

REET

M.

The
McAuley
Catholic High School
and Sixth Form
DONCASTER



Leadership

January

i74

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I have been in school leadership for many years. Throughout this I have been fascinated by the nature of effective **leadership** at all levels. There are many sources, books and journals which outline the key elements of effective school **leadership**. Unsurprisingly, they don't always agree. For example, there was a thing a few years ago, where 'super Heads' were the seen to be the best way of turning schools around. Some of this stemmed from the view that these people would ruthlessly wield the knife, cutting away the deadwood, focus remorselessly on improving results at all costs.

The result – yes GCSE results went up but it turned out that they were playing the system. Students were entered for subjects which carried multiple grades some as many as 4 but took little or no account of the needs of the child. Many excluded children were left in their wake.

Thankfully, this approach is out of fashion and has been replaced with 'ethical school **leadership**' endorsed by every teacher union. This means **leadership** is honest, truthful, looks after staff but keeps a focus on the children.

Ultimately, I believe that **leadership** is a shared exercise. In that sense, I rely upon every

member of staff and every child in school to realise their own leadership.

Youth **leadership** and Active Citizenship is crucial in building a generation of young people who are not only listened to but also take the initiative in finding solutions. Leaders at all levels have much to learn from our young people. No leader is the finished article.

So on **Thursday 27th January** from 6pm – 7pm we will be holding an online special event focussing on **Leadership**. This is a follow up from the last parent forums in the Autumn term when we will be suggesting ways that parents and carers can take a lead in supporting their children's learning.

Our student leaders will present their ideas and will be suggesting ways that parents and carers can be more involved in the life of the school.

Details about how to log in can be found below but will also be sent via schoolcomms. Please make sure that you let us know should you change any of your contact details.

God Bless
JohnR

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81321673600?pwd=OEZJRghKc1JNNzFWV1BOQmxKc3ArZz09>

Meeting ID: 813 2167 3600
Passcode: 417620