



18 September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Year 10 Religious Studies talk: Solutions Not Sides, Friday 16 October 2026

As part of our Religious Studies (RS) provision for Year 10 students, we have organised a session to explore the issues surrounding Israel and Palestine. We will be running a preparatory session in RS lessons later this term and we have two speakers coming in to speak to Year 10 on Friday 16 October.

The speakers are from a highly recommended organisation called *Solutions Not Sides*, an educational charity encouraging understanding and dialogue. Their programme is based on three key values: non-violence, equality for all and rejection of hatred. They will come into school and speak to the whole year group in one two hour session. Students will get to hear from both an Israeli and a Palestinian perspective. While we are aware this is a very challenging area, we also feel that it is vital we address it and allow students to listen to both sides and come to their own conclusions. The same organisation came into our school two years ago and we found it to be a very valuable experience, as shown by the views of two now Year 13 students who took part when they were in Year 10:

"From an Israeli perspective the talk was a comfortable space for two excellent guest speakers to share their own life stories and experiences. It was an excellent opportunity that encouraged the students to learn and understand the nature of the conflict in a compassionate, unbiased manner. Solutions Not Sides managed to clearly educate those who knew less about the topic without being insensitive to those who were personally affected and as someone who finds the topic difficult to talk about, it was a refreshing change."

"From a Palestinian perspective, the ideas and solutions both the speakers mentioned aligned with many of my own beliefs and objectives, as I hope it did with many other perspectives. For so long now many people, including our demographic, have been disoriented and hounded by the image in the news that Palestinians and Israelis are sworn enemies, or that the conflict extends to people's religions and faiths. However, through the discussions held between the students and the speakers it became clear that this was in fact not the case, and solutions can be reached in the region."

We feel that this is a really important opportunity for all students but, as the visiting organisation is a charity, we would really **appreciate a voluntary contribution of £4 per student via parentpay** from all parents who are willing and able to do so. To make this payment, please log onto [ParentPay](#) using your username and password to pay **by 2 October 2026**. If you need a copy of your activation details or are unable to access Parentpay, please email parentpay@swbgs.com.

This will cover the cost requested by the charity that maintains the important work they are committed to.

In line with the school's charging policy, parents are reminded that financial support may be available to assist families whose financial circumstances would otherwise prevent their child from participating. Applications must be made in writing to bursar@swbgs.com, outlining the reasons why support is required, as soon as possible and latest by the deadline.

Many thanks for your help and support and we hope your children will come home with lots to discuss. If you have any further questions please contact me via parents@swbgs.com.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Kim Nicholas
Subject Lead in Religious Studies