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Dear Parents/Carers

Lourdes 2025

From Thursday 3 July – Friday 11 July 2025 students in Year 10 will have the option of going on pilgrimage to Lourdes. We will take a group from our school and join the Diocesan pilgrimage to the French national shrine of Our Lady in the capacity of supporting the pilgrims in different ways. I wanted to communicate some key messages to you so that you can discuss them with your son/daughter.

Firstly, a trip to Lourdes is an amazing experience. One student who went last year and said “it will be the highlight of your school life”. You may have been yourself or know friends or family who have been. Each experience is an opportunity to develop faith, learn about yourself and others and we want as many of our amazing Year 10 students to be a part of it as possible. “It is a fantastic opportunity to not only learn more about your faith but who you are as a person” (current Year 11 student who went to Lourdes last year).

Secondly, the cost of the trip will be roughly £850. We appreciate that this is a significant amount of money, thus we have planned a number of fundraising activities in a hope to bring the overall cost to each student down. This year we have secured some additional funding to help support students with the cost of the trip and there are also external groups to which your son/daughter can apply for financial support; we will give you full details of these in due course. We are keen to ensure that the cost of the trip is not a barrier to our students that are eager to attend the pilgrimage, so if you have any questions or queries concerning this, please contact me on jtf@cardinalheenan.com.

Thirdly, as we travel to Lourdes with the primary focus of serving the sick and elderly pilgrims, we must take students who are ready and willing to help each day. The days are extremely rewarding but also long, and physically and emotionally challenging. Full training will be provided on how to lift and carry as well as how to push wheelchairs safely. The students that we take must be committed to helping others, to work well as part of a team and to be reliable. We expect students to display exemplary behaviour whilst in Lourdes as they will be ambassadors not only of the school but of the Diocese of Leeds.

Each student who goes to Lourdes gets a lot from the trip. Other comments from students in the past include “an unforgettable experience”, “I enjoyed bonding with my pilgrim” and “you cannot put into words just how special Lourdes is – you have to experience it for yourself!”. There is a rich tradition of our school taking a substantial team and we look forward to maintaining this in 2025.

If your son/daughter would like to get involved in this wonderful opportunity and join the Lourdes pilgrimage, there will be an online application, more details about this process will be sent to you soon.

Yours faithfully

Mr J Tunnecliff
Associate Assistant Headteacher for RE & Catholic Life

