

Trentham Academy

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13 September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

During a special assembly on Friday, we reflected on the life of Queen Elizabeth II and held a minute's silence. I spoke of her dedication to her role and contribution to the modern society Britain now has. I included these words which Queen Elizabeth II once said:

"None of us can slow the passage of time; and while we often focus on all that has changed in the intervening years, much remains unchanged."

Some cultures believe a long life brings wisdom. I'd like to think so. Perhaps, part of that wisdom is to recognize some of life's baffling paradoxes such as the way human beings have a huge propensity for good, and yet a capacity for evil.

Even the power of faith which frequently inspires great generosity and self-sacrifice can fall victim to tribalism. But through the many changes I have seen over the years: faith, family, and friendship have been not only a constant for me, but a source of personal comfort and reassurance."

I also read this poem, written by Joanne Boyle, which many of you will have seen on social media platforms:

*Phillip came to me today,
and said it was time to go.
I looked at him and smiled,
as I whispered that "I know"*

*I then turned and looked behind me,
and seen I was asleep.
All my Family were around me,
and I could hear them weep.*

*I gently touched each shoulder,
with Phillip by my side.
Then I turned away and walked,
with My Angel guide.*



*Phillip held my hand,
as he lead the way,
to a world where King's and Queens,
are Monarch's every day.*

*I was given a crown to wear
or a Halo known by some.
The difference is up here,
they are worn by everyone.*

*I felt a sense of peace,
my reign had seen its end.
70 years I had served my Country,
as the peoples' friend.*

*Thank you for the years,
for all your time and love.
Now I am one of two again,
in our Palace up above.*

In an assembly filled with emotion, it was with immense pride that I looked out at 770 students, all of whom showed the greatest respect and were silent in their own reflection throughout.

We will continue to remember Queen Elizabeth during the period of national mourning. This will include inviting students to write in the online book of condolences that will be shared with the Royal family.

The academy will be closed on Monday 19 September for the funeral of Queen Elizabeth II.

Yours sincerely,



Mike Whittingham
Headteacher

