

St Peter's Catholic School

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Headteacher: Mr T Miller



11th September 2019

Dear Parents/Carer

Year 8 St Vincent's Retreat

I have had the privilege of taking many of our school community away on this trip. We hope to repeat the success of last year's visit with current Year 8 students. I have been fortunate enough to have experienced working in retreat centres for seven years, St Vincent's being one of them, and have witnessed many young people who have benefitted socially, emotionally and spiritually as a result of the opportunity of having some space and time to reflect. I have seen many young people on the retreat deepen their faith and resolve and reflect on situations that have been worrying them in their lives. This experience is a wonderful opportunity for all students, no matter what their ability is or where they are on their spiritual journey.

On retreat the students will have the opportunity to discuss and explore their faith in a safe and supportive environment, build relationships, have fun and participate in prayers and Mass. There is also a trip to bowling and the beautiful Whitstable beach. The retreat is run by the team at St Vincent's Centre consisting of a retreat leader and a group of gap year volunteers who can relate to young people's culture of today. This is an amazing opportunity and will be a weekend to remember for many years to come!

The retreat will be at St Vincent's, Whitstable, which is run by Southwark Catholic Youth Service in Whitstable: <http://scys.org.uk/> from Wednesday 13th November, leaving school at 1.30pm, and returning on Friday 15th November with the hope of being back for 3.15pm. The cost will be £88 per student to include travel, food and all activities. There are 30 places available which will be given on a **first come, first served basis**. Please be advised that due to the reputation of this trip in the past, places have filled up within one week.

Payment can only be made online using a debit card by Friday 27th September. Please scroll down to the heading 'Optional Trips and Events' once you have logged onto your online account. If all the places have been allocated, this trip will no longer appear. If you would like your child's name to be placed on the waiting list, please contact finance@st-peters.surrey.sch.uk.

Students eligible for Pupil Premium should apply for this via Mrs Power (SENCO). If there are any issues with payment please get in touch with the finance team as soon as possible so that your child does not lose out on a place.

Please note that we will use the existing parental consent form for educational visits and other off-site activities that you submitted when your child joined St Peter's. May I remind you that it is your responsibility to notify us of any changes to your child's medical or dietary needs, or your emergency contact details.

Yours sincerely

Kevin Mendes

School Chaplain

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