



# KING JAMES'S SCHOOL

KNARESBOROUGH

October 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

At King James's School we are proud of how curious our students are; they ask questions of the world and their place in it. As such, many students over the last two weeks have been asking questions about the conflict in Israel and Palestine. These questions are not easily answered because these questions do not have easy answers. As educators, we recognise our role in the personal development of the children in our care and because of this we have coordinated a response to this conflict.

As a school we are not allowed a political standpoint – we do not release press statements about global affairs. As individuals who make up the staff body of the school, we are affected by the news of violence as people across the world are. Several colleagues have collaborated on materials to be delivered to our students which will happen next week.

The purpose of this lesson is threefold:

- To give some insight into the context behind the conflict
- To give students awareness of how to critically engage with media to prevent the spread of misinformation.
- To remind our students what it means to be a positive bystander to hate crimes.

The contextual information will be provided through videos collated from established news organisation created for the purpose of sharing with young people. These will be shared with you, so you have access to the information we are providing your child.

In Years 7, 8, and 9 the lesson will be delivered through one of their humanities lessons. In Years 10, 11, and the 6<sup>th</sup> Form the lesson will be delivered through tutor time.

Whilst some background to the conflict will be given, the main aim of the lesson is to develop the students critical thinking and knowledge of how misinformation is spread. These are skills the students will need now and in the future as they navigate current affairs in the digital age.

We understand that many of our students and families will be directly and indirectly affected by this conflict. We also recognise and are distressed that there has been a rise in antisemitism and islamophobia across the world including in the UK. At King James's School, we do not tolerate discrimination and we want to ensure our students understand that people of all faiths and no faith condemn violence and are calling for a peaceful resolution to this conflict.

Finally, students will be pointed towards resources they can access if they wish to find out more information as well as reminded of the many avenues of support open to them in school if they are upset or worried.

Please see below the links to the video resources our students will be shown during humanities lessons or form time.

Yours sincerely,

**Mr Gary Gordon**

Head of PSHCEE and Student Health and Wellbeing Coordinator

Video Links:

[What has happened in Gaza and Israel](#)

[The Israeli Palestinian conflict explained](#)

[Knowing what information to trust](#)