



**THIS IS YOUR SPACE TO...**

28 July 2020

To the students of Doncaster Secondary College  
c/o Kathleen Lazarus  
Youth Worker

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Dear Doncaster students,

My name is Claire Dawe and I am a Minister at Manningham Uniting Church. I know some of you from mentoring programmes, leadership training, and trips to the Human Rights film festival, but I obviously haven't been able to get into the College much this year. I am writing, care of your Youth Worker Ms Lazarus, to pass on a message for you from our church members. We want to acknowledge what a tough time this is for you all, whether you are back at physical school or learning at home, and to say that we think of you and care for you.

One of our church members is 90 years old and she was telling me about a Polio epidemic which hit Australia when she was a small child. Schools were closed for months to keep the students safe. She said how difficult it was not to see her friends, but what a good summer it was without any school! She went on to say how difficult it must be for students today in this time of COVID-19 with schools being closed for the majority of students, but that you still had to do the schoolwork regardless.

I expect all of your teachers have told you this is 'history in the making'. Like the 90 year lady in our church, you will also have a story to tell in years to come, a story that is shared across the world and reminds us that fundamentally we are all the same. You are doing an incredible job continuing to study and do the very best you can, and this will come to an end. Know that we are thinking of you as you navigate this strange time and that, when the conferences and training courses begin again, I will be phoning Ms Lazarus to offer spaces to Doncaster students.

All the best with the learning, SACs, and just doing life. You are a strong and resilient generation of young people and we cannot wait to see the difference you make in the world in your own ways.

All the best,

Rev Claire Dawe  
Minister  
Manningham Uniting Church