

# Fame

December 2022 (2)

i82



M.

The  
McAuley  
Catholic High School  
and Sixth Form  
DONCASTER

# M. i82

Dear Parent/Carer,

Seeing our ridiculously small dogs in Christmas leg warmers reminded of the movie, FAME. Irene Cara sings...

## **Remember my name**

I'm gonna live forever

I'm gonna learn how to fly

(High)

I feel it coming together

People will see me and cry

I'm gonna make it to heaven

Light up the sky like a flame

(Fame)

It came out in 1980, the year I decided to explore becoming a teacher. I had just finished my 'GCSEs' and volunteered to do some work experience back at the primary school I attended. By 1987 I had begun teacher training.

I have had vacation jobs but teaching has been the only career I have known. I have taught in 8 schools up and down the country. At a rough guess have worked with over 1000 staff and taught over 5000 children. I have never returned to the schools I have left; once your gone your gone but, if not famous, probably not totally forgotten.

Last week, after 35 years working in schools, I informed staff that I had written to Governors and tendered my resignation as headteacher of McAuley effective from 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023. (I wanted to give Governors the longest timescale possible in successfully recruiting the next Head).

I explained to staff that it wasn't about the school, it certainly wasn't about OFSTED or any other pressures facing education at this time but it was about the children. It was about mine and my wife's children who have now all 'flown the nest' prompting us to consider our next step. I am not moving to take another job.

It goes without saying that my total commitment to the staff and the students and their families will continue. I will work to put the school on the best possible footing for my successor. I am savvy enough to know that it's the frontline staff who teach and support your children every day who make the real difference at McAuley.

There was a regular feature in a popular paper a number of years ago which asked celeb's to recall their favourite teacher. It's clear that one's impact as a teacher can be long lasting. As you come across somebody in the street they will never say, "Mr Rooney, that History worksheet that you gave us on World War Two changed my life!" More often than not it will be, most probably, about the way that they were cared for or spoken to that remains in the memory. It will, however, take just a few years until staff and students hear my name and say, "who?".

So the words of the song, Fame, aren't really applicable to our work with young people because it's never about us but always about them.

Wanting to be famous to get attention, be popular, or to be wealthy and adored is not quite right. God already knows us and He dearly loves us. He knew us before we were even born because He created us (**Jeremiah 1:5**). We are known by God and deeply loved by Him. Fame can never give you the love you need because that love is only found in God. As Francesca Battistelli sings, "I don't need my name in lights/I'm famous in my Father's eyes" is completely true.

**So, this Holy season, remember His name and Have a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!**

**John Rooney**  
**Headteacher**