



Queen Elizabeth II

Her reign of 70 years and seven months

1952-2022



Oldbury Wells Journal

Special edition September 2022



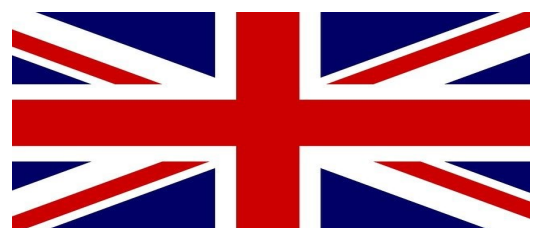
On Friday 16th September 2022, Oldbury Wells School community came together for a whole school assembly to mark the passing of Queen Elizabeth II. The assembly was the first coming together as a whole school in one live sitting for a number of year's; marking a momentous occasion for all these reasons and more. Students and staff had the opportunity to look back on the Queen's life and all she had achieved; acknowledging the significance she will always have in our History and the legacy she leaves behind, while taking a moment of silence to mark the occasion.

Following her passing, classes throughout the school were given opportunity to reflect on her loss and give thanks for the difference she made within her 70 year reign throughout Great Britain, Northern Ireland, the Commonwealth and around the world, while sharing messages of their memories of her. Her passing will have impacted on us all in different ways, with events over the weekend bringing to the forefront the significance and impact she had on all our lives. Despite the sadness of her loss, there is also a sense of celebration for the service she gave, with common thoughts related to her commitment, dedication, and service throughout her reign.

In coming together as a school community, we can stand strong and show our gratitude to those who make a difference in our lives. For our student's, a particular quote was shared from the Queen where she stated, *"The hopes and potential of young people are the same in all nations and on all continents. The decisions we make should always be designed to enlarge their horizons and enrich their futures"*. This was a key message to all our community while considering the positive impact we can all have on those around us through the decisions and choices we make.

This special edition newsletter commemorates what is the end of an era and a significant time in our History. As a new era begins, we look forward with continued optimism towards the work of King Charles III and the continuation of the legacy Elizabeth II leaves behind.

Thank you to all our students for the respect and consideration they have given throughout the period of national mourning alongside events held in school, they have all been amazing.



Celebratory Assembly

On Friday, we held a celebratory whole school assembly in honour of Queen Elizabeth II, where Humanities staff wrote pieces such as her life story, her work for both our Country and the Commonwealth, along with a beautiful poem read out by Year 13 student, Solly Williams.

We also had two musical performances by students Sophie Russell; who sang a rendition of 'Souvenir' and Toby Steadman; who ended our assembly with 'Sky Full Of Stars'.

Many thanks to Mr Grainger, Mrs Lawson and Dr Perfect for their said pieces, along with other members of staff who were working behind the scenes last week in order to make the assembly happen.



Sophie Russell performing 'Souvenir'



Toby Steadman playing 'Sky Full of Stars'



A traditional British lunch



Our canteen served up a traditional British themed lunch following on from our morning assembly, pie and mash was available to students along with scones and cupcakes for dessert. Thank you to Caterlink for such a delicious lunch.



Form groups were asked to write what they will remember about Queen Elizabeth II, take a look at some of our favourites:

Motivating the Country during hard, trying times and never giving up! - 7MBR

A brilliant Queen and even better person! - 9EJW

Her dedicated service to being Queen, Christmas speeches and mighty approval of tea and biscuits! - 7GS

She was a brave warrior, especially in the darkest hours and always helped the people - 9SHU

Her hats, bright colourful clothes and great sense of humour - 11MJ

Her devotion throughout her life will be remembered as iconic, professional, admirable, honourable and gracious- BG

Her love for family - 8DSR

"We will meet again" - 7CXS

Her smile and continually positive personality - 10JWI

She dedicated 70 years of her life to our Country and kept it peaceful - 8SDI

Her influential speeches as a founding mother of modern day England - 10KSL



A Poem of Remembrance

A Poem on the passing of Queen Elizabeth II:

'For My Queen' by Susan Jarvis Bryant

My symbol of nobility, stability and grace,
Who reigned and never ruled: my constant caring face
On TV screen, on stamps, in scenes of history's changing view,
Has slipped away this solemn day—her time to bid adieu.

The only monarch I have loved, the only queen I've known
(This stalwart soul my heart embraced as family of my own)
Has left the throne for greater realms beyond the fuss and fray.
She's left me with a wealth of wondrous memories at play.

So on this day, I'd like to say—dear Lilibet, goodbye.
My one and only gracious Queen, please hear my grateful cry—
You shone with poise and dignity and honour and respect
In times when truth had lost its way and hope was all but wrecked...

By those who never saw the light in eyes that blazed as bright
As anthems sung in notes that rose like Windsor swans in flight.



"I declare before you all that my whole life whether it be long
or short shall be devoted to your service and the service of our
great imperial family to which we all belong."

Queen Elizabeth II 21st Birthday Address, 1947