30 January 2020

Dear Parents / Carers of Year 10 Students,

The annual Year 10 Retreat is a significant highlight of the Year 10 experience at St Pius X High School.

As a Catholic school community, St Pius X High School provides formative experiences of learning, life and faith in and out of the classroom. In a beautiful retreat setting at Collaroy (looking out to the Pacific Ocean), we take the time to consider our own personal and spiritual journey together in a safe and caring environment. Retreat sessions are tailor made to suit where students are in their life. There will also be opportunities for small group discussion, reflection and prayer mixed with time to relax and fun activities designed to make closer connections with their peer group and staff members before they conclude their junior high school years. Students will also participate in an outdoor activity (run by the Collaroy Centre instructors) designed to challenge the physical as a metaphor for the personal and spiritual challenges life brings to us all.

We hope that you and your child will consider the importance of the retreat experience for their spiritual, social and personal development. The practical details are below:

**DETAILS**

**Year 10 Retreat**

**Wednesday 9– Friday 11 September** Week 8 of Term 3

**Venue:** The Collaroy Centre, Collaroy Beach.

**PAYMENT and FORMS**

To confirm your child’s place at retreat:

**Payment of Retreat Fee of $335** (via QKR app or School Finance Office)

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**FORM 1 and 2** (handed to Student Services) before or on the due date

**DUE DATE:** **Wednesday 1 July** (Week 10 Term 2). No exceptions.

**Please note** that incremental payments can be made over the next few months to lessen the burden of the full amount all at once. As long as the amount is reached by the due date. Payments are not to be made via BPay as this is set up for the payment of school fees.

**Financial distress**: For families dealing with financial issues, please discuss with the Principal Robert Emery to enable a possible payment plan.

**WITHDRAWAL AND REFUNDS** If families wish their child to withdraw from the retreat for any reason, **no refunds will be provided after the cut-off of** **Friday 7 August (Week 3 Term 3)**. By this stage, numbers for our meals / dietary requirements, rooming, and coach transport will be fully confirmed and invoiced to the school based on those numbers. The school is not able to claim a refund for the withdrawal of a student. Please contact me prior to this date if there are any concerns.

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**FORMS ATTACHED** Please find attached the following forms:

* Form (1) Parent permission / Medical details
* Form (2) Student Code of Conduct agreement.
* A Retreat packing list.

**DIETARY REQUIREMENTS** Please note that all families will be sent a link via email (closer to the event) to input your child’s dietary requirements, food allergies etc via a Collaroy Centre online portal. St Pius X High School will not be collecting this information. Please ensure that this is filled-out accurately to reflect your child’s current requirements.

**STUDENT BEHAVIOUR** Any student who seriously contravenes the Student Conduct agreement (Form 2) will be required to leave the Retreat. This will require that you come to Collaroy and pick up your daughter/son. In addition, students may also be given further sanctions such as external suspension and exclusion from the Year 10 Formal Dinner dance if their behaviour is in serious breach of school and retreat expectations.

**PACKING LIST** a packing list of what your daughter/son needs to bring on retreat, and what they need NOT bring is part of this package of forms. We would appreciate your assistance in ensuring that their packing meets the requirements of this list.

Another letter asking for other important information will follow in due course. Please contact Ms Amanda Mohr (Acting Ministry Coordinator Term 1) directly or telephone the school if you have any questions at this stage.

**LOST FORMS** An electronic copy of this letter and all the forms will be placed on the school website and on Compass under School Documentation / Forms, in case the paper ones are lost.

The staff retreat team look forward to your child’s attendance at this year’s retreat.

Yours in Christ

*Ms Amanda Mohr Mr Robert Emery*

Acting Ministry Co-ordinator Principal