**End of Term Arrangements**

**Please watch: https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1094239507671466**

You have probably heard that yesterday afternoon the DFE emailed schools to announce that;

To ensure that staff get the time off they need and deserve, schools may wish to use an INSET day, making Friday 18 December a non-teaching day and using the day for staff training, which could be delivered online.

**McAuley will not making any changes to the closure of school for the Christmas break. School will finish at 2:15pm on Friday 18th December in line with our published term dates.**

So why aren’t McAuley using the day –

Just to be clear the DfE’s proposal is not an extra day off! The expectation is that schools will ‘make-up’ the missed learning later in the school year. This could come out of holiday time or already scheduled INSET time.

Either way this will have a knock on effect.

Our INSET days are not just randomly dropped into the school’s calendar. They are planned well in  advance, have a clear purpose to meet specific educational needs.

If we have to add a school day to our holiday pattern this could have an impact on the plans that families may want to make for Easter and the summer. We have to be mindful of maximising as much teaching time as possible for all our students but particularly Y11 and Y13.

Closing early before Christmas would mean a loss of a further 5 hours of learning in a year that has already been very disjointed for some pupils and year groups.

The last week of term has been very carefully planned. Despite the common misconception, the last day of term will not be all Christmas Films and Board games. Pupils will be learning. Yes; staff as usual will have gone the extra mile to try and make learning activities additionally enjoyable or even with a Christmas theme, but ultimately pupils will be learning in lessons all day. We have a Christmas Liturgy planned as usual.

The decision to remain open on the 18th December is echoed by our Family of Schools our (Partner Primaries) who have also carefully planned their final week.

Part of the reasoning given by Nick Gibb MP for the announcement is ‘to ensure teachers and heads do not have to engage with "track and trace issues" throughout the break’.

Many of you know that our staff have been on call during evening and weekends phoning parents and carers when their children have been advised to self-isolate.

Be assured that regardless of the announcement we will still be doing our best to keep all members of our school community safe in the lead up to what we hope will be a joyous, peaceful and safe Christmas.