



## GONZAGA COLLEGE SJ

Re: Second Year Retreats

7th January 2019

Dear Parents,

In Gonzaga we are committed to the growth and development of the boys in a range of knowledge and learning experiences, including the faith dimension of their lives. The purpose of the retreat programme is to integrate the spiritual with the personal development of the student, as well as to build up a Christian community, in the class and in the school. Faith formation is not a mysterious process. In the main, it follows the developmental patterns as other modes of learning. Spiritual growth requires exposure to spiritual values and information and most particularly, spiritual experience. This latter is what the retreat programme provides.

Eric Hughes of the Authentic Youth branch of Scripture Union will direct the retreat for Second Year students. Eric and his team work with schools throughout the Archdiocese. The theme is *Adolescence*, which is looked at from a variety of human and faith viewpoints. It comprises a class-based day and includes games, talks, group work and discussion, prayer and song.

The retreat is taking place in-house next week. Your son may wear neat casual clothing rather than school uniform on their retreat day. The retreat will be structured around the normal school breaks at mid-morning and for lunch. As per usual the boys will need to bring their own lunch or their lunch card in order to purchase lunch.

The retreats will run for the duration of the school day in the meeting room. The dates are as follows:

- 2A: Monday, 14th January 2019
- 2B: Tuesday, 15th January 2019
- 2C: Thursday, 17th January 2019
- 2D: Friday, 18th January 2019

Should your son be ill or absent on his retreat day, I would be delighted to have him join another class group. Just ask your son to speak to Ms Clarke.

Yours sincerely,

Damon McCaul  
*Headmaster*

Elisabeth Anna Clarke  
*Director of Ignatian Formation and Services Programmes*