



**M**

The  
**McAULEY**  
Catholic High School  
and Sixth Form  
DONCASTER



**Fractions**

October 2018 i17



# M. October 2018 i17

In sport it is now very well known that the difference between those who succeed and those who don't is marginal. The difference between someone who will be the happy recipient of a gold medal and someone who wins a silver can be measured, as in the case of the 110m hurdlers on the front cover, in **fractions** of a second. Of course our school is not in the least like that. We never talk about winners and losers. We never regard those who have trained and practiced and committed hours of their time as "also rans". We, instead, talk about making the most of our God given gifts and talents. We do insist upon striving for excellence in everything. The following three elements in being and becoming the best version of yourself are worth some discussion.

(All these mercilessly butchered from a graduation speech given by Denzel Washington and used as the basis for a recent assembly).

**NUMBER ONE: Fail big.** today is the beginning of the rest of your life. You only live once, so do what you feel passionate about. Take chances and don't be afraid to fail. There is an old IQ test [that] was nine dots and you had to draw five lines with the pencil within the nine dots without lifting the pencil. The only way to do it was to go outside the box. So don't be afraid to go outside the box. Don't be afraid to think outside the box. Don't be afraid to fail big, to dream big, but remember, dreams without goals, are just dreams. And they ultimately fuel disappointment.

So, **NUMBER TWO, have dreams**, but have goals, life goals, yearly goals, monthly goals, daily goals. Simple goals but have goals and understand that to achieve these goals you must apply discipline and consistency, every day not just one day or just two days, you have to **work** at it. You have heard the saying, "we don't plan to fail, we fail to plan" – **hard work works**, working really hard is what successful people do. And in this text/tweet world that you've grown up in remember just because you're doing a lot more doesn't mean you're getting a lot more done. Remember that. Don't confuse movement with progress. So continue to strive, continue to have goals, continue to progress.

**Finally, KEEP GOD CLOSE.** I pray that you put your slippers way under the bed tonight, so that when you wake up in the morning you have to get on your knees to reach them. And while you're down there, **say thank you** for grace, thank you for mercy, thank you for understanding, thank you for wisdom, thank you for parents, thank you for love, thank you for kindness, thank you for humility, thank you for peace, thank you for prosperity.

**Say thank you in advance for what's already yours."**

The only race we are in is the human race. The training for taking our full part in that continues at McAuley so that we all can say thank you for the person that God has called you to be and the hard work we take part in to make our **fractional difference** in this world.

John Rooney, Head Teacher.