Date: Thursday 25th September 2025

Our ref: RPY/sjt

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Year 7 Retreat – Aylesford Priory – Monday 6th & Wednesday 8th October 2025

Every year, our Year 7 students begin their time at St Bernard's with a retreat on the theme of 'New Beginnings', in which they explore teamwork and leadership skills through the religious life of the school. This is an important bonding time for Year 7 with their new Form Tutors and their House/Liturgy Captains from Year 13, and a chance for them to learn and grow in their faith. There will be with activities designed to build on important personal and spiritual skills. This year we have a very special retreat planned, with students attending Aylesford Priory in Kent. We have divided the Year 7 Year group into two trips as follows:

Form Groups: Annay(A), Fountains(F) & Hyning (H) on Monday 6th October 2025

Form Groups: Clairvaux (C), Melrose (M) & Rievaulx (R) on Wednesday 8th October 2025

Your child will need to arrive at school by 8am for our journey to Aylesford. We will be travelling by coach and will arrive back in school by 3.30pm, depending on traffic conditions.

Students should bring a packed lunch, (this will be provided if you are eligible for free school meals) and they should wear their school uniform and trainers. As they will be spending some time outside, it is important for students to bring a coat with them. Normal school uniform rules apply, and mobile phones are not to be used, either on the coach or during the retreat. If mobile phones are brought on the trip, these must be turned off and remain in school bags. The students will receive further information on this retreat from their Religious Education teachers. You will receive a link to an online consent form in an email from Evolve. Please complete this form by 29/09/25. Students who do not receive parental consent will remain in school and attend their regular lessons. Yours sincerely,

Mr R Young

Lay Chaplain