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MR BRENDAN . H. EARLEY,
3 MAYFIELD STREET,
SPRINGS BANK,
HULL HU3 1NS
ENGLAND.

31st January 1986

Dear Sir,

I realise that you will have received thousands of letters by the time this one arrives, but I hope that the delay may simply serve to reassure you that the tragic events of last Tuesday are not, and will never be, just a three day media event.

I would be suprised if this is the only letter you receive from a foreign national, but I felt it was important that I write, if only to let you all know that there is at least one more person overseas, who cares very much about what happened last Tuesday, and whose heart goes out to you.

I'm a student at Humber-side College of Higher Education doing a degree in Accounts & Finance and last Tuesday, unusually for me, I was late getting home. As a result I didn't know anything about what had happened until a Newscast interrupted the scheduled Television programme, just as I put my feet up for the evening.

It is at such times that I find the English language to be sadly lacking. There simply are not the words to adequately describe how one feels. Shocked, horrified, grief-stricken - all of those certainly; but they just begin to touch the surface. I do know that I was grateful for the privacy of my own room and television, as I unashamedly cried my eyes out. The only other time I have ever done that was when my Father died.

Even now I'm not sure why I should have reacted as I did; perhaps I'll never really know. On the other hand, maybe Christa wasn't just carrying the hopes of a nation (especially her children), but those of

a far wider community. After all, I can't have been alone in following her progress almost as avidly as most America must have done.

It goes without saying that Christa's family and relatives, and the relatives of all the other 6 astronauts, will need all the love and support in the world to cope with the tragic events of last Tuesday. Should any of them visit your school, please pass on my heart-felt condolences - sadly inadequate though they be. It is equally true, however, that your school has suffered so much trauma it will take a long, long time for you to recover your equilibrium. I pray that you will each come to terms with your grief and that the school of which Christa was, and remains, so much a part - will emerge stronger than ever. I don't know whether it helps any, but at the moment of her death, Christa was probably happier and more fulfilled than she had ever been in her life. Only her family can have given her greater joy or satisfaction.

I would like to think that when my time comes, I too will be able to say the same.

As I finish this letter, President Reagan has just finished his address at the memorial service in Houston. It would ill become me to add anything to what a very caring President has already said so I'll simply say this; look after each other, look after your selves and, most of all, look after your memories.

Yours Sincerely,
Trendan Corley

P.S: Please find enclosed an editorial comment from one of our National Newspapers. I know for a fact there wasn't a single newspaper which didn't say much the same thing. I think it accurately reflects what we in the United Kingdom are thinking and feeling,

Trendan.

Daily Mail COMMENT

The tragic price of progress

SEVENTY-TWO seconds after lift-off, the Challenger spacecraft was a fireball in the blue Florida sky.

As this happens before our very eyes we are stunned and then appalled at the human tragedy of the seven brave astronauts and the even more poignant fate of the plucky Christa McAuliffe, the New Hampshire school-teacher so suddenly consumed in that inferno of flame.

The shock is all the greater because we are so accustomed to the apparently effortless ease with which the marvels of space exploration are accomplished.

We too easily forget the terrifying dangers which always attend these dauntless explorers on mankind's last frontier.

It is also a tragic setback to the American space programme for all the world to see. But that is the way of this great democracy, to do what has to be done for better or worse in a blaze of publicity.

Our heart goes out to the relatives friends and colleagues of those intrepid space voyagers. Yet we can be sure they would not want their deaths to paralyse the space programme. We hope that the faults will soon be found so as to allow those other courageous men and women who follow them to do so at less risk.

By air mail
Par avion



Pass
Post



31 PENCE - INDUSTRY YEAR 1986

The Principal, Staff and Students,
Concord High School,

Concord,

NEW HAMPSHIRE USA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Ashbury with Compton
Beuchamp Church of
England (Aided) Primary
School

Ashbury
Swindon
Wiltshire
England.
31/1/86.

Dear Pupils and teachers,

I am very sorry to hear about
the terrible news about your teacher Christia
Mc Auliffe in the Challenger. I think it was a
good thing that she did what she wanted to
do, even if it was only for a little while. I
think your teacher was very brave, and I send
Sympathy to all the school,

yours

sincerely

Gemma Bendall.

Age 10.