

9<sup>th</sup> September 2022

## **Arrangements following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II**

Dear students and parents

It was with great sadness that we all learnt yesterday evening of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Few of us have ever known life without her as our nation's sovereign. She was a constant throughout more than 70 years, keeping our spirits aloft in more challenging times and celebrating with us at moments of joy. We are forever grateful for her incredible leadership and service to our country.

This morning I met with our senior management team to agree our response, informed by communications we received from the DfE, AoC and West Sussex County Council. Students are not onsite today, so all staff met together at 9am for a shared moment of reflection. Like many public buildings we are flying our flag at half-mast throughout the 10 days of national mourning until 8am on the day after the state funeral. We have also shared our condolences via all social media channels and in writing to you all now I would like to express our sense of loss as well. We focused on the need to be ever more vigilant in the coming days to students who might be especially affected by the country's loss, perhaps because of their own family situation or bereavement. Anyone who is particularly upset should seek support from their personal tutor or from our Student Services team onsite.

Guidance about college arrangements has been further updated by the DfE during the day. What is clear is that schools and colleges should continue to operate largely as they would, to ensure continuity of learning and also provide a safe and structured environment for young people at a time of national mourning when many will feel upset. Our communications will understandably be less frequent and more muted than usual – to join the rest of the nation in paying our respects to the Queen and her family. We have cancelled sports fixtures until after the funeral. Following discussion, we have agreed to continue with the planned Freshers Fairs taking place onsite on Tuesday and Wednesday next week as they are a vital part of settling new students into college, signing up for enrichment and making new friends. I will write again on Monday with my regular start of term newsletter that explains more about key arrangements early in the academic year.

It is likely that the agreed date for the state funeral will be on a weekday, in which case we would expect to close the college to allow all our community to pay their respects. I will provide an update once this is shared publicly.

As we all take time to reflect and cherish a very special life that had a tremendous impact on the history of our country, take care of one another and we very much look forward to welcoming all students for the start of teaching on Monday.

Kind regards



Dan Lodge  
Principal