

The
McAuley
Catholic High School
and Sixth Form
DONCASTER

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May 194
LOVE



M. i94 LOVE (Y11/13 Leaver's speech)

Any event like this, and especially since it's the last time that I'll be doing this kind of thing, has its own pressures. The pressure to leave you with words of wisdom, with a profound statement on the meaning of life and existence...

So I decided to pinch some profound words from a Danish theologian, Soren Kierkegaard who once said, "life can be only understood backwards..."

So what would life be like lived backwards?

It would begin with you dying...that way you have time to get over the shock.

Later on you wake up in a care home or a hospice, getting better every day until they discharge you because you are too well.

On leaving, you are re-united with your life partner and you draw your pension, followed a couple of years later by your first day at work where they have a celebration and you are presented with a gold watch for all the loyal service that you are going to give in the next 40 years until you are young enough to enjoy your youthful retirement before you have the wisdom and life experience to take your place at university and go from party to party, drinking, dancing, falling in and out of love.

Eventually, the time is right for you to go to school, valuing every moment, wondering at the extra energy you have, then on completion you play all the time and are nurtured, fed, washed until you are a tightly held baby.

In the last 9 months, still loved, you float in tranquillity, listening to your mother's heartbeat before abandoning the world becoming a twinkle in father's eye.

Kierkegaard also focussed on the notion of Christian love. Christian love is sometimes referred to by the Greek word, Agape, which is selfless, and unconditional love. It is the love of a parent; it is the way God is seen to love us. My dear friends, if one thing is true, it is that you are loved beyond measure and more than you could ever know.

It is deeply profound that we are in St Paul's Church because St Paul wrote this about love;

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, and always perseveres."

The full Kierkegaard quote is, 'Life can be only understood backward but must be lived forwards.'

St Paul also said, "If anything is in Christ, he is the new creation. The old has passed away; behold the new has come."

On behalf of The McAuley family, as the old passes away, I wish you every Blessing in the future as you live your life forwards and be the brilliant people that you are born to be.

God Bless you all
John Rooney, Headteacher