

## Wintershall Retreat Day –September 2022

*Staff feedback was extremely positive, with individuals, who had initially been nervous about the day, saying they felt invigorated, inspired, relaxed and ready for the term ahead.*

On the first day of the new school year, all teaching staff attended the Wintershall Estate for a special retreat day, focusing on the importance of being a teacher in a Christian School. It was also an opportunity for all staff to reconnect with one another after the summer and start to prepare for the new term ahead.

The day began with a 'called by name' activity where the group discussed the idea that we have all been called by God to teach at the school and have a very special role to play within it. We were asked to talk to one another about the significance of our names and write our names on a stone.

We returned to this activity at the end of the day when the course leader lit a candle for us all and gave a blessing to us each by name.

During the morning, we visited the fifteen stations of Christ, telling the different parts of the story leading up to Jesus' death. It was a great opportunity to enjoy the variety of art and discuss themes relating to the story of Jesus, and how we might discuss them with our classes. At each station, we were given a small item for our Easter Pilgrim Bag.

After coffee, we watched the actors perform two scenes which gave us all an opportunity to discuss the power and impact of drama in RE lessons. It also provided a chance to reflect ourselves on Christian teachings.

We enjoyed eating lunch together in the beautiful surroundings – it was great to be able to catch up with one another in a relaxed environment.

After lunch, we experienced a Godly Play session and wondered about how this storytelling technique might be used to support children's spirituality in our school.

Some staff chose to create artwork/pieces based on teachings from the Bible.

At the end of the day, we returned to the importance of a name and our role as teachers in a Christian school, using the baptism Godly Play presentation. This also served as a useful demonstration of the Holy Trinity. As our names were called, a candle was lit for each of us and then Lucy 'changed the light', asking us all to take it with us on our journeys through the next school year.

