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The
McAuley
Catholic High School
and Sixth Form
DONCASTER



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Ascension

Christians believe that after Jesus rose from the dead, he did not die a second time. Instead, 40 days after his resurrection, Jesus left the Earth by being taken up, body and soul, to Heaven to re-join God the Father. This event is called the ascension, and it was witnessed by Jesus' eleven remaining apostles.

In the Bible, the book called the Acts of the Apostles describes this event and how angels, described as 'men dressed in white', helped the apostles to understand what was happening:

After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. 'Men of Galilee,' they said, 'why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.'

Acts 1:9–11

The ascension is important to Christians because:

- It shows that Jesus really had overcome death – he wasn't just resurrected to die again, but to live forever.
- For many Christians, the fact that Jesus' followers witnessed him ascending into the clouds leaves no doubt that Jesus is alive and with God the Father in Heaven and is no longer limited to living on Earth.
- The ascension demonstrates God's omnipotence.

'God is all powerful'

This is taken from GCSE RE on the BBC Bitesize website. I'm sure that very many of our students

have been accessing this powerful aid to revision especially since the GCSE RE exam was first up this week.

There is, however, a limit to our power as human beings but also as a school. There is a limit to our influence too. After all we only see students for around 6 hours a day. In teaching terms, much less than that.

We know that for some, there are conflicting and more powerful distractions. It used to be TV but now there are online games and apps as well as the 24/7 culture of being available and in touch.

We are fully aware of how much more difficult parenting is in this day and age, exacerbated by the trials of the last few years. But we are genuinely here to help! Please look at the parents section on our website or simply contact your child's pastoral lead for advice and guidance.

However, the correct use of the power of technology is an incredibly positive tool. We are driving further forward on with this as an important aid to teaching and learning and are well on the way to upgrading our IT infrastructure through 'Connect the classroom', 5G super- fast access across all sites, inside and out! As part of our Digital Strategy, sixth formers will be able to safely access our network on their own devices.

More powerfully, in a super well-attended Ascension Day Mass today we celebrated the power of the ascension into Heaven of Our Lord. The power of the Easter message is central to the Mass. Christ is an omnipresent and omnipotent presence in our school, made tangible as Christ lives in and through us.

This example best illustrates this. Yesterday students accompanied Polly, our chaplain, and Associate Head, Katie Ratcliffe to St Marie's Cathedral in Sheffield. We were acknowledged as the largest fundraising school in the Diocese!

Now that is powerful!

God Bless
JohnR