

**TO ALL PARENTS, CARERS, GOVERNORS
SCHOOL-BASED AND STLS STAFF**

8 September 2022

Dear friends

The Death of HM the Queen

This evening we learnt that Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II had died this afternoon at Balmoral Castle. As a School we extend to the King and all members of the Royal Family our heartfelt sympathy and condolences. Whilst this is moment of national loss and change it is more importantly a moment of family loss, of grief and mourning. It is a profound moment in our national life, given that Queen Elizabeth II reigned for more than 70 years, taking the throne before even I was born!

In 2014 I was enormously privileged to meet The Queen when she awarded me my OBE. I shall never forget that moment when she asked about my work, the School and the children and young people who came to it. She was genuinely interested and I think this characterised her approach to people and her support for what they did in big, small and sometimes insignificant jobs. She cared for her country and her subjects and devoted herself to a life of service and had a commitment to the country and commonwealth which was unstinting, selfless and absolute.

On Friday we will mark the Queen's death at School and honour her service, dedication, and loyalty. The values which guided her life are those we can also aspire to and uphold and which reflect very much the ethos of the School.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was a devout Christian and so I think it is fitting that I end this letter to you with a prayer:

*Teach us, good Lord,
To serve thee as thou deservest;
To give and not to count the cost;
To fight and not to heed the wounds;
To toil and not for seek for rest;
To labour and not to ask for any reward
Save that of knowing that we do thy will.*

(St Ignatius Loyola)

:

For me this sums up Queen Elizabeth's life and service. May she rest in peace.

Yours sincerely,

Roland J Gooding OBE
Principal

PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE NO NEWSLETTER THIS WEEK