



The McAuley Catholic High School and Sixth Form

An 11 – 18 Voluntary Academy in the Diocese of Hallam

Headteacher: John Rooney

Chair of Governors: Dr Pat Hurley

17th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

NO EXCUSES, but a few observations!

There is no doubt that a grading of 'Requires Improvement' is hard to take. However, we were never suggesting that we had everything working perfectly. A read of the first paragraph of the latest Ofsted report is truly heart-warming and encouraging for those with a vested interest in McAuley.

**'Older pupils have seen the school improve in the last few years.'
'..behaviour is improving. Parents and staff speak positively about the caring ethos and consideration given to teachers' workload. We agree.'
'The progress made since the last inspection is to be celebrated.'
(Ofsted Feb 2020)**

So what are our observations about the process and what do we think you should know?

The inspection looked at around 30 lessons across 5 curriculum areas. They didn't see any; RE, Business Studies, Geography, PE, Music, Drama, Performing Arts, D&T, Food Tech, Photography, Health & Social Care, Tourism, Government and Politics, imedia, Film Studies, Computer Science, Sociology, Criminology, Psychology, Sport Studies or Performance tech lessons. They saw 1 maths lesson which they actually said was really good! It does feel odd to make comment on the **'full range of subjects'** but not have a single conversation or observe the vast majority of them!

'Behaviour is improving!' However, it does get a bit of a negative mention on a couple of times in the report. It is interesting that there was no poor behaviour noted in any of the 30 lessons observed, inspectors gave verbal feedback to senior leaders that behaviour, and attitudes at break and lunchtime was polite and cordial. Exclusions continue to be reduced; attendance and punctuality are improving with over 96% of students on time!

Student Voice. The new inspection framework makes use of Student Voice a great deal. The report is littered with comments about what pupils have said. Ofsted spoke to 3.6% of the student population!

The DREADED TOILETS! We knew it, we actually were able to show the inspectors the quotes, plans and timeline for a total refurbishment of the pupil toilets on both

"I have come that they may have life and have it to the full." John 10:10

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sites. We can obviously only progress this project during the summer 2020. I guess we are frustrated that the inspectors did not fully see this as having the issue at hand.

To finish: We are under NO illusions that we are not fully there on our journey of improvement. A full read of the report does show though that we are moving in the right direction and there are improvements being made. Ofsted came for 10 hours wrote a report and are now gone again. There are NO EXCUSES but we have submitted a formal complaint about the judgements that were made.

Rest assured we are continuing with our ongoing improvements and have the development plans, teachers and distinctive ethos in place to continue our journey forwards. When we are able to meet safely, we will share these plans in detail with you. Thank you for the many positive comments our supportive parents give to all the staff in school. It really does make a difference.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Rooney', with a horizontal line underneath.

John Rooney, Headteacher on behalf of the McAuley Team