



Sixth Sense

Which Week?

This Week: 19th April Week 2

Next Week: 26th April Week 1

Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Philip, 1921-2021

Given the passing of the Duke of Edinburgh on the 9th April in addition to the televised funeral, watched by millions or observed through the minute's silence marked at 3pm during the past Saturday, it is easy to feel distanced from such events and individuals.

In reality, you will have trod in some of these same footsteps throughout your traversing of the Academy during your academic day.

During the mid-1990s the Duke of Edinburgh visited what was a previous iteration of the Academy you attend today. The attached picture, taken outside of A Block/ Student Reception will no doubt be familiar to you all (note: no one-way system!).

Inspired by his very own positive school experiences, Prince Phillip was interested in supporting young people through the Duke of Edinburgh award, something of which was launched 70 years ago, in 1956 and continues to endure until this very day, operating in

over 140 countries, and continuing in its theme of encouraging young people to volunteer and give their time to support their communities whilst stretching themselves to learn new skills and develop their teamwork through the vehicle of outdoor activities.

As you would expect of a visiting dignitary such as the Duke of Edinburgh's stature, he arrived in genuine style— via a helicopter landing on the playing fields that are now the location of the 3G AstroTurf before proceeding to tour the school. Much of the school site has changed since this point. D block would have been a staff car park at this point in time and what is now, the car main park, was a single-storey teaching block that housed English, Geography, Art and Business.

A security team 'swept' the site ahead of the Duke of Edinburgh, checking that all was clear, and, as has been conveyed throughout so many accounts from different media outlets over the past week, he was an engaged-visitor, who took a great deal of interest in the students and staff that he spoke to and gave his time generously in touring all areas within the school before departing, opting for a limousine this time rather than a helicopter.

All of you embark upon a 'Duke of Edinburgh Award' of sorts as you progress through Sixth Form. New skills and abilities are learnt and a closer fostering of teamwork in your respective class groups is born out of the shared experience and desire to move forwards. The Duke of Edinburgh's enjoyment of his education filtered through to the way he chose to lead his life; we hope that your experiences foster a similar positive response of your own.



Turn to page 2 for an overview of the second round of lateral flow testing.

Lateral Flow Testing: Part 2

For those of you who completed your online consent prior to the Easter break, a second round of lateral flow testing will take place as of **Monday 19th April**.

You will be required to have **three lateral flow tests** within our testing facility on the far side of the Academy car park. These will take place on:

- **Monday 19th April**
- **Friday 23rd April**
- **Monday 26th April**

Once you have taken these three tests, you will be eligible to be issued with your own home testing kits to complete your cycle of testing independently at home.

NO exceptions can be made to those of you who did not consent to being tested.

How will I know when I am being tested?

A member of the testing team will come and collect you from your teaching room during the day on each of these three testing days to then proceed to the testing centre.

What happens if I have already had my three lateral flow tests at the academy?

Students who have had their lateral flow tests onsite and have been issued with their home testing kits, will continue to be reissued with their home testing kits in order for them to test and report their results online at their convenience. There will be no need to be tested within the testing facility again.

What a difference a year makes

Having reflected over the Easter holiday, a year appears to have whistled-past so quickly. Last year, for the first time ever in my life, the bank holiday Monday, following Easter Sunday, I was at work, in the Academy, helping to support the Key Worker provision that was operating. During the same bank holiday this year, I was able to spend this time with my family and cherished the ability to do so.

I'm not sure that my daughters were aware of how much this ability to spend time with them resonated with me. I imagine they would have



been at their happiest playing in their own inimitable ways. However, being able to share watching a film together (The Kid Who Would Be King) or negotiating a level on



Sneaky Sasquatch (a current favourite of my youngest daughter) was all the better for this reflection and allowed me to focus on how I was using this time.

So much has continued to play-out over the course of the this academic year; and despite this massive upheaval, you have demonstrated tremendous strength to find yourselves where you are. As a Year 13, you find yourself preparing for a last concerted push to be the very best that you can be. Don't give up.

For our Year 12 students, you should feel similarly proud. Despite you not being able to fulfil the rites of passage to sit your GCSE exams, you have shown that you have been able to make the transition to your respective A-Level or BTEC courses with real success. As we continue to follow the roadmap back to normality, now is all about finding the rhythm and consistency in your attendance, standards and work ethic that can take you from good to great!