

A close-up, high-angle photograph of a typewriter's internal mechanism, showing various metal parts, gears, and typebars. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the metallic textures and creating deep shadows. A large, white, serif letter 'M' is superimposed on the left side of the image. To its right, the text '● issue 3' is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font.

M ● issue 3

Link

THE
MCAULEY
Catholic High
DONCASTER

M. 13 July 2017

Community is McAuley's strongest link. It demands that the weakest link is, at least, as strong as this.

It is a Community of Friends. The links that are created between friends can last a lifetime. I have seen and see beautiful, strong friendships which I know will last a long time. Practical examples of this are best illustrated when former McAuley students come back to support Buddies, the trip to Anglesey, LAMA week (Life after McAuley) and Orchestra week to name but a few.

A Community of Learners. The links are in the bonds between adult learners and child learners; where the strongest of links says "Trust me. I will do my best for you. I will walk beside you for seven years. We will learn together". The best examples of teachers as learners have been when staff take full advantage of the superb resources and training made available to them in professional development twilights or in the Friday 'takeaways' when staff are encouraged to try out new ideas and techniques in practice in the classroom.

A Family. There are strong links between school and home; where McAuley has extended its influence, through people, to support and help families. The number of former students who still regard themselves as part of the McAuley family is incredible. Many of these are parents, still work at McAuley or in one of our super feeder schools.

I have received a number of letters, cards and emails from parents and, indeed students, saying that they are part of a special place.

Parents who met me in June showed their passion for our school. They recognise many strengths and want us to focus on improving behaviour, re-building reputation, strengthening teaching and re-igniting the Catholic ethos.

Further details of how parents can be more involved in understanding and contributing to our onward journey will be a focus in the September newsletter.

A Christian Community with strong links to the Liturgical calendar of the Church through Communion and the Mass where all are welcome; where the Gospel message is inclusive not exclusive. Prayer, retreats, pilgrimage to Lourdes, fundraising; not every Catholic school worships the way McAuley does, supported by dedicated staff, nearly 80 of whom attended a Mass for me celebrated by Bishop Heskett and concelebrated by 4 of our local parish priests. I am blessed and very grateful to have such support.

McAuley is unique amongst all other secondary schools in Doncaster. It is, in many ways, unique amongst Catholic schools. I look with real anticipation and excitement at the next year and would like to wish you all a restful, safe and enjoyable summer break.



John Rooney
Head teacher