



21 May 2018

Dear Year 11 Parents, Carers and Students

The James Sheahan Catholic High School three day Retreat will be held from Wednesday 4 to Friday 6 July 2018 at the Bathurst Goldfields Centre (phone number: 6332 2022). This is a compulsory excursion for all Year 11 students and it is a condition of all students' enrolment that they attend the Retreat in its entirety. Retreats at our school give our students the opportunity to develop their faith and strengthen their connection with God and their peers.

Retreat Theme and Activities- The theme of the retreat is 'The Spirit is with you always' and helps students to move out of their everyday lives for 3 days to consider the gifts that have been given to them by God. They look at each Gift of the Holy Spirit and analyse the nature of this gift, the importance of it and to what extent it is present in their lives. They are above all required to examine the role of faith and relationship with God in their adult experiences.

This Retreat aims to:

- Allow students to understand the Gifts of the Holy Spirit
- Have students critically examine the extent to which they exhibit these gifts
- Allow insight into the way people can use their gifts to better the lives of others
- Provide a chance for affirmation and reconciliation
- Encourage students to share in the Eucharist together
- Create bonds between the small groups
- Allow time for fun and relaxation

Students throughout the retreat will enjoy:

- Working in small and large groups
- Communicating and sharing ideas with their peers
- A celebration of Reconciliation and Eucharist
- Recreational time at the Bathurst Aquatic Centre (Thursday 5 July)
- A campfire and other enjoyable bonding activities with their year group

Where to meet - Students will be required to meet in the school bus bay at 8.45am on the Wednesday morning and travel to and from the venue by bus. The student will return to school by 3.00pm on the Friday afternoon.

What to bring –

- Warm, appropriate clothing (a warm jacket will be needed for night-time activities)
- A neat, tidy outfit appropriate for Mass on the final day
- Closed in shoes
- Sleeping bag or sheets and a pillow
- A torch
- Bath towel and personal toiletries
- Sunscreen, water bottle and a hat
- Swimming costume, towel and backpack
- Medication needed throughout the retreat (please ensure these and any medical conditions have been clearly communicated to the school and recorded in the school's computer system prior to this retreat)

What not to bring-

- Drugs, alcohol, cigarettes
- Valuable items

Dietary requirements need to be emailed to myself by **Monday 18 June 2018**.

The cost of this retreat has been included in the school's excursion levy.

We are very grateful to the 12 staff who have been prepared to reorganize their own family and personal life to make themselves available to attend the Retreat. Without their generous support of this time away the experience would not be possible. Please discuss with your child the necessity to be considerate and appreciative of the substantial gesture these staff have made by ensuring that their behaviour reflects your family and the school's values while we are away. It is essential that all students attending the Retreat have the intention of being cooperative and respectful. Please note that any student involved in a breach of the school's rules and expectations may be required to be collected by their parent from the retreat venue prior to the conclusion of the retreat experience.

We are very excited to offer your child this opportunity for spiritual growth in a supported and structured environment.

For any further information about this retreat, please feel free to email me at the school: a.calleja@bth.catholic.edu.au.

Yours sincerely



Amber Calleja
Religious Education Coordinator: Mission