



10 March 2022

Under the Stewardship of Mary Aikenhead Ministries

Dear Year 12 Parents and Carers

Year 12 Retreat, Benedict XVI Retreat Centre

Year 12 will be experiencing their first Senior Retreat from Wednesday 30 March - Friday 1 April 2022. The Retreat will be held at Benedict XVI Retreat Centre, Grose Vale and will be facilitated by Mrs Jo Kenderes in collaboration with members of staff who teach, lead and accompany our Year 12 students.

- **Wednesday 30 March:** Students are to meet at **9am on the Caritas Christi Courtyard** at the College, where the roll will be taken. They will then travel by bus to the Benedict Retreat Centre. If your daughter is sick on the day, please email collegesecretary@stvincents.nsw.edu.au and radfordp@stvincents.nsw.edu.au by 8am.
- **Friday 1 April:** Students will travel back to the College by bus, returning at approximately 3:30pm. If you wish to pick your daughter up on Friday afternoon, please do so via Victoria Street.

St Vincent's College places great importance on this Retreat, as it is a most significant and valuable part of our Education in Faith program. The purpose of the Retreat is to remove the students from their regular routines and pressures and allow them the space and time to reflect more deeply on their values, considering what it means to be a young Christian person in the 21st century. It is our aim to provide the students with the skills and the encouragement to see experience, reflection, and quiet time as integral to a balanced life. The retreat is designed to complement the education program and provide students with further opportunities to develop their learning and social skills. The retreat provides an opportunity for formation in the Ignatian Tradition, with a view to resilience and discernment into the future.

All students are expected to attend. **The retreat fee is included in the Learning Resource Fee and we are unable to make refunds for non-attendance.** Parents and carers can be assured that all camp venues and transport providers have COVID safe plans in place to ensure the health and wellbeing of students and staff.

It is expected that students will respect and honour the usual College Expectations and Student Responsibilities as outlined in their Diary and the attached Student Agreement. We encourage students to take advantage of the opportunity to really *retreat* - from social media, communications, and expectation. This will allow them to enter more fully into the Retreat experience. **Under no circumstances is a student to have her phone with her during the retreat. If you feel she must bring her phone to access upon dismissal for travelling home Friday afternoon, she must hand her phone to Ms Penny Radford on Wednesday morning. Please have phones switched off, in a plastic zip lock bag, labelled clearly with the student's name. It would be preferable that no phones are brought.** Staff have access to mobile phones to contact parents/carers in the event of an emergency; and in the event of an emergency at home you may contact the Benedict XVI Retreat Centre (details on page 2).



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Please note the packing list below. Students are encouraged to keep luggage to a minimum.

What to bring:

There will be activities both during the day and at night, so a **warm jacket, hat and sunscreen is essential.**

- Comfortable (modest) Clothes
- Old shirt
- Closed in shoes (not thongs/slides)
- Pyjamas (modest and practical)
- Toiletries
- 2 Pens (at least)

Please complete the following by Wednesday 16 March:

1. **The attached College Acceptance and Acknowledgment Permission Form**
2. **Update your daughter's Emergency Contact details and complete all Medical details via your Edumate Parent Portal. [CLICK HERE FOR INSTRUCTIONS.](#)**

It is essential that you do this to ensure your daughter's safety and our ability to contact you in the event of an emergency.

We are confident that your daughter will have an enriching experience on this Retreat, and we thank you for your support of our efforts to develop in your daughter a faith that seeks understanding. If you have any concerns about the Retreat, or the arrangements described herein, please don't hesitate to contact Mrs Jo Kenderes (structure and content of the Retreat) or Ms Penny Radford (logistics) at the College.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Jo Kenderes
Director of Faith and Mission
kenderesj@stvincents.nsw.edu.au

Ms Penny Radford
Year 12 Retreat Facilitator / Head of O'Brien House
radfordp@stvincents.nsw.edu.au



Emergency Contact
347 Grose Wold Road,
Grose Vale NSW, 2753

Tel: (02) 4572 2899
Tel: (02) 4572 1075 (after hours)

Permission Note: **Year 12 Retreat**, Benedict XVI Retreat Centre
Wednesday 30 March to Friday 1 April 2022

Please return to Student Services by Wednesday 16 March 2022

Agreement (Participant) - This section is for the student to complete and sign.

I agree to the following expectations as a participant of this activity:

- *I understand* that at all times I must ensure the safety and comfort of myself, peers and staff.
- *I will* engage positively in all activities, in a spirit of collaboration and learning.
- My personal interactions with others will be respectful and appropriate.
- *I will* accept and follow the directions and advice of the staff/ supervisors at all times. This includes direction given regarding use of and/ or placement of electronic devices and communication.
- *I will not leave* this College activity at any time without direct permission of the staff.
- *I will not be involved* in consuming or providing alcohol, cigarettes, e-cigarettes or any illegal substances. I understand that if I breach this expectation, that my parents will be contacted and that I will be immediately sent home and that further disciplinary action will occur in accordance with College policy.
- *I accept* that my school reserves the right to search bags to ensure no banned substances are brought to this activity.
- *I understand* that, if necessary, a full report of my behaviour will be given to the College Principal.

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Acceptance/Acknowledgement of Risk - This section is for the parent/carer to complete and sign.

I give permission for my daughter _____ (first and last name) to attend the Year 12 Retreat at the Benedict XVI Retreat Centre from Wednesday 30 March to Friday 1 April 2022.

In the event of a medical emergency, I give consent for the College staff or staff at the sites we visit to administer first aid and seek medical attention as necessary. In such a scenario I authorise the staff to convey my child to the hospital by appropriate transport, which may be an ambulance. *The participant acknowledges that there is a risk of injury to the participant and/or a risk of an adverse effect to any current or past medical condition of the participant. **The participant acknowledges and agrees that the participant accepts that the participant engages in activities on the site at the risk of the participant.** The participant gives the College authority, where circumstances deem it necessary, to obtain medical and ambulance assistance for the participant in the case of the participant suffering injury or ill health while on the site.*

Parents/Carers contact information and Student Medical details are held by the College as received from parents/carers. I have responsibility for updating my contact information and my daughter's dietary requirements and medical details, (providing current medications) if applicable by updating student details via the Edumate Parent Portal – [CLICK HERE](#)

I give permission for staff to administer Panadol, Nurofen, Antihistamine

Parent/Carer Name: _____

Parent /Carer Signature: _____

Date: _____