



7 February 2022

Dear Year 12 Parents/Caregivers,

I write to provide you with details regarding the 2022 Year 12 Retreats. The Year 12 Retreats are an important part of the journey for all Year 12 students at Sacred Heart College and for many, is one of the highlights of their graduating year. This year's retreats will be held from Wednesday 9 March to Friday 11 March, at various locations in the Adelaide Hills or Yorke Peninsula.

The Year 12 retreats are a house based experience where students and staff are given the space to build relationships, develop a greater sense of their self identity and deepen their understanding of the Marist characteristic of Family Spirit. The theme for Sacred Heart College's Year 12 Retreat is "Loving ourselves to love others better."

Included in this Correspondence:

- Year 12 Retreat Information & Reply Paid Envelope
- Information & Frequently Asked Questions regarding the "Parent Letter"
- Online Year 12 Retreat Permission Form 2022 (<https://forms.gle/2dRYZWkdyjS7en37>)
- Year 12 Retreat at Sacred Heart College Promotional Video (<https://youtu.be/qAvKnl14TTk>)

Important Due Dates leading up to the Retreat

To assist the College with our planning, please take note of the following dates:

Monday 14 February (Week 3)	<u>Online Permission Form</u> to be completed and submitted. Should any dietary or medical details change after you have submitted the online, please email Karyn Sparrow at the College (contact details provided at the end of this correspondence).
Monday 21 February (Week 4)	Parent letter returned via reply paid envelope.
Wednesday 2 March (Week 5)	House Assembly during Lesson 1 - An important chance for all Year 12s to receive information regarding "what to bring", meet staff and volunteers joining the retreat and seek answers to any important questions they may have.

Retreat Venues, Departure & Return Times

HOUSE	RETREAT MANAGER	VENUE	DEPARTURE Wednesday 9 March
Chanel	Luke Hildyard	Mylor Adventure, Mylor	9.00am for 9.15am
Chavoin	Stephen Kay	Ankara, Walkers Flat	8.45am for 9.00am
Fourviere	Alison Iwanowitsch	Nunyara, Belair	9.00am for 9.15am
Marian	Sam Savage	Arura, Port Hughes	8.45am for 9.00am
Montagne	Alex Penhall	CU@Wallaroo, Wallaroo	8.45am for 9.00am



*Students will report to their Head of House in the Quadrangle at the time above on Wednesday 9 March.

**Students will return to Marcellin Campus at approximately 1.30pm on Friday 11 March.

***No student is permitted to drive to or from the Retreat venue.

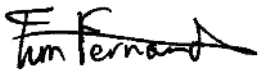
COVID-19 Information

As you are aware, COVID restrictions and requirements are changing on a regular basis, meaning any attempt to provide certainty is difficult. As always, it is the College's intention to provide a safe space for the students and staff at all times. The College will continue to follow the advice of SA Health and CESA and when relevant information or changes are provided to us, we will communicate these in a timely manner.

On behalf of the College, your child's Head of House, and those planning the Year 12 retreats, thank you for your support of this event. We are confident that the Year 12 Retreat will be a powerful, rewarding and enjoyable experience for your child and those fortunate to attend.

Should you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact either Karyn Sparrow, your child's Head of House, or myself.

Yours sincerely,



Tim Fernandez

Director of Marist Mission (Marcellin Campus)

Email - timfernandez@shc.sa.edu.au

Phone - 8350 2500



To support the Retreat all parents are asked to write a letter to their son or daughter that will be distributed on the Thursday night of Retreat. This letter will not be read by anyone except for your son or daughter – in private – and can therefore be very personal and honest.

The receipt of this letter will be one of the highlights of your child's Retreat experience. The impact of what is expressed in this letter will have far reaching implications to the relationship you have with your child. Each year, staff witness the emotional impact on students when the students read their letters from home. To this end, I respectfully implore you to take the opportunity to convey your love for your child in words that you may never have had the opportunity to verbally express before. With respect, it is critical that you do not use this as an opportunity to be negative or to raise issues which would best be resolved at a more appropriate time.

Accordingly, may I offer some guidance as to the appropriate content of this letter:

- Mention characteristics that you admire in your child
- Mention situations in your family life that have brought joy and satisfaction
- Recount an incident when you were particularly proud of your child
- Recount an incident when your child showed maturity in his/her attitude, actions or decisions
- Recount an incident when your child reached out in love for another person
- Recount an incident when others have admired some quality or action taken by your child
- Recount an incident when you enjoyed each other's company
- Tell your child how much you love him or her and
- Make it personal, up-lifting and affirming!

It is recommended that writing the parent letter commences and occurs as soon as possible, to ensure this experience is as positive and affirmative as it can be. It is our expectation that all Year 12 students will receive a letter on the retreat and as much as possible, we ask you to keep this a surprise. **A reply paid envelope is enclosed for the parent letter which is to be returned to the College via the by no later than Monday 21 February.** Your adherence to this due date is much appreciated and will greatly assist our planning and preparation.

As this process may be new to many of our Year 12 parents, we have included a list of Frequently Asked Questions on the next page. If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact the College.





How long should the letter be / is there a word limit - minimum or maximum?

There is no set length. Many years of feedback shows that Yr 12's appreciate positive and affirming words and comments, sharing of memories and your thoughts from previous years. ***It is strongly recommended that parents make a start on the letter as soon as possible, providing time and space for thought and editing.*

Will anyone else read the letter before my child receives it?

NO. Sacred Heart College staff or retreat volunteers do not read parent letters before they are distributed. Furthermore, in the occasional case of a parent asking a staff member to read their letter (to check they have written it correctly), staff are reluctant to do so. We believe that this experience on the retreat is that the affirmation is shared only between the writer and receiver of the letter.

Will all students receive a letter?

Yes - it is important to the retreat leaders, managers and staff that all students receive a letter. If for any reason, completing a letter is problematic, please contact your child's Head of House as soon as possible, and we will discuss alternative options with you.

Can both parents write and submit a separate letter?

YES. We understand that for a number of reasons, both parents would like to write an individual letter to their child. Separate letters can either be included in the same reply envelope or returned via a separate envelope.

When will my child receive the letter?

The retreat program is somewhat fluid depending on a range of factors. At this stage, letters will be distributed to Year 12's on Thursday evening or Friday morning.

Australia Post is currently slow due to COVID-19. And what if my letter is lost in the mail?

We are aware of these issues and we recommend the following:

- Type your letter (rather than handwrite) and save a copy when you are complete.
- If you prefer to handwrite it, make a photocopy or take an image with your device.
- Confidentially ask your child or a sibling to return it to the front reception
- Please ensure your child's name and house are clearly marked on the front of the envelope (space provided).
- **Ensure it is submitted by the date requested Monday 21 February.**

What will happen to the letter if my child is absent during the letter distribution?

The letter will be kept in the safe hands of your child's Head of House. Upon returning to school in week 7, they will communicate appropriately with you and your child about distributing the letter.





Title of Activity	Year 12 Retreat
Purpose	The purpose of the Year 12 Retreat is to explore the theme, "Loving ourselves to love others better." Several aspects of personal growth and awareness will be considered, including self-esteem, relationships with friends and family and relationship with God. It is a compulsory component of the College's RE Programme.
Destination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Chanel: Mylor Adventure, Mylor ● Chavoin: Ankara, Walkers Flat ● Fourviere: Nunyara, Belair ● Marian: Arura, Port Hughes ● Montagne: CU@Wallaroo, Wallaroo
Date	Wednesday 9 March – Friday 11 March
Departure Time	<p>Wednesday 9 March</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 8.45am – Chavoin, Marian, Montagne ● 9.00am – Chanel, Fourviere
Return Time	<p>Friday 11 March</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 1.30pm approximately
Transport Arrangements	Coachline Buses
Teacher in Charge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Tim Fernandez ● Heads of House
Clothing, equipment & other requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Casual comfortable clothes, hat, sunscreen, pillow & sleeping bag. ● Warm clothes for evening wear. Musical instruments if possible. ● *Specific luggage requirements will be communicated at House meetings through your child*
School Contact	<p>College Reception/Front Office</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Phone: 8350 2500 during school hours ● Email: karynsparrow@shc.sa.edu.au
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Online Permission Form to be completed & submitted by Monday 14 February <input type="checkbox"/> Parent letter to be returned via reply paid envelope by Monday 21 February

