24th November, 2015

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am writing to you regarding the three day Year 12 Retreat. A retreat is a time to step back from the normal routine and rigours of daily life, a time to make space for aspects of life and spirit that are often overlooked. It gives the opportunity to disengage from the world’s rhythm for a while and explore the world of relationships and the sacred. It allows students the opportunity to experience the thrill of being in communion with others, a deepening in the understanding of themselves, of others and God. This is an ideal time and opportunity for Year 12 students as they begin their final and important last year of secondary schooling. The retreat forms an integral part of the Religious Education Programme of the College and all students are required to go on retreat.

The Retreat is from **Wednesday 17th - Friday 19th February, 2016** and conducted in House Groupings at four different venues as follows:

**Chavoin House**
Britannia Park Campsite  
210 Britannia Creek Rd  
Wesburn VIC, 3799  
Melways Map 289 C12  
Ph: 5967 1331

**Colin House**
Mt. Morton Camp and Conference Centre  
22 Vista Rd  
Belgrave Heights 3160  
Melways Ref: 84D3  
Ph: 9754 2896

**More House**
Wombat Corner  
Emerald Lake Rd  
Emerald VIC, 3782  
Melways Ref: 127 K 3  
Ph: 5968 5057

**Rice House**
Alpine Ash Mountain Retreat & Conference Centre  
235 Spraggs Road  
Toolangi VIC, 3777  
Melway Key Map pg 10 Ref Q1  
Ph: 5962 9219

The cost of the three-day, two-night retreat is $185 which will be included in your fees account. The cost includes travel to and from the respective venues, accommodation, food, program materials and resources.

**GUIDELINES FOR STUDENT BEHAVIOUR**

Emmaus College school rules will apply at all times. Students are to respond appropriately to requests made by staff at all times. The disciplinary requirements of the retreat are the same as those set out in the Emmaus Discipline Policy. Students will also be required to observe the respective camp site rules and regulations, such as lights out times, strict segregation of dormitory buildings, leaving the camp site and expected behavior. Minor infractions of rules may be dealt with by extra cleaning/kitchen duties, and/or by the usual responses as outlined in the College Discipline Policy. Major infractions of the discipline policy including possession of alcohol or other illicit substances, posting any information or images on a mobile phone, Facebook or any other social networking site which might put themselves in danger or harm the reputation or cause offence to other students, staff or Emmaus College could lead to dismissal from the retreat.
The procedure for dismissal from the retreat is as follows:

- The parents/guardians are informed of the dismissal and the reasons for it. Parents/guardians have the option of collecting their son/daughter from the retreat or by negotiating alternative arrangements at parent/guardian's expense. The student is automatically suspended and may be re-admitted to the College only after an interview with the Principal, in the parent/guardian's presence.
- We know that you will understand that this policy is designed to ensure the safety and well-being of all students under our care at the Retreat. We take this responsibility very seriously, as you would expect of us.

Attached is a luggage list. Cameras or other valuables are the responsibility of the student to look after. There is no need for students to bring electronic equipment such as ipods, ipads or mobile phones. However if students choose to do so, College rules regarding the use of mobile phones/ipods or the like will apply; that is should any such device cause disturbance to the program sessions or running of the retreat in any way it may be confiscated.

**TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS**

**All Buses leave the Vermont South Campus:** Wednesday, 17th February at 9 am

**All Buses return to the Vermont South Campus:** Friday 19th February at 2.30pm approx.

Early next year you will be asked to update via Care-Monkey medical information for your son/daughter attending the retreat.

Students in the past have regarded the Retreat as one of the highlights of the year and we look forward to working with your son/daughter on the Year 12 Retreat.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mr M Gartland  
Director Education in Faith  

Ms A McLachlan  
Assistant Principal Student Wellbeing
YEAR 12 RETREAT LUGGAGE LIST

1. Students will need comfortable summer clothing and footwear, eg. Tracksuits, jeans, shorts, runners, hat
2. Sleeping bag or sheets and doona
3. Pillow and pillow case
4. Warm jumper/ windcheaters - as nights can be cool.
5. Toiletries, including sunscreen, insect repellant.
6. Towel
7. Drink bottle

I, the parent/guardian of ___________________________ in ______________ House

(please print full name of son/daughter – either (Chavoin/Colin/More/Rice)

acknowledge that my son/daughter will attended the Year 12 Retreat at either Britannia Park Campsite, Mt. Morton Camp and Conference Centre, Wombat Corner Camp or Alpine Ash Mountain Retreat & Conference Centre from Wednesday February 17th – Friday February 19th, 2016.

I agree that, whilst understanding that all duty of care will be taken by those in charge of the retreat, my son/daughter shall take part in the retreat with my consent and without liability to the school or any member of its staff for any accident or illness which may occur during, or by reason of, his/her participation in such activities.

I have read the information regarding the Yr 12 Retreat and understand the guidelines for student behaviour. I understand that in the event of misbehaviour that causes disruption or behaviour that poses a danger to other students, the student responsible may be sent home at the discretion of the Emmaus College Principal or his delegate. I further understand that in such circumstances any costs associated with their return will be the responsibility of the parent.

Parent/Guardian:

Signature ___________________________________ Date _____________________