



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

Our ref: CB/MH/L1054

October 2019

Dear Student and Parent/Carer

Residential Retreat, Year 12, December 2019

The Year 12 residential retreat will take place at Castleton Youth Hostel from Monday 9 December to Friday, 13 December 2019. YHA Castleton is a fully refurbished gothic mansion, set within 27 acres of parkland situated in the heart of the Peak District National Park.

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 students. 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.

The cost of the week is around £230, 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, £30, 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

✂

PLEASE RETURN TO MRS HOGAN IN ADMIN BY END OF FRIDAY 4 OCTOBER 2019

I wish to apply for a place for my son/daughter on the week's residential retreat in December 2019

Name of student (please print) _____ Form _____

Signature of parent/carers _____

I have paid an initial payment of £30 on Parent Pay

I have applied for Bursary funding