately 550 students and have a distinctive affiliated status with the University of Birmingham.

College celebrates anniversary
THE Newman College of Education, Bartley Green, Birmingham, celebrated its tenth anniversary with a Mass at which Archbishop Dwyer of Birmingham was the principal celebrant. Concelebrating were Bishop Emery of Portsmouth, chairman of the Catholic Education Council, and Bishop McCarty and Bishop Cleary, Auxiliary in Birmingham. Since the college opened in 1968 more than 2000 students have been admitted for full-time courses leading to teaching qualifications. Former students are now working in most parts of the country. Between 200 and 300 former students work or have worked in Birmingham.

First Post Graduate Certificate in Education students graduate.



1979 Music Practice



1980s RAG T shirt

Graduation was unfortunately hit with severe snow, this did not stop the majority of students who turned up for their graduation ceremony.

Students raised money for charity by dressing as clowns and frolicking in the street.

Westhill and Newman were the only colleges that were still affiliated with Birmingham University. In that same year only six Catholic Colleges remained in England.

30th May - Pope John Paul II visited Britain, and the College was to be involved in singing and dancing at the Mass at Coventry Airport. Former member of staff Dr Francis Burns wrote:

"The weather was kind, the choir sang well, and it was said that the Pope could not stop himself admiring the dancers who added colour and movement to this unique occasion."

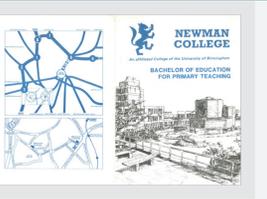
The College had only 300 full-time Bachelor of Education (B.Ed) students. A new B.Ed was introduced, balancing teaching and academic subject studies, with three years for an Ordinary Degree and four years for the Honours.

Under threat of closure, Newman College and Westhill College formed a unique partnership as an Academic Association approved by the Secretary of State to share resources and enrich students' experience. This also included many students travelling to Westhill College campus in minibuses, to use their resources.

Newman has a new Principal in September, Dr Joan Cuming.



Computers just starting to be used in classrooms in schools.



NEWMAN COLLEGE



NEWMAN COLLEGE



BIRMINGHAM REVIEW Monthly news round-up of the Archdiocese

Thanks to Newman College Staff



ONE of the finest compliments the NCP receives is that each year the Staff of the College actually look forward to our coming. We look forward to their visits for the warmth of the welcome and the friendly service we receive from Mrs Sheila Dillon, the Housekeeper and all the domestic staff. Nothing is ever too much trouble for them. This year a disastrous fire in the Resources Room two days before the Conference left the chapel and surrounding areas black with soot. Working frantically, the cleaning staff restored it all to its usual gleaming state in time for the start of Conference. Their NCP was not going to be spoiled while they had energy left to clear up the mess. The priests and observers and guests who are so generous in offering our warmest welcome to Newman College for their kindness and generosity to us over the years.

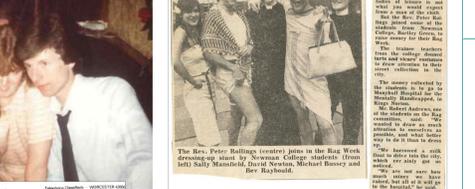
Crest was approved.



1980s RAG Slave Girls Auction



Real Rev. joins in Rag fun



1980 Autumn



Sharing the shivers of a snowy degree day



Newman petition heads for London



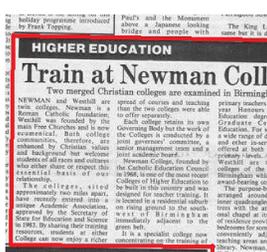
STUDENTS MAKE DANCING HISTORY



Newman petition heads for London



Newman and Westhill



Train at Newman College



Age of the classroom computer



Cardinal congratulates national priests body



Mrs Sheila Dillon



Newman University