



HRH THE PRINCE PHILIP DUKE OF EDINBURGH

1921 - 2021



The visit of HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh to Bury Grammar School 19th November 1976

The whole country and the world at large were united in mourning the death of HRH the Duke of Edinburgh last Friday. Prince Philip first met Princess Elizabeth when she was 13 and they were married for over 73 years. He had been at her side for the whole of her reign.

Philip was born into the Greek and Danish royal families. After an education in France, Germany and the United Kingdom at Gordonstoun he joined the Royal Navy in 1939, aged 18. During the Second World War, he served with distinction in the Mediterranean and Pacific Fleets.

After the war, Philip was granted permission by George V to marry Elizabeth and he left active military service when Elizabeth became queen in 1952, having reached the rank of commander. He was made a British prince in 1957. Philip had four children with Elizabeth: Charles, Anne, Andrew and Edward.

A keen sports enthusiast and polo player, Philip helped develop the equestrian event of carriage riding. He was a patron, president or member of over 780 organisations worldwide, and he served as Chairman of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme, an inspirational self-improvement programme for young people aged 14 to 24.

He was a keen conservationist and Chairman of the World Wildlife Fund. He was the longest-serving consort of a reigning British monarch and he retired from royal duties on 2 August 2017, aged 96, having completed 22,219 solo engagements and 5,493 speeches since 1952. Philip died on 9 April 2021, two months before his 100th birthday.

Generations of BGS pupils have taken part in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award programme over past years and it is an important feature in the School Enrichment programme. Many pupils have achieved the Gold Award and have received their medals from Prince Philip at Buckingham Palace.

Tributes poured in for the Prince from around the world, and our Principal Mrs Jo Anderson, paid tribute to the Prince and his legacy to the world in her virtual Senior School assembly this week. She highlighted the Prince's legacy: his innovations with the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme and his conservation drive with the World Wildlife Fund.

Mrs Anderson then went on to challenge BGS pupils as to what their personal legacy might be:

"Over 7 million people in over 130 countries have participated in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme, and after 65 years it has had a significant impact on very many people. What impact would you as a BGS pupil wish to make on the world in the future? We all have a role to play and the potential to have a significant impact on the lives of others."





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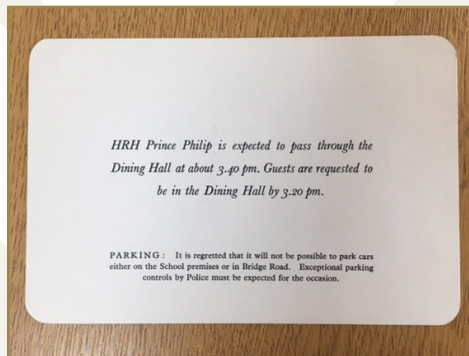


The School was delighted to welcome the Duke of Edinburgh to BGS in 1976. The Royal visit marked the move from direct grant to independence in 1976, exactly 250 years after the re-endowment by Roger Kay. Prince Philip also spoke about his work with the Duke of Edinburgh's Award as he toured School and spoke to many of the pupils and staff. He also had lunch, which included some very fancy sandwiches according to several pupil reports!



During his visit to School, he unveiled a plaque, which can be seen today in the Boys' School.

A full account of the Royal visit was written for The Clavian that year, and it can be read [here](#) with more pictures of the visit.



The country is currently in a period of mourning for the Prince, and School is flying the Union Jack at half-mast. We do hope that our pupils and families will observe a minute's silence at 3pm on Saturday, if at all possible, during his funeral.

**Your Royal Highness, School thanks you for your duty, service and loyalty to the Crown and the country,
and for your inspirational legacy across the world.**

HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh 1921 - 2021 RIP



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Old Boy, Alistair Burt, has written his account of meeting Prince Philip, entitled **'The true courtesy of princes is not just their punctuality, but their engagement'** (politicshome.com) which can be read [here](#).

"I was attending a reception in the Royal Gallery, House of Lords, at which the Duke of Edinburgh was present. As he moved around from one group of MPs to another, he joined those with whom I was standing, and I introduced myself. He looked at me keenly: "Burt," he said, "Bedfordshire. I'm coming to your constituency: To Shuttleworth College."

The Royal visit as reported by the Bury Times can be read [here](#).



*"There then followed a mini royal walk about. The bulk of the pupils were standing behind ropes stretching across the cricket field leaving an alley for the party to pass along. Here the Duke got a particularly rousing reception and he was certainly most impressive as he talked and joked easily with a surprisingly large number of boys. Stephen Entwistle was astounded and gratified to find that even the fortunes of Bury F.C. had not entirely escaped royal notice." excerpt from **The Clavian 1976***

Old Boy, Chris Jones, who is now a critic at the Chicago Tribune in the USA, wrote his account of the day when he was 13.

"I met Prince Philip, who died Friday at the age of 99, one time.

He put his hands behind his ramrod-straight back and then leaned his statuesque self down to my height (I was even shorter then than now). He looked me straight in the eye and asked me how I got to school.

"By bus, sir," I piped up.

"Very good, young man" he said, ratcheting himself back up, smiling and walking on.

No one who knows me would describe my memory as photographic. But I remember that scene, and Philip's face, with total clarity.

*It was November 1976. I was 13 years old. **The Duke of Edinburgh**, who was already 55, not that I noticed, had come to my school, Bury Grammar School, which was celebrating an anniversary. He was also pushing his signature scheme, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, a series of challenges designed to encourage adolescent self-improvement."*

You can read the full article [here](#).

