



ST MARY'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

a Catholic Voluntary Academy

Newbold Road • Upper Newbold • Chesterfield • S41 8AG

Headteacher: Mrs M Dengate M.Phil

Telephone: 01246 201191

Email: enquiries@stmaryschesterfield.org.uk

www.st-maryshigh.derbyshire.sch.uk

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Dear Parents/Carers

This year, as part of our programme of retreats, we are planning two half day retreats for Year 8. **Students in Teaching Groups A, B & C will have their retreat on Wednesday 30 January and Teaching Groups W, X, Y & Z will have theirs on Thursday 31 January.** The retreats will be held in the Parish Centre at The Church of the Annunciation and will run from 9.00am until 1.15pm, when students will return to school for their afternoon lessons. The focus of the retreat is Social Justice; students will be working together to develop their understanding of social justice, whilst considering the role that they can play in this important mission. Alongside this, students will have the time to individually reflect on and enhance their own spirituality. Mass will be celebrated at 12:00pm in the Church of the Annunciation.

On this day, **pupils will be allowed to wear non-uniform** and, as usual, we would ask for a **£1 donation towards the cost of the hall** from each student in order to come in their own clothes. Please see our non-uniform day guidelines in the homework diaries. **We would also ask that students bring a packed lunch** (all FSM students will be provided with lunch) so that we can sit as a community and enjoy lunch together before coming back to school. Further to this, students will need to remember their books and equipment for lessons in the afternoon (periods 7, 8 and 9). On the day of their retreat, **students will be registered on the bus bays at 8.50am**, where a school bus will transport them to and from the Church. Our chaplaincy co-ordinator Siobhan Garth will be leading each day with the support of Heads of Year and Year 8 Form Tutors.

With thanks for your support,

Yours faithfully

Mrs M Dengate
Headteacher

Mrs C Thurlow
Assistant Headteacher – Mission & Ethos

Live, Love and Learn in the Light of Christ
