

9th September 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians

I am sure that we were all deeply saddened by the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II yesterday. It is hard to think of a figure in history who has done more to embody the concept of public service and she was without doubt an extraordinary figure, as well as a reassuring presence through often uncertain times.

It is right that as a school and a country that we pay tribute to her life and service over the coming period of national mourning. I am aware that, whilst the tributes and condolences are the appropriate recognition of the lifetime of service of Her Majesty the Queen, these may also evoke feelings of grief in students who have lost loved ones. Please do contact your child's Head of Year or a member of the pastoral team should your child require further support in school. Assemblies next week will focus on the life and work of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and provide details of our plans to commemorate her legacy. Should you feel that the assembly may prove upsetting for your child, please do let their Head of Year know via the main office. I would also like to direct parents to the helplines (click [here](#)) that are available to provide support to young people and families at any time.

The national guidance is being shared with schools regarding the protocols for this period of national mourning, and I will share this with parents/guardians as it is updated, including the proposed national silences to allow us to come together in contemplation and arrangements for Her Majesty's funeral.

I will write in more detail next week about the start of term but I did want to acknowledge what a privilege it has been to welcome students back to school this week, and say a particular welcome to our new Year 7 cohort and to Year 12 students joining the Sixth Form.

Finally, I believe a significant reason why the passing of Queen Elizabeth II will be deeply felt by our community is because she has been ever present in all of our lives and her loss leaves an inevitable uncertainty. I know we, as a community, will pull together as we always do, taking comfort in her example of public duty and service and uniting in our affection for, and pride in, her remarkable life.

Yours sincerely



Gareth Davies  
Headteacher