Year 7 Retreat
By Georgia Barradeen, Year 11 Retreat Leader

At O’Loughlin Catholic College, every year level has their own Religious Retreat; this year was the first time that a Year 11 class has organised and taken charge in any of the schools retreats.

As a Year 11 Youth Ministry class we were given the responsibility to plan and produce the 2015 Year 7 Retreat. In the early weeks of the Semester we begun by splitting the year group in half for 2 separate days. As the weeks moved on the deadline was fast approaching. Due to not planning a retreat for this number of students before, none of us really knew how much work and planning really had to go into the task. Mr Bourke, our Religion teacher, had us split into two groups and allocated us to a day (Tuesday/Thursday).

Every school retreat has a different theme and the theme that the Year 11 class chose was ‘You Are Not Alone’. The meaning of this theme was to clearly express the importance to the Year 7’s for them to know and learn that you are not alone in this world no matter what troubles they may face and that there is always someone there for you. There is always somewhere for students to go for support. We showed this theme through games, skits, songs and sharing personal experiences so the students know they are not the first or only person to be going through a hard time. There was also a special guest invited to stand up and talk to the students about the topic of where to find support and to have faith in God.

When the week of the retreat finally arrived the Year 11 class were all so pumped and set to go. We had everything ready for the Year 7’s to have an exciting and eventful retreat. We were sure the day would go off without a hitch. The feedback from the Year 7’s was positive and I hope that this opportunity is given to other year groups in the future as it has been a really good learning experience for us.