

3 March 2022



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Dear Parents/Guardians

Conflict in Ukraine and Non-Uniform Charity Day Monday 7 March 2022

On Tuesday I spoke to all students regarding the terrible situation that is currently unfolding in the Ukraine. The key messages from my assembly were:

- To reassure our students that there are staff available in school who they can talk to and to encourage students to ask questions or share worries where they exist. This was of course heavily caveated that, like everyone else, our staff do not have all of the answers.
- To be aware that in our school and local community we have a diverse population and that within these communities there are people of Russian and Ukrainian heritage who are undoubtedly experiencing great worry and concern at the events that are unfolding. As ever, we ask for kindness and understanding to be the prevailing attitudes that unite us as a special community. We have asked students to be particularly sensitive in discussions and conversations regarding the issue, to ensure that they do not cause unnecessary upset to any of our students or community members who are more effected by the terrible situation.
- To ask students to consider the reliability of sources and be mindful of the perils of misinformation across social media channels.

I am aware that the final point is a challenging area for all students. To try and offer support to you as parents/guardians I have identified two links below that offer support to help you discuss the matter with your children, or to help them direct to appropriate sources of information:

- *Help for teachers and families to talk to pupils and how to help them avoid misinformation (Department for Education):*
<https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2022/02/25/help-for-teachers-and-families-to-talk-to-pupils-about-russias-invasion-of-ukraine-and-how-to-help-them-avoid-misinformation/>
- *We should not hide from children what is happening in Ukraine (Schools Week/Children's Commissioner):*
<https://schoolsweek.co.uk/we-should-not-hide-from-children-what-is-happening-in-ukraine/>



As a school we feel compelled to show our solidarity and empathy for humanity and to do this we are holding a **non-school uniform day on Monday 7 March 2022**. On this day we ask that students **wear something blue or yellow** and in doing so that they make a **£2 donation** – please make the payment via your child's ParentPay account. Please also ensure that their clothing and shoes are suitable for the school environment and weather conditions.

The funds raised will be used to support the humanitarian relief efforts and will be paid to the International Committee of the Red Cross, who are working directly with Ukrainian Red Cross to assist those who are affected by the conflict.

Kind regards

Mr Warwood

Associate Headteacher