



**KING  
DAVID**  
FOUNDATION  
SUPPORT | INSPIRE | STRENGTHEN

YESH

an unforgettable  
experience



Creating a living link to the Land of Israel is one of the strongest factors in ensuring Jewish continuity and is one that makes a meaningful impact on Jewish students' lives.



## HOW TO USE THIS INTERACTIVE PDF

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You can navigate your way through this document by using the menu panel to the top left. Alternatively, you can use your keyboard arrows to go forward or go back.



Click or tap to return to the start



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Throughout the document, you will also come across the symbol below. When you click or tap this symbol, a pop-up box with further information will appear.



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# JEWISH LIFE AND LEARNING AT KDS

At The King David School we challenge each and every one of our students from Pre-School through to Year 12 to forge strong and proud Jewish identities.

Be it in our formal Hebrew or Jewish Studies classes, in our daily prayers or in our celebrations of Shabbat, Chagim and special days, The King David School focuses on combining serious Jewish learning with meaningful Jewish experiences. We do this by not only focusing on traditional Jewish Learning, but by equally emphasising Jewish Living.

Throughout King David's on campus Jewish learning, our children develop a mature understanding of eternal Jewish values and mission. But nothing can substitute experiencing first hand the intense beauty and joy of Jewish living.

A trip to Israel is the perfect culmination of KDS's experiential learning and outdoor education programs and all three aspects of our Educational Philosophy.

"We know and understand that as students grow and develop, so does their cognitive ability to think and reason. Students at this stage of adolescent development often question and analyse more extensively than in earlier years. They start to form their own code of ethics "What do I think is right?" They are more likely to consider different possibilities as they start developing their own identity "Who am I and what role will I play in this world?" They even start to consider future goals "What do I want?" It therefore makes perfect sense that as our students embark on this cognitive developmental journey, they are provided with an amazing, spiritual and experiential adventure in Israel through our YESH program."

**RUSSELL KAPLAN**  
VICE PRINCIPAL  
TEACHING AND LEARNING

"Truly amazing experience, thank you for making it unforgettable!"

**YESH PARTICIPANT**









# INVESTING IN JEWISH CONTINUITY

A strong connection to Israel is an essential element in a Jewish education, and critical to ensure the continuity of Jewish culture and identity.

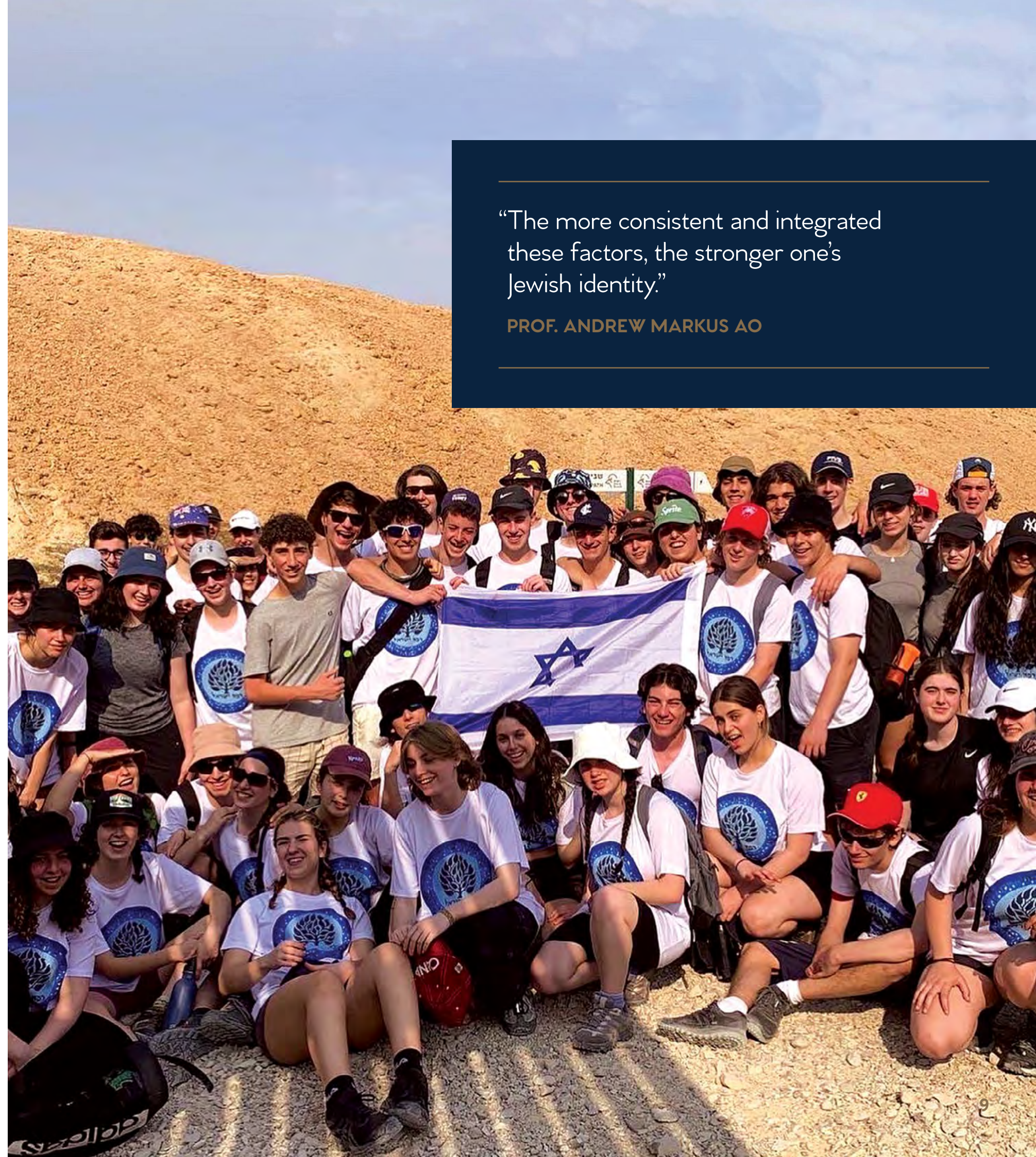
In his extensive research of the Australian Jewish community\*, Professor Andrew Markus AO advocated that the continuity of Jewish identity is dependent on several key factors, the most important being:

- 1 Jewish home life
- 2 Attendance at a Jewish day school
- 3 Involvement in a Jewish youth/sports club
- 4 A trip to Israel

\*Gen17 and 2008–09 Jewish Population Survey. Prof. A Markus AO, Australian Centre for Jewish Civilization, Monash University.

“The more consistent and integrated these factors, the stronger one’s Jewish identity.”

PROF. ANDREW MARKUS AO





Jewish day schools play a central role in strengthening the Jewish identity of our youth.

The King David School created the YESH Trip to Israel for Year 10 students in 2005. Since that time almost 1,000 students have benefitted and participated in this transformative Israel experience. Developing an attachment to Israel and Judaism at a formative period in a young person’s life has a significant impact on strengthening their sense of Jewish identity.

The School currently offers every student in Year 10 (approx 50 students) the opportunity to participate in this immersive four week trip to Israel which brings together a deep understanding of the history of Eretz Yisrael, combined with an experience of the social, legal and ecological issues facing the modern State.

In 2023 the total program cost for YESH is estimated at \$592K or \$11,900 per student. The cost of this program is currently beyond the capacity of many families in The King David School community.

**To ensure that no student misses out because of financial need, the School provides significant subsidies.**

The School currently contributes around 35% of the cost i.e. \$4,140 per student or \$207,000 total per annum from its operations budget. However, our capacity to continue to subsidize YESH at this level ongoing is declining, especially given the rapidly rising costs.

**We are seeking generous benefactors who understand the value of this program and its impact in strengthening Jewish identity.**

**To maintain the grant subsidy and secure the continuation of YESH for at least the next four years, we are seeking philanthropic support to collectively contribute \$220K per year over the next four years (allowing for cost increases).**

BUDGET BREAKDOWN

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| Total cost estimate   | \$592,350 |
| Includes: Flights, accommodation, meals, guides, security guards, medic, KDS staff, Madrichim, all programs and excursion expenses. |           |
| Cost per student  | \$11,847  |
| KDS subsidy per student   | \$4,140   |
| Parent contribution per student   | \$7,707   |
| Total KDS subsidy 2023  | \$207,000 |

# YESH ITINERARY

The YESH program brings together a deep understanding of the history of Eretz Yisrael, combined with an experience of the social, legal and ecological issues facing the modern State. The serious learning is lightened during Shabbat and immersing in the sights and sounds of today's Israel.

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

**WEEK 1**

**WEEK 2**

**WEEK 3**

**WEEK 4**



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# TIKKUN OLAM TRACK

“We visited a Shul to bake cookies and pack Chanukah bags for Ukrainian and Russian refugees. We then met Israel Gay Youth (IGY), who shared how they are involved with queer individuals all around Israel. We ended the first day by cleaning up Tel Aviv beach.

“Next day on to Yad Lakashish (Lifeline For The Old). We learnt how elderly people below the poverty line work there to earn a living as well as giving them a sense of dignity in their lives. This incredible visit was followed by going to SHEKEL, an organisation that gives work to individuals with disabilities. Both of these organisations focus on art and other hands-on activities for their respective communities. After lunch we volunteered at Pantry Packers where we packed boxes of food for people in need. We ended the day visiting Kids4Peace where we learnt about how that organisation brings Israeli and Palestinian kids together.

“Our Tikkun Olam experience ended at Save a Child’s Heart. It is an organisation dedicated to helping kids with heart conditions from countries that can’t help them. We had the chance to meet some of these kids and play with them. Whilst we didn’t speak the same language, smiling and laughing is universally understood by all.”

**KAYLA BASS AND DEBBIE PASTOR**  
**YESH PARTICIPANTS 2022**





# PERSONAL AND SOCIAL GOALS



Independence



Group work



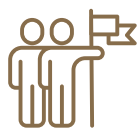
Resilience



Friendship and trust



Jewish identity



Leadership



Global citizen



Memories



“Although my child had been to Israel once before with us, this was a completely different experience that they shared with their fellow students. Taking in the breadth of Israel’s diverse geography and ecosystems, the cities and the regions, students were immersed in the historical and the modern, the religious and the political aspects of life in Israel. All of this while having a ridiculously good time and being very well looked after by the teachers and guides. They came home to us happy and exhausted, with greater confidence in their ability to self-manage and with stronger feelings about Israel and their Jewish identity.”

**PARENT PERSPECTIVE**





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