



23<sup>rd</sup> March 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

## **Year 9 Retreat – Aylesford Priory – 16th & 17th April 2026**

Every year, we organise a day retreat for Year 9's at Aylesford Priory. This retreat is an opportunity for students to slow down, pray and reflect on their time at St Bernard's so far, and to begin thinking more closely about their future. On the retreat, the students will take part in various activities led by their Year 13 House Captains. These activities are designed to encourage students to think about the direction they wish to take after GCSE's, and about what career paths they might potentially wish to pursue. These activities will be followed by Mass and Stations of the Cross. After lunch, students will have the opportunity to explore the scenic priory gardens before we return to school.

We have divided the Year 9 Year group into two trips as follows:

- Form Groups: Fountains(F), Hying (H) & Melrose (M) on 16th April
- Form Groups: Annay (A), Clairvaux (C) & Rievaulx (R) on 17th April

Your daughter will need to arrive at school by 8:00am 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, 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 13/04/26. Students who do not receive parental consent will remain in school and attend their regular lessons.

Yours sincerely,

Mr R Young

**Lay Chaplain**