Vicariate for Youth Ministry

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 up to 6 other people of a similar age as yourself, in a Catholic Christian community founded on love, respect and care. As a community we work with thousands of young people aged 8-18 across the Brentwood Diocese, which covers Essex and East London, each year. Retreats are run at our retreat centre, based at Abbotswick House, just outside Brentwood; as well as some outreach work in schools and other venues.
- When working on a retreat, 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.
- As well as this unique opportunity to be part of a community of young people at Walsingham House, 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, through our bespoke formation programme, we offer an opportunity for you to delve deeper into the Catholic faith by walking alongside younger people to understand their own 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 Cambridge University Chaplaincy, the SVP Centre in Southend and Walsingham itself in Norfolk. 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 part of 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.
- The year concludes with a free trip to Lourdes, with 100+ young Catholics, alongside the Brentwood Diocese pilgrimage to assist pilgrims.
- Regarding finance, volunteers receive a £60 stipend each week, however accommodation and food is all provided.

If you have any enquires please contact Claire Bailey, Director of Youth Ministry, via email (clairebailey@brcdt.org) or phone (01277373959).