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The
McAULEY
Catholic High School
and Sixth Form
● DONCASTER

March 2018 i10

Reflect

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We are well over half way through the school year, in fact, we reached Week 19 at the end of January. Life is busy and time seems to pass very quickly. Lent is an important time. It is a time to slow things down a little and **reflect**.

During March we have been very busy. We had snow days and thirty staff turned up to clear the site, a full external review of Governance, our School Improvement Adviser visited, Governors finance and Governors standards meetings, GCSE practical exams in PE and Performing Arts and Drama, successful recruitment for three maths posts, an intervention teacher as well as two cover supervisors and site staff. Year 8 into 9 Options evening followed by 280 individual interviews with members of SLT, Y11 select Parents Evening, after school and lunchtime revision classes, the 40 hour challenge booklet for Easter revision launched with Y11, the Y11 Yearbook completed as well as Y11 form photos. Y10 received a presentation from Homerton College, Cambridge. A number of staff meetings focussed on improving teaching, visits to other schools to inform our developing approach to assessment, target setting and differentiation in planning and homelearning.

There have been Rewards Assemblies including a special Year 7 event involving over 90% of the Year Group. We can also reflect on the many things that your children have achieved – very many will have received positive SARS reports as well as the McAuley STAR postcards.

There has been a Y9 PSHE Day, a series of Lesson drop ins by Curriculum Leaders, visits to classes to look at marking, student response to marking as well as presentation of work.

Every form in Years 9 to 13 has been visited by senior colleagues as part of pastoral review. There has been a big improvement in punctuality to school and also a reduction in removals from class due to poor behaviour.

We welcomed and said au revoir to the French exchange students and staff from Royan, saw 40 students go on a Duke of Edinburgh expedition and heard about Y8 football successes. We loved the Spring Concert at St Paul's, Cantley. We thanked the PTA for their very generous contribution to new and very substantial picnic benches on both sites which are already being well-used.

The spiritual life of the school was enhanced by form assemblies, Prayer petition boxes and Lenten reflections sent to every form by Polly our chaplain who prepared the end of term services too. An outrageous Sixth Form Charity Dress Up Day and a non-uniform day added to our Good Shepherd fundraising. In this last week each form was given the gift of a framed image of Jesus The Divine Mercy by Jim and Lucy McDonagh parents of two former McAuley students.

Reconciliation services were led by Fr Darren and many staff and sixth formers supported the joyous, annual Faith and Light Mass with Bishop Ralph as the main celebrant on Palm Sunday.

I know that I will have missed many things; the day to day rather than the spectacular, however, in reflecting on the events of just one month in the life of our school it is worth considering how different the community is after all these experiences. Incidentally, the photo was taken through the blinds of a hotel in Salford watching the Lowryesque commuters going about their busy lives. Very few seemed to have time to **reflect** and rest.

May I wish you all a very Happy and **reflective** Easter.

John Rooney
Head teacher