



9th September 2022

Dear Parents, Carers and all in the Chessington School community

I write to you at the end of what was a great start to the academic year, with smiling faces new and old, back learning and laughing together at Chessington School. That jubilant spirit of the early week has become one of respectful solemnity following the news that our Queen, Elizabeth II, passed away yesterday.

Firstly, I hope you and your families are well and together at this time of mourning. It's at such times that we truly value the shoulders and sympathy of those we love.

This morning at Chessington we spent time discussing Her Majesty's life, loyalty and love of this country. Importantly, we took time to remember her work ethic, her service and her unwavering commitment to her family, our country and the community. All teachers were given a remembrance presentation, guiding notes and a supporting video to help remember and to spend time thinking about Her Majesty's life. The one thing our children kept coming back to was that sense of duty and of service. When listening and reflecting, our children were thirsty for knowledge of Her Majesty and what she achieved in her 96 years of service. In the darkness that shrouded today, there were candescent moments where our children smiled with love and respect as they heard or remembered the life of Her Majesty.

Almost too poignantly, today a large group of our students set off on their Duke of Edinburgh's award expedition. The award, set up by Her Majesty's husband, The Duke of Edinburgh, in 1954, aimed to develop self confidence, problem solving, hard work and a sense of wonder for the outdoors. Her Majesty was all for keeping on and loved the outdoors, so I am glad that we get to honour her and her husband by doing just so on this weekend's expedition. Good luck to all the children this weekend on their expedition.

Over the weekend schools nationally will receive instruction as to appropriate remembrance, possible bank holidays and the funeral arrangements. As soon as we have this information I will write to you immediately. We will be open as normal unless instructed to do otherwise. Next week our Open Mornings will continue to go ahead, as will trips, activities and clubs - again, unless we are informed otherwise.

Everyone valued • Every day an opportunity • Every moment focused on success



It has been a sad end to what had been a fantastic start back to school. It has been great to see our new parents, your children and to welcome both our lovely new Year 7s and Year 12s. I hope our new Year 7s remember this week as the time they thrived, made friends and simply did brilliantly in their new school (*because they truly have*) as well as the week that a great person, loving mother and an unfaltering symbol of our country passed away.

As Her Majesty herself said “Grief is the price we pay for Love”.

I wish you the best for the weekend. Please continue to show our young people just how much they are loved - I promise that we will.

Yours sincerely

Ash Ali
Headteacher - Chessington School
CEO - The Every Child Every Day Academy Trust