

M.

The  
McAuley  
Catholic High School  
and Sixth Form  
DONCASTER

# unchartered

April (1) i47



## M. March (2) i47

So much has happened so quickly since the last newsletter that 'normality' seems a distant dream. Yesterday my phone 'pinged' a reminder that lunch duty would be in 1 hour! It is difficult to say with any certainty when we will serve dinners and I will do lunch duty again.

In the meantime I thought that you should know what work is happening behind the scenes.

The week before we were instructed to close we established a **School Critical Incident team (SCIT)** to manage the emerging crisis from a McAuley perspective. Twenty staff had phoned in on the Monday to say that they were self-isolating. We then decided on a partial closure. Twenty three phoned in on the Tuesday. SCIT met on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March in the afternoon deciding to meet on a weekly basis. By Thursday morning we were looking at keeping the school open to the most vulnerable and the children of key workers. We had to absorb and manage the news that GCSE and A level exams would be scrapped.

The planning for Monday began immediately as did a way of marking the end of their time at McAuley for Y11 and Y13.

This bit at least was a massive success. Prayers, readings, photos, shirt-signing, party atmosphere, tears and more tears. We now have to work on giving them some certainty in amidst the confusion.

On Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March members of the SCIT met again. This time through the power of a video conference platform.

The SCIT Team's work covers all aspects of the key areas involved in managing the crisis as it impacts upon school as well as planning for re-opening. We look at communications, pastoral teams, the quality of remote learning, the timetable, Sixth form, examination and assessment issues, as well as finance, premises and resources and staff and student safeguarding and well-being.

### Key information from the meeting for Parents and carers.

**Safe and well** telephone calls will continue to take place for our most vulnerable children. If we aren't satisfied then the Local Authority and the police will support back up in this.

**Form tutors** will continue to make weekly email contact with their tutees.

A reminder that **well-being support** for families is available via the school website. We also have the support from Hallam Caring Services and our Buddies are in the process of setting up a rota to help their fellow students.

**Free School Meals** – Please make sure that you let us have your most up to date details and see the school website for contact email.

We are having to increase our **network capacity** to meet the massive demand in email communication in support of remote learning.

**We know that some students feel overwhelmed with the work so we are aiming to help with managing this as we move into a longer term phase.**

We have developed further guidance for parents on **Remote Learning** and, in the coming weeks, we will be placing greater emphasis on Y10 and Y12.

We will be issuing **more guidance for Y11** in particular when we receive it from DFE.

We will provide you with a **weekly update** of any key decisions that we are making. We pray that you and yours keep safe and well.

God Bless

John Rooney

Headteacher