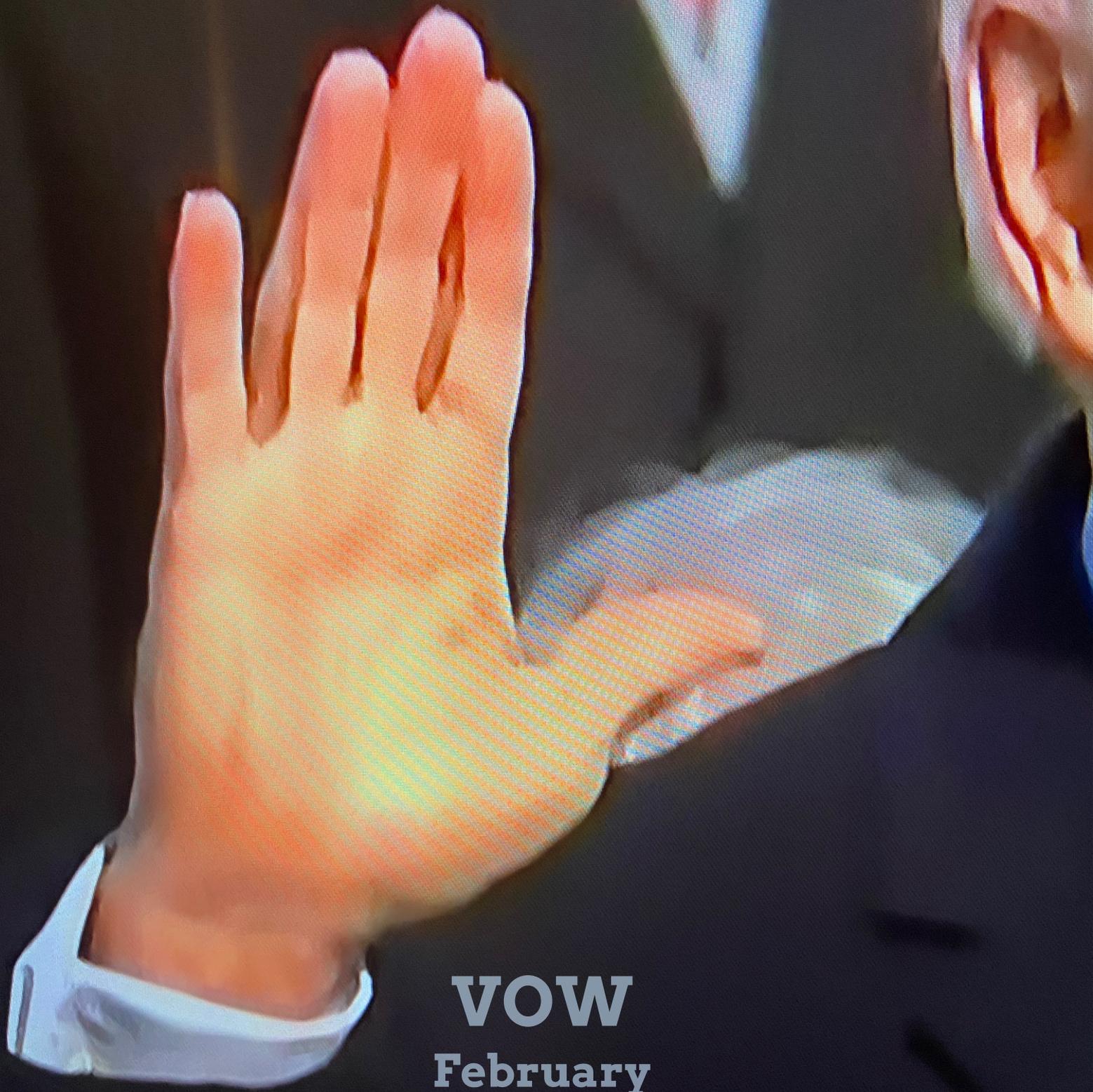


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The
McAuley
Catholic High School
and Sixth Form
DONCASTER



VOW
February
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January and February have been and gone in almost a blink of an eye.

How many New Year's Resolutions remain intact I wonder? In reality we probably don't take many of them too seriously...being fitter, changing diet, modifying 'bad' habits...so not keeping to them is hardly going to have earth shattering consequences. Some of the oaths and vows we make, however, are far more significant.

The commitment that all staff members at McAuley have is to do the best we can for every young person without exception. That is our solemn vow.

This does mean exposing our young people to some uncomfortable realities. On January 27th we remembered the Holocaust. It was that day in history in 1945 when Auschwitz was liberated by Russian troops. As a school we marked this day.

We also recognise the significant impact that continued isolation has on the well-being of members of our school community. We know that this is not a comfortable topic but 'Happy Hour' and the consolidation day were a small attempt to give some space and some respite to our young people. We continue to support the well-being of all our students through the work of Sharon Hibbert and her team. All well-being materials are available on our website under three sections for staff, students and parents.

Over half term we began some planning for the return of students from 8th March. Earlier this week we held an evening with parents and carers of Y7-9 students and gave an outline of the some of the principles behind this.

The main one being that we want to get the young people back to school as safely and as quickly as possible and we want to maximise face to face teaching time.

Now that Boris Johnson has made his announcement about the return of schools we have to make sense of the rhetoric. In line with every secondary school in Doncaster there will be a graduated return of students to necessitate for the three tests that we have to undertake. Students will also be encouraged to be tested at home...twice.

We have now received some broad sense about what assessment arrangements will be like for Y11 and Y13. We will be able to share important pieces of information at the re-arranged evening for parents and carers of Y10-13 which will be held on Wednesday 3rd March at 6pm. Invitations will be sent on Tuesday.

We do, however, expect further guidance before Easter.

Also on Wednesday a mini-guide will be sent out giving details about the return of your children. It will contain everything that you need to know to allow for the best possible return to the Gold Standard of teaching and learning.

Everything we do and all the decisions we make, the focus we have on the children and the staff who work at McAuley is guided by our Catholic Faith.

This is the promise that we make to parents and children when they join our school. It holds true at every stage of a child's time at McAuley. The values of the Gospel, the non-negotiable core principles which come from the Holy Word, will always be our guide. **That is our vow.**

Blessings and stay safe.

John Rooney, Headteacher