



Year 11 Retreats – Christmas & Easter

Our vision and mission to live life to the full **[John 10: 10]** inspires us to take time to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas and the importance of Easter as a Christian community.

Christ is God's gift to us. Through the Incarnation itself and the ultimate sacrifice He made, we celebrate and remember these 2 incredible **acts of love**. Our role as a Christian community is to replicate acts of love in our own lives. Christ is our role model.

Given that there is a lot of pressure on Year 11 students in their final year of main school and with the GCSE final examinations looming. So here at

HTA, we help them by having 2 very special Retreat days ... one on the last day of Term 1 before they head off on their Christmas break and the second Retreat day on the last day of Term 2 before they go into the Easter break.

Each of the Retreat days sees the whole cohort come off timetable and spend the day in workshops designed to encourage them to relax, smile, enjoy themselves, come together as a Year group with a sense of Belonging in prayer and reflection focusing on the importance of the Christmas / Easter season. Each Retreat day comprises of 4 workshops and culminates with a Celebration of the Word in the Main Hall.



The Christmas Retreat day focuses on Jesus, Mary & Joseph, the Shepherds and the Kings.

The Easter Retreat day focuses on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

These workshops have traditionally been led by the RE Department staff, our PSOs and local clergy.

However, in recent years our Sixth Form students have taken

the time out of the own studies and their own time to take the leading role in planning and delivering the workshops to the Year 11 students ... under the watchful eye of the staff of course!

This is a wonderful **act of love and service** from our Sixth Form students to ensure that the Year 11 students have a 'holy experience' amongst the rigours of their study enables Year 11 to go into their holidays and homes with Christ.

Our Sixth Form students have truly encapsulated the Christian beliefs and message about both Christmas and Easter as an example to all.

