Our Ref: JRO/JH

15th February 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

**Student Engagement, involvement and Belonging**

As we approach half term I would like to let you know about a number of important issues. We have over the last three months undertaken a comprehensive review of our systems in managing **Best Behaviours.** A new system will begin after February half term replacing the consequence system with an improved method of ensuring punctuality to lessons, better engagement in and outside the classroom as well as putting an even greater emphasis on rewards. Our Best Standards have not changed including those regarding uniform and mobile phones. This system has been explained to all students this week. Details of this system can be found on our school website.

For a number of years, we have been looking at an earlier finish to the school day. A large number of students travel long distances and this means that they have very long days. Our catchment covers the whole of Doncaster and beyond and we are heavily reliant on bus companies to provide an efficient bus service. In the past the bus companies have been unable to accommodate any changes. As a result, we are the school with the latest finish time in the district covering the largest catchment area from Stainforth to Woodlands to Retford in the south.

Over the last few months, we have been working with the bus companies to find a solution that would allow us to finish earlier for the benefit of the majority of students who travel by bus. This is something that was echoed by parents that responded to our initial consultation last term with 89% of respondents in favour of exploring an earlier finish. The day, which has been approved by Governors, not only means that most students will have more direct bus services and shorter journey times but also that they will be able to travel home every day of the year in daylight. Our focus on **Student Engagement, involvement and Belonging** will be strengthened by this change. An earlier finish will allow the school greater scope to offer a wider range of extra-curricular activities and the shorter day will mean students are better engaged for all lessons. See attached pages for the timing of the day, a list of possible advantages and issues as well as provisional bus timings. Academies have the power to alter their school day without consultation but should you wish to make your views known on this issue then please email jhumphreys@mcauley.org.uk.

We very much want to involve Parents and Carers in the life of the school and an understanding of the decisions we make for the benefit of your children. We will be holding the second of our **Parent Engagement Forums** on Tuesday 26th February in the Cantley Hall at from 7 – 8 pm. The focus will be on our approach to **Student Engagement, involvement and Belonging**. All are welcome.

Thank you for the very many messages of support we receive in school in trying to work with you to do the best for your children.

Yours sincerely



John Rooney

Headteacher