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11<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Towards the beginning of next academic year, we hope that one of the Bishops in our Diocese will visit Ellesmere College, to confer confirmation on those who are ready to receive this sacrament. The College offers a form of preparation for students who wish to explore whether confirmation is right for them.

*What is confirmation?* If baptism is adoption into God's family, then confirmation is growing up and being prepared to take an active role.

We do not offer a 'course' as such but ask students who are interested in exploring confirmation, to attend **Pizza & Prayer!** This is a short Eucharist service, every Wednesday at 13:15pm, followed by lunch and an informal discussion/bible study. 100% attendance is not the goal here, rather an obvious, serious, and growing desire to explore Christian Spirituality – I am very mindful of other commitments, be they academic, musical or sporting.

The idea is that a regular commitment to voluntarily attend worship, is the best way to explore whether God might be part of life in the long term. The course is open to all of **Middle School and Sixth Form**. It goes without saying that attendance at Pizza & Prayer in no way *obligates* a student to be confirmed.

I write because I realise that sometimes young people need a nudge to consider things that they don't fully understand, or which separates them a little from their peers. Please would you consider asking your child about whether they would be interested in this opportunity? Many students in the past have found that these short, weekly, reflective moments provide a real support and a surprising introduction to the resources of the spiritual life.

**As life here at Ellesmere can get (very!) busy it would be really helpful to hear back from parents or students, who know, or think, their children might be interested in exploring confirmation – so that I can look out for and encourage them if appropriate.**

In Christ,

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