

Monday 19 April 2021

Dear Year 11 and 12 (S4 and S5),

We hope you are well and are enjoying being back at school.

First and foremost, thank you for your patience whilst we have been exploring options for Israel experiences this summer.

We are writing to you today to let you know that, sadly, we will not be able to launch these programmes for summer 2021 and therefore they will not be taking place this year. Despite many months of trying to overcome the numerous obstacles we have faced, we have concluded that there is still far too much uncertainty around core challenges to the trips, from insuring group travel for unvaccinated participants to the issue of quarantining upon arrival or self-isolation if a member of a group tested positive. We simply cannot guarantee your health, safety and wellbeing at this point and this must be our absolute priority.

We know that it has been a challenging year for everyone, however we particularly acknowledge the strain that has been put on you. This news may be upsetting for you, please know that there are lots of people and organisations around you that you can talk to and who will always provide a listening ear. We encourage you to reach out to the pastoral teams at your school or synagogue, or the support teams at JAMI should you like any additional support.

This summer and the years to come, can and will still be ones to remember. The youth movements hope to be running UK-based activities specifically for your age groups and we strongly encourage you to get involved – your movement will be in touch with details soon. Once the pandemic's worst effects have passed, we will resume group Israel travel and whilst we are sad that we cannot take you to Israel this summer, we can't wait to welcome you onto a trip in the very near future. More information on these exciting Israel opportunities will be released within the coming weeks.

Providing Israel experiences, or in a regular year "Israel Tour", has been our role in the community for over 40 years and we know the impact these invaluable trips have on young people's lives; whether it be by helping to develop your own Jewish identities and connections to Israel, or by exploring new communities and sandy beaches with new-found friends. It is possible that this summer you might be able to travel to Israel with your family or a small group of friends – if you do, we hope you have a brilliant time, and whilst it won't be "Tour", we hope it is a very special experience.

Importantly, you should know that you still have a place at the heart of your youth movement and our community, and we look forward to seeing you on another exciting Israel programme soon.

If you have any questions or queries, please direct them to your youth movement or youth organisation. They will be getting in touch soon about other exciting opportunities that will be available specifically to you and your friends this summer.

Kind regards,



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