



# 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

21<sup>st</sup> January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Earlier this week we received an update from Public Health in Doncaster, the Department for Education and the school bus companies that I wanted to share with you.

### **Bus routes update:**

From Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January we have been informed that the following bus routes will no longer run.

414	First South Yorkshire	Service temporarily suspended due to no demand
466	First South Yorkshire	Service temporarily suspended due to no demand
466	Wilfreda	Service temporarily suspended due to no demand
482	Wilfreda	Service temporarily suspended due to no demand
487	First South Yorkshire	Service temporarily suspended due to no demand
490	First South Yorkshire	Service temporarily suspended use Wilfreda service 490 or service 57a/c and 58a/c

### **Public Health:**

The rate in Doncaster is 336.3 per 100,000, the third highest in Yorkshire and the Humber. The rate amongst secondary age pupils remains higher than that. 40% of the new cases are of the new, more infectious, variant.

Students who attend school must wear their face covering at all times, except when eating/drinking. They must continue to wash their hands and, very importantly, maintain social distancing.

In school we can do this by accommodating and supervising students in the Cantley Lane school Hall. But, this has now reached **capacity**, as has the number of available staff to supervise.

We must now restrict and manage the numbers of students in school to avoid putting staff and students at further risk. The safe running of the school during this serious pandemic has always been our overriding concern. Therefore, I want to clarify the following;

### **The Department for Education:**

**Our first priority is children considered vulnerable at any level. After that, those families where both parents (or single parents) are critical workers.** We have prioritised school staff\* within priority 1 in the knowledge that many staff members are local to the area – this should mean that by utilising local school staff within our own schools, we will be able to support many more local families with this childcare arrangement. Although this is an agreed

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

The McAuley Catholic High School is an exempt charity. Company Number 08936511

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tiered system, we will make a final decision based on our overall staffing capacity to identify how many children we can remain open to and this may change on a daily basis.

Current Government guidance regarding eligibility for a school place is that children with at least one parent or carer who are identified as critical workers by the Government can **potentially** send their children to school if required. **However, we must emphasise that the Government guidance also states that “many parents working in these critical sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.”**

We have decided, in line with guidance from the work of other Headteachers in the borough to categorise key workers into four priority areas. These are attached. To ensure that we can offer places to those most in need we will routinely ask parents/carers which category they are in and as we did in March, ask for some proof of this – a telephone work contact/scan of an id badge etc.

**The children of key workers should remain at home if they can. This cannot be because they don't have a quiet place or because they aren't completing work.**

We have been extremely flexible up until this point but recent changes have made this approach necessary. Thank you for support and understanding in this very important matter.

Yours sincerely

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

John Rooney  
Head teacher