



**Wednesday 22 November 2023**

**CGA response to the ongoing crisis in Israel and the Palestinian territories**

Dear Parents,

The news and images from Gaza and Israel continue to shock and sadden us all. We are very aware of the direct impact that this crisis is having on students, staff, parents and our wider community. We remain focused on ensuring that school is a place of safety for all students where everyone is treated with kindness and respect.

To date, we have engaged with students, focussing on their well-being, listening to their feedback and suggestions, letting them know where to access support and sharing resources with students and parents. This work has been based around our CAIR values and the importance of keeping students safe.

Over recent weeks, we have been made aware of student protests in neighbouring boroughs and the potential for a larger Hackney based protest this Friday (24 November). In response to this, we have used assemblies to remind students that the school cannot support marches and protests on any issue during school time because of the impact that absence from school has on students' learning and education and our ability to safeguard students. This is particularly important for Year 11 and 13 whose Pre-Public Exams continue into next week.

We have also reminded students about the ways that they can safely make their voices heard on issues which they feel strongly about and the importance of talking to you about how they are feeling, and any plans they might have for protesting, so that you can effectively safeguard them. We have also revisited important messages about safe use of social media and thinking carefully about the accuracy of what they are reading, and sharing, online. Your support with reinforcing these messages at home is appreciated so that we can continue to work together to keep students safe.

Thank you also to the parents and students that shared concerns about the choice of UNICEF as the school charity. Our Chair of Trustees' wrote to UNICEF about these concerns. We did not receive a clear enough response from them so all funds raised by the school will instead go to the Gaza Emergency Fund coordinated by Save the Children.

Finally, if you have any concerns about the approach that the school is taking on any matter, please call us or email us. We value your feedback and appreciate you sharing this. Times like these are upsetting and challenging but they are also a valuable reminder of the compassion and resilience of the CGA community. As always, I am very proud of our students and their compassionate approach to social justice.

Thank you for your continued support.

**Anna Feltham - Headteacher**