

November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

For some weeks we have been hearing about the tragedies and concerning events occurring in the Middle East.

Talking about this topic can be incredibly difficult as there are human stories and people's individual suffering to consider. You, your friends and families, may have been personally affected by what is happening.

We have liaised with colleagues in other schools and followed the advice provided by the Department for Education on how to discuss the events so that all students are provided with an opportunity, in the weeks ahead during tutor time, to engage in discussions.

We are aware that there are individuals using social media in an attempt to organise a protest at school on Friday 1st December during the school day. We have made it clear to students that protesting is not the platform for sharing their thoughts and feelings and the negative impact it would have on our community and their learning in school. We appreciate your support in also making it clear to your children that they should not engage in protesting at school.

Students will be provided with an opportunity to express their thoughts and feelings on the events in the Middle East through a series of planned, structured activities in tutor time in the weeks ahead.

Images of violence can be frightening and difficult for children to understand. If parents and carers could support their child by providing a safe space to discuss what they have heard, concerns they may have, and remind them they can always discuss sensitive topics with the trusted adults in their life, we would be most grateful. The attached [link](#) may be of support to you when facilitating these discussions.

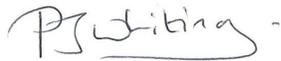
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Please do not hesitate to contact your child's Key Stage Leader directly should you wish to discuss further support for your child, using the contact details below:

Key Stage 3 Leader (Years 7, 8 & 9) - Mr Rowles [lrowles@stopsleyhighschool.co.uk](mailto:lrowles@stopsleyhighschool.co.uk)

Key Stage 4 Leader (Years 10 & 11) - Ms Arkison [sarkison@stopsleyhighschool.co.uk](mailto:sarkison@stopsleyhighschool.co.uk)

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mrs Whiting". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Mrs Whiting  
Senior Deputy Headteacher