



Stay Safe

Each Wednesday has become an anniversary for me, and my colleague Linda, and today marks Week 10 of us working from home, or “WFH” as it’s known. Whilst it has its challenges and frustrations (mainly with technology!), there is an army of people who are “getting on with it”.



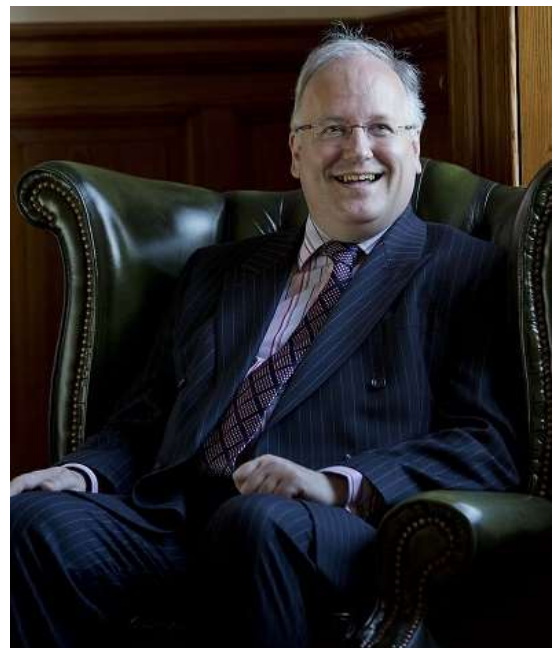
There are no chats in the kitchen over coffee, no bells ringing, no termly fire drills. There’s no commute, no stuck in traffic on the M8, no delayed trains or overcrowded carriages.

Instead, there are remote meetings with glimpses into colleagues’ home lives, meeting their cats and dogs, and even the occasional new baby!

A Reflection from the Head Master

It’s Friday and 8.50am. Hill Street stands deserted. The usual arrival of 900 children on site halted like so much at the moment by the advance of Coronavirus. In the Junior School a dedicated band of teachers and children of key workers are limbering up for their daily work out before the day begins. In the studies or makeshift offices of staff across Greater Glasgow remote learning is teeing off.

For the leadership team it is an intense round of meetings, phone calls to staff, responding to emails and running the school remotely. The



impact of coronavirus on everyone is profound.

My role as Head Master continues and in fact is far more time consuming than even before. What is crucial is the College remaining in good health ready to thrive for the next 160 years and beyond. That means endless financial modelling by the Bursar, daily engagement with the Chairman of Governors and focusing on budgets, communication and support for our community (and not necessarily in that order).

Indeed goodwill, the warmth of human relationships and commitment to the College and its Jesuit and Catholic values are what I will take from this period. I have stopped counting those small acts of kindness or the number of emails that have expressed good wishes, a genuine desire to help and the offer of prayers and thoughts. These matter at times like this and they remind us of what is important. At times when the going gets tough this makes the difference and remind us that sheer goodness always wins through even in the most uncertain of times.

A really strong leadership team means that devolved leadership actually works and the support of our community means that budget models do come together, but there are lots of late nights, sleepless moments and worry at times like this. Governors have been incredibly busy and we have been able to provide some sense of security by freezing fees until March 2021 and providing a loyalty bonus for those returning to the College. Not just that but the option of donating the loyalty bonus to The Hardship Fund has been so well received. That in itself is a reminder of the essential goodness of our community.

We are now busy thinking about reopening. We will be ready for the likely date of the end of summer with all the appropriate precautions in place. We will all value everything we do rather more I suspect because we have missed so much that we take for granted. St Aloysius' is a community built on the quality of its interactions and that is what I have missed most: the daily sharing of the joys of everyday life. Like every community we are counting the days until normality returns and although it maybe it the 'new' normal we nevertheless eagerly anticipate that day.

Please keep well and safe and with every prayer and blessing

Matthew Bartlett

Brain teaser



Rev. E.D. Hanson SJ, Headmaster of St. Aloysius College 1901-1926.

Last week's brainteaser:

What does our current Head Master, Matthew Bartlett, have in common with the College's longest-serving Head Master, Fr Eric Hanson SJ, who was Head Master from 1905-26?

Answer: they both converted to Catholicism.

Well, no-one managed to come up with the right answer this week, although there were some interesting guesses!

This week's brainteaser:

What word or phrase does the following rebus represent: O_ER_T_O_?

Answers as usual to alumni@staloyisus.org. This week's prize is your choice of a Aloysius' mug or tie!

On This Day ...

Happy birthday to any of our OAs who celebrate their birthday today, 20 May.

Other eminent Taurean personalities who share the same birthday are Cher and James Stewart.

Did you know that, on this day, in the year:-

1521 Ignatius Loyola seriously wounded by a cannon ball

1873 Levi Strauss and Jacob Davis patent the first blue jeans with copper rivet

- 1932 Amelia Earhart leaves Newfoundland on her journey to become the first woman to fly solo and nonstop across the Atlantic
- 1956 In Operation Redwing, the first United States airborne hydrogen bomb is dropped over Bikini Atoll in the Pacific Ocean.
- 1973 Britain sends in Royal Navy ships to protect fishing boats in the disputed Icelandic 50-mile zone.
- 2012 Adelbaset al-Megrahi, convicted Lockerbie bomber, died in Libya aged 60.

Jokes of the Week

**A Glasgow woman goes to the dentist and settles down in the chair.
"Comfy?" asks the dentist.
"Govan," she replies.**

What does a dyslexic, agnostic, insomniac do at night?

He stays up wondering if there really is a dog.

Laugh of the Week

Right Notes, Wrong Order?

Reflections

Essential, by Scotland's Makar Jackie Kay

Up, doon, the length of our land -
Aberfeldy, Ardnamurchan -
There's uplift, sharing; pass the baton!
A frontline forming, hand to fierce hand.

Shopfront workers, doon the aisle;
New-era queues metres apart.
The chemist's prescription warms the heart.
Delivery folk vanish, ghost a smile.

Volunteers at the local food bank---
Shy half-moon in a clear Scots' sky.
We leave with tins, groceries, goodbyes---
Clap in the gloaming when we say our Thanks.

And the sky greets with stars
And the bold birds sing
As we clink in our links in the Kindness line;
Holding absent hands for Auld Lang Syne.

Another week goes by and we give thanks to key workers, medical staff, parents who are home-schooling, and all those who are keeping the world turning “WFH”.

We also keep in our thoughts and prayers all those who are battling illness, or have lost a loved one during these troubling times. May they rest in peace.

AMDG

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