

9<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians

We join with communities of people around the world in expressing our deep sorrow of the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. On behalf of the Gildredge House community, we extend our condolences to the Royal Family and send our thoughts to them at this time.

Her Majesty's sense of duty and selfless service throughout her 70-year reign were hallmarks of her time as Queen and will remain an inspiration for our age. As our longest reigning monarch, she was, for many, a point of stability and continuity in a rapidly changing world. Her Majesty prevailed through extraordinarily turbulent times. She epitomised much that we value here at Gildredge House: ambition, support, perseverance, integrity, reflection, empathy and duty to community.

The Department for Education has now released guidance to schools and I can confirm that we will remain open as per their advice at this current moment. This morning, students have watched a programme, that celebrates Her Majesty's life and achievements. On Monday, students will have an extended Tutor Time assembly and a book of condolences will be made available in school for those who wish to pay tribute. We have lowered a Union Flag at half-mast outside the school as a sign of respect during this period of national mourning. Over the coming days, we plan to continue to commemorate and celebrate Her Majesty's extraordinary life as a school community.

Naturally, some children may have questions about death following the Queen's passing. We recommend sharing the resources that are available from [Minded](#) and [Winston's Wish](#) should you need any help with finding the words to answer the questions your children may have. The school will be able to provide additional support if your child has been deeply affected by the news. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with your child's Class Teacher, Form Tutor or Head of Year should you require any support.

Kind regards



Mr. C Bull  
Head Teacher