



Our ref: CB/MH/L1054

September 2018

Dear Student and Parent/Carer

Residential Retreat, Year 12, December 2018

The Year 12 residential retreat will take place at Hartington Youth Hostel from Monday 10 December to Friday, 14 December 2018. Hartington Hall is a superb venue, a lovely manor house dating back to 1611, set in a beautiful peak district village. We have moved the retreat forward to December at the request of past students who tell us that the retreat changes everything in Sixth Form and it should happen earlier.

The programme for the retreat will be delivered by the Salesian Youth Ministry from Savio House.

The retreat is a unique opportunity for young people to reflect on their lives, reassess their values and think about their futures. The programme will examine issues such as friendships, independence, responsibility and tolerance. It helps those who attend to build a positive image of themselves and develop a sensitivity to the needs of others. This knowledge and acceptance of themselves and others will, for many, be an important exploration of faith. The retreat is also a lot of fun!

The open, positive and friendly atmosphere builds strong and supportive friendships amongst the sixth formers. Far from taking students minds from their studies, it is expected that the break will bring them back renewed in determination and endeavour. Everyone works better in a close-knit, supportive community. The retreat is an important component in us creating this.

The programme is led by a team of highly trained youth leaders. Staff from St Mary's are in attendance all week and, in fact, take part in the retreat alongside our youngsters. There will be a wide range of activities including discussion, practical activities, prayer and liturgy, talks, games, physical recreation and relaxation. It is considered to be an essential part of St Mary's Sixth Form programme and students of all backgrounds and beliefs who attend will enjoy the week.

Spaces are limited but we try to be flexible to ensure that every student who wants to go can do so, however, if this is not possible all applications received by the deadline will be put in a hat and drawn out randomly. The remainder will then be held on a waiting list.

The cost of the week is around £220, which includes the programme, accommodation, meals and transport which is to be paid through Parent Pay. The only additional expense will be small sums of money if a student wants to buy snacks or additional drinks. (Reminder: Financial assistance is available from the Sixth Form Bursary – please contact the Finance Office for more details). **We require a portion of this, £20, to be paid immediately via Parent Pay (if your son/daughter does not gain a place the deposit will be refunded).**

Yours faithfully



Mr C Bradley
Assistant Headteacher - Sixth Form

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PLEASE RETURN TO MRS HOGAN IN ADMIN BY END OF FRIDAY 12 OCTOBER 2018

I wish to apply for a place for my son/daughter on the week's residential retreat in December 2018

Name of student (please print) _____ Form _____

Signature of parent/carers _____

I have paid an initial payment of £20 on Parent Pay

I have applied for Bursary funding