

9 September 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

Yesterday we learned of the death of Queen Elizabeth II. She has been monarch, Head of the Church of England, and Head of the Commonwealth for over 70 years, and there has been much grief since hearing this news, with tributes being shared from Britain, the Commonwealth and across the world.

On a personal level, some of you may have met The Queen at some point, many will have not. However, she has been part of our lives for so long, I think most of us can say we *feel* we know her, and will mourn her death. The Queen herself said "Grief is the price we pay for love" when she wrote a letter of condolence to victims of the 9/11 terror attacks in 2001, and any grief we have at this time is an expression of how highly she was regarded.

It is widely acknowledged that the values of duty and service were her cornerstones; she was driven by duty and supported by her faith. In this sense she has been a role model for any of us who chose to use her as such, and she has kept to her promise, made on her 21st birthday: "that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service".

I have read that the part of her role The Queen was most proud of, the part that she held most dear, was as Head of the Commonwealth. This federation of equal nations exists to support each other in areas as diverse as the environment, business, social advancement and sport and this group has grown in size and influence over the last 70 years. The population of the Commonwealth numbers 2.5 billion people across 54 countries, and The Queen championed all their causes for nearly three-quarters of a century.

As we enter a period of national mourning and prepare to say our final farewells to The Queen in whatever way we want to, I think she will be remembered as a still, calm centre of stability in a world that brings much strife and changes quickly.

*Gracious God, we give thanks
for the life of your servant Queen Elizabeth,
for her faith and her dedication to duty.
Bless our nation as we mourn her death
and may her example continue to inspire us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

Yours faithfully



Nicolas Simms
Head Teacher

WE BELIEVE EVERYONE IS EQUAL: EVERYONE DESERVES THE BEST

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