



REMINDER: SCHOOL WILL BE CLOSED ON MONDAY 19 SEPTEMBER

From the Principal's Study

You will all I am sure have caught the news, the images, perhaps heard some people's reflections on the life of Elizabeth II. You will know how she did not grow up thinking she would be Queen. Her uncle, the King, gave up the crown and it passed to her father. She very soon took the mantle, the duty, the responsibility to dedicate her life to a life of service.

It was not a life untouched by

disaster and pain. She lost her father relatively early in life, her family has had its share of very public difficulties: she lived through war, recently through a pandemic, and through countless other political challenges. And yet she somehow projected a powerful image of constancy.

Many people were surprised on Thursday by how emotional they felt. It was partly the



suddenness of the announcement, especially after she had appeared to be in good spirits on meeting her 14th, and 15th Prime Ministers only last Tuesday. But it was also more profound than that. It was that people realised the power of this constancy- when it was taken away.

Even if you are profoundly anti-monarchist and don't agree ideologically with the role, you probably responded to the Queen as a person because of her own particular character. We knew that the Queen had an immense sense of duty, of loyal service to her people. As we watched her age through the various stages of womanhood- from girl, to young woman, to mother, to grandmother, great-grandmother and ultimately widow, with such grace, dignity and wisdom, an

affection grew, which, although we might not have recognised it, was a part of her belonging to us, as our Queen, and we as her people. Even though the circumstances of her life are so far removed from all of ours, her life was in some way a reflection of the different stages of our lives. In an age when perhaps less binds us so strongly together, and divisions can be bitter, a sense of continuous belonging is important.

Mrs von Malaisé



A royal visit

The KEHS community is deeply saddened by the death of Her Majesty The Queen. Hers was a life lived in service to others: an example to all of us. Our thoughts are with His Majesty The King and the Royal family.

We wanted to mark this loss by looking back at the Queen's

links to the school and the impact she had on us all.

In 1955 the Queen and her consort, the Duke of Edinburgh, began a royal tour of the United Kingdom. The young Queen, only three years into her reign, began an extensive journey covering key sites in Scotland, Wales and England.



One of the many places she visited in Birmingham was King Edward VI High School for Girls and King Edward's School – a day which former pupils still remember to this day.

The tour started with a stately procession down the KES driveway, cheered on by

the boys and girls of each school. A service followed, and afterwards several exhibitions, which were enjoyed immensely.

Earlier this year to mark the Platinum Jubilee, the Foundation Archivist interviewed six Old Edwardians about their experiences of the day and

made a short film, combining never-seen footage with the thoughts and recollections of former students.

To watch a short version of the video, click [here](#).

The full 15-minute video can be viewed [here](#).



Book of Condolence

A Book of Condolence is being opened at school to record the thoughts of students and staff at this time of national significance, and it will become part of the school's archive.

We have enjoyed looking back at archive material of the Queen's visit to KEHS and KES in

1955, and it seems fitting that we will add messages from current students which can be accessed by future generations.

We are also inviting alumnae who may have particular memories of the Queen to contribute messages.





House cherry trees

In November 2021, each of the KEHS Houses adopted a newly-planted cherry tree at the front of school.

Our beautiful 50-acre Edgbaston site is renowned for its cherry blossom and with the planting of the four new trees, we are looking

forward to even more colour every spring.

Beaufort, Bordeaux, Seymour and Tudor House Captains, Vice-Captains and Heads of House gathered to lay plaques at the new trees, the locations of which were recorded as part

of the Queen's Green Canopy programme, which had just been launched to mark Her Late Majesty's Platinum Jubilee.

To see photos of the plaque-laying ceremony, the article can be found [here](#).



KEHS pupil's anthem honour

To celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee earlier this year, Birmingham Symphony Hall hosted the West Midlands Platinum Jubilee Anthem World Premiere.

The event featured the first public performance of *Lighting our Way* - the region's anthem for Her Late Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

It was a tremendous honour that our very own Lower Fifth pupil Fatma - who is Birmingham's Young Poet Laureate 2020-22 - was commissioned to write the lyrics for the piece. A Midlands-wide competition was then arranged to provide music for Fatma's lyrics, and this was won by Oliver Hayne, a music composition

student at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire.

Fatma, who is now in Upper Fifth, drew inspiration for her poem from the Queen and her reign, and the impact she had on people. She said: "The stanzas all feature water imagery, and one of them is about the COVID-19 pandemic, tributes to the NHS and how the Queen was held as a symbol of hope through that." Encouraging young girls to aspire to positions of leadership and building a brighter future together were also themes covered by her poem.

To find out more about Fatma's journey into poetry and the inspiration for the anthem, click [here](#).

Dates for your diary

There are lots of events coming up in the KEHS school calendar.

Here is a short selection. For the full list, please refer to the school calendar on our [website](#).

TUESDAY 20 SEPTEMBER - 6.30PM

L5 PARENTS' INFORMATION EVENING

SATURDAY 24 SEPTEMBER - 9.15AM

OPEN MORNING

SATURDAY 24 SEPTEMBER - 9.15AM

HOCKEY & NETBALL V NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME SCHOOL

TUESDAY 27 SEPTEMBER - 6.30PM

PERFORMER'S PLATFORM

WEDNESDAY 28 SEPTEMBER - 5.00PM

PARENTS' MEETING FOR BATTLEFIELDS TOUR*

THURSDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 6.30PM

PARENTS' TALK: DEVELOPING COURAGEOUS LEARNERS**

*Lower Fifth and Upper Fifth **Thirds - Upper Fourths