Dear Parents/Guardians,

Your son/daughter will be attending a retreat to be held at either Don Bosco Camp in Dromana, Grantville, Somers, or Flinders with the rest of the Year 11 students of St Peter’s College, Cranbourne. During the retreat, participants will be given an opportunity to reflect on their life story: their involvement with peers and family, their experience of their faith and of God in their lives. There will be time for quiet, reflection, prayer and sharing: time for fun and recreation.

An important aspect of the retreat is your involvement in it. Your encouragement, your allowing your child to attend, your support upon their return, and your prayer during our time away. I am also inviting you to write a letter to your son/daughter which will be given to your son/daughter to read during one of the retreat activities. Always, the letter would remain a private conversation between you and your child.

The letter has proved to be a wonderful opportunity for parents to tell their children of their affection, care and interest; of their encouragement and support through this important year. It is a chance to affirm and, perhaps share some moments you hold as fond memories of your growing up together with her / him. It is to be positive and uplifting. I would not think it an appropriate time to speak of disappointments, failures, or of issues about which there is disagreement in your family. In fact, as much a positive that the letter can be, using this opportunity to speak of negative things can be destructive. Those things are important but there are other times for these and this letter may well be a springboard to conversations about that when you meet again after the retreat.

Please give this letter important consideration. Experience confirms that the letter from parents or families is one of the most significant experiences of the whole year. I recognise that it takes time, courage and considerable effort to write. Often parents ring me to try and get a sense of what this letter is to be. Should you feel the need to discuss the letter please call me at the College or on 0416 137 890.

Thank you in anticipation of supporting the retreat in this way. I look forward to the privilege of spending a few days with your child. Please address the sealed envelope to your daughter/son’s Learning Advisor.

It is important that I receive all letters prior to the retreat. To assist us in this process I would like to ask you to have the letters to us on or before Friday 3rd May.

Please mark the envelope with the name of your son or daughter clearly.

Yours sincerely

Mr Steve Nash
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION LEADER

Mr Anthony Banks
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL