

Vicariate for Pastoral Formation



Walsingham House at Abbotswick
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We are a nonprofit making charity under the auspices of the Diocesan Trust (BRCDT), Registered Charity 234092

Walsingham House Volunteer Role Description

As a Walsingham House Volunteer Team member you will be living alongside 7 other people of a similar age as yourself, in a Christian community founded on love, respect and care. As a community we work with over 7000 young people aged 8-18 across the Brentwood diocese. Retreats are run at our retreat centre, based at Abbotswick House, just outside Brentwood; as well as outreach retreats which are held in schools and other venues.

Cononavirus has greatly affected our work in 2020 and 21. This has however given us the chance to develop our online Minsitry via social media. Therefore alongside running retreats, we will teach you about online ministry on several platforms, which reaches thousands of people every week. In 2021 we were able to welcome young people back to Walsingham House for day retreats and residential retreats and have been thriving ever since.

Whether working in schools or at the House, volunteers will be working with small groups of roughly 10-15 young people. You will lead interactive sessions and times of prayer, which are designed to help the young people engage with the Catholic faith in a new and exciting way, as well as hopefully developing a personal relationship with Jesus and having fun while doing it.

Being a part of the Walsingham House team means you will be able to develop your communication skills as you work with a range of different people from many backgrounds, as well as having the opportunity to develop public speaking skills. Furthermore, this is an opportunity for you to delve deeper into the Catholic faith as well as assisting young people to engage with their faith. We also do our very best to also inspire our team members to develop their gifts and talents, whatever they are, to bring creativity in their ministry to the young people we serve.

We pride ourselves on the support we offer our volunteers. We hope a year on the Walsingham House volunteer team can be an opportunity to grow in all ways and prepare you for the next step in your life's journey; be that studying at university, an apprenticeship, full time employment or potentially another year in youth ministry at Walsingham House or another centre in another part of the country.

Every week we have 'Team Days' which comprise of catechetical and faith based formation, spiritual guidance, helping the grounds maintenance team in the gardens and time spent together as a community. This can include: lecture style presentations from renowned Catholic speakers; spiritual direction from priests and trips to visit places such as; Essex University Chaplaincy, the Franciscan Friars in Canning Town and Aylesford Priory. Every Team Day concludes with a community evening where we spend time together as a whole community eating, praying and socializing together.

Walsingham House is closely linked to the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service; therefore the Team often assist at the events run by the BCYS – such as Youth Gather in October, World Youth Sunday and the Rite of Acceptance for all confirmandi of the diocese at Brentwood Cathedral.

Normally we go on a team holiday each year, travel restrictions permitting, as well all going to Lourdes alongside the Brentwood Diocese pilgrimage to assist pilgrims. These come at no cost to you.

Regarding finance, volunteers receive a £60 stipend each week, however accommodation and food is all provided.

If you have any enquires please contact Joseph Beattie (Retreats, Facilities and Hospitality Coordinator) on 01277 373959 or josephbeattie@dioceseofbrentwood.org