



Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021 - Community Assembly

## *Hope*



One of my indulgent reads over the Christmas period was, 'The Three Kings', by Leo Moynihan. It delightfully regales the inspiring stories of great football managers – Bill Shankly with Liverpool, Jock Stein with Celtic and Matt Busby with Manchester United – from their early lives to their professional zenith. The things which created the thematic tapestries of their similar life stories and career journeys are: community, passion and ambition. These are the very things that I have witnessed in our wonderful School across nearly a decade, and never more so since March 2020.

These themes were given form and force in several ways recently. For example, with over 60 parents who have volunteered to help establish our lateral flow testing 'clinic'; the former colleague and set of parents who gifted welcome donations to our 'Better Buildings' project; and the parents who donated substantial supplies of hand-sanitiser and masks, to continue to keep our campus safe.

These lived experiences are a testament to bonds of community, passion and ambition, which are powerful and permanent. As we all begin yet another phase of this pandemic reality, we need to stand together in a union of educational excellence, appreciating the nobility of our different and complementary roles.

We will, together, move forward, hopeful, relishing all the strengths of our School community and embracing the opportunities that arise when gifted students, talented staff, encouraging parents, supportive governors and our engaged alumnae work in common cause.

*Mr Lawlor*