

18th March, 2022



Dear Parent/Carer

Parental Update 86

Welcome to an 'extraordinary' edition of our *Parental Update*.

Journalists' reports from Ukraine are painting a picture of a growing humanitarian crisis. As a school we're keen to do what we can to help – after all, *compassion* is one of our school values.

Accordingly I'm writing to let you know that next **Friday, 25th March**, will be a **Fund-raising Day for Ukraine**. Students do not need to wear full school uniform, but instead may show their support for the people of Ukraine by wearing appropriate blue and yellow clothing. In return, we will ask for a donation (we'd suggest £1, but will gratefully accept all donations of any size); there will be a 'bucket collection' at the end of each year's Assemblies on Friday morning. All donations will be passed directly on to the [Disasters Emergency Committee](#) appeal. Donations will also be accepted through the ParentMail system – more details in next week's *Update*.

Separately, our Sixth Form students will be collecting blankets, toiletries, clothing and other goods for the relief effort. If you would prefer to support the community in this way (either instead of, or in addition to, a cash donation in Assembly), your son/daughter should bring any goods down to the Sixth Form Centre during their morning break on **Friday, 25th March** where Sixth Form volunteers will collect it. Donations will be channelled through local churches or cultural organisations – there are more details about the relief effort, including a list of what to give, [here](#).

Support for your son/daughter

I thought it would be worth reproducing Dr Silverstone's advice from *Parental Update 85* about how to address the news from Ukraine with children.

“Events in Ukraine have been on all our minds as well as our news feeds, and I know that it can be hard to know how to discuss such difficult matters with children. The Department for Education has released a blog aimed at [helping teachers and families to talk to pupils about Russia's invasion of Ukraine](#) which focuses on helping young people avoid misinformation. Schools Week features a piece by the Children's Commissioner entitled [We should not hide from children what is happening in Ukraine](#). Both articles may help to frame discussions with young people about the Russian invasion and conflict in general. As always, if any of our pupils require additional support, please direct them to their Head of Year, or you can contact me directly [here](#).”

Finally

We'll be in touch next week with our usual, fuller *Update*. In the meantime, please pray for Ukraine.

Yours faithfully

Stephen Brierley
Principal.