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The
McAuley
Catholic High School
and Sixth Form
DONCASTER

POLICE PUBLIC CALL BOX EOR

TIME

May (4) i53

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This has been a week characterised by a great deal of information and some confusion based on vague messages issued to schools by the Government late last Monday evening. In this week's bulletin I would like to give members of The McAuley School community some clarity and also some reassurances.

Firstly, some clarity. The Government announcement stated:

"It is for secondary schools to decide how best to supplement online learning with face-to-face provision from 1st June for Years 10 and 12"

We still await the belated guidance from the Department for Education. It is clear, however, that for ALL year groups for the remainder of this term the main delivery of learning will continue to be via our online platforms and that Y7-9 will not return until September.

We are, at this stage, examining what 'the opportunity for 1-1' face to face support during the next half-term will look like and how best it can be practically managed.

Our work so far has included:

- Working on a very detailed Risk Assessment of the school site - we are using one from the Doncaster Local Authority so that we are consistent with the local family of schools.
- An audit of staff to ensure that we have a sufficient number of staff available to deliver and support these sessions.
- Planning the structure of these 1-1 sessions which are likely to cover wellbeing, a progress update and planned actions for the future.
- We have contacted the Local Authority and our local MP to clarify the position on the lack of provision of school transport.

There is obviously a great deal of work required to meet the above and it will clearly take time. We will publish more detail after half-term when we will be asking for the views of parents and carers of Y10 and 12 to help us plan our provision as well sharing our risk assessment with them.

We will also continue to be mindful of the advice and guidance given by the Local Authority.

Secondly, some reassurance. As I said last week, McAuley will only take decisions in line with ensuring the safety of staff and students. The Government is making a further announcement on safety on 28th May and this will determine to what extent our plans are enacted.

Following updated DFE guidance received yesterday we will be closed over half term. As such, we will not be expecting staff or students to complete any work over half term.

As we approach the end of this half-term my thanks to students, staff and parents for their support of the school during this very difficult time.

While these times are challenging, we should feel proud of everything we have achieved together as a community during lockdown.

With best wishes for this week and the half-term break.

God Bless and keep safe.

John Rooney