



A proud day as Harry enters his name – Henry Charles Albert David of Wales – in Eton’s register, watched by his father and his headmaster John Lewis William (above), shortly before his 14th birthday. “Make sure you sign it in the right place,” said Prince Charles. “Oh, shut up!” an unruffled Harry replied. Obviously delighted to face the cameras with the Spice Girls following a ten-minute chat during a visit to South Africa with his father in November 1997 (below)

Prince Philip was missing from William’s Confirmation in March 1997 – which, given his uneasy relationship with his daughter-in-law, may have helped to lighten the atmosphere on an inevitably tense day. Charles and Diana were making their first joint public appearance since their divorce, and Diana was also to join the royals for a lunch party for the first time in five years.

Unlike his younger brother, William requested that he not be confirmed with the other boys in his year, believing that the presence of his parents, and indeed the Queen, would overshadow the event. He was right, as the next day’s newspapers all concentrated on the ongoing Charles and Diana saga, as well as Charles’ controversial decision to have the Bishop of London conduct the service instead of the Archbishop of Canterbury.

The photos from William’s Confirmation are another contrast to Harry’s, being more formal and giving the impression of a royal event as opposed to a family celebration. It was the end of a long day for everyone concerned. To ease the tension, the Queen jokingly marshalled the guests into place for the photographer. “Move forward, move forward, otherwise you won’t be in focus,” she told the godparents, adding: “You see, I do know something about photography.”

This was the last major royal occasion at which Diana appeared. She was clearly proud of her eldest son, who, though only 14, carried off the day with aplomb. With hindsight it was also touching that William’s special moment took place on Mothering Sunday.

Diana’s death only months later was to have repercussions that no one present at Windsor that March could have imagined. The whole fabric of the monarchy has changed dramatically in the three years leading up to Harry’s Confirmation. Symbolised in events like the decommissioning of *Britannia* four months after Diana’s death, the old imperial-style monarchy is slipping quietly away. Lavish royal celebrations are no longer deemed appropriate, as shown last summer by the “people’s wedding” of the Earl and Countess of Wessex. It is also significant that Edward and Sophie have chosen to continue with their own private working





Harry has always looked up to his elder brother. For his official Confirmation portrait, he adopted a similar pose to William's (see page 59). Born little more than two years apart, the young Princes have always been each other's best friends. But while William prefers to avoid being in the limelight, fun-loving Harry takes it in his stride and seems to suffer none of the shyness that sometimes makes public appearances an ordeal for William

lives rather than follow the traditional royal path of duty.

Even day-to-day royal life has changed, with Palace spin-doctors arranging "theme days" for the Queen such as her tour of London's theatreland one year ago. Formerly ill at ease "doing stunts", the Queen now signs footballs and visits drop-in centres and even pubs. It has been noticeable on her Australian tour that the normal ban on intrusive microphones has been lifted, allowing TV viewers to catch her comments. She has also given permission for the usually private Palace investiture ceremonies to be filmed.

Clearly it is a time of change for the monarchy, and Harry's low-key and relaxed Confirmation was another step along this path.

After the ceremony, the Rev Dr William Beaver, director of communications of the Church of England, said: "In ratifying himself the promises made for him at his baptism, Prince Harry is demonstrating an attractive maturity

Harry will be called upon to support his brother in his future role as heir to the throne. Given their relaxed and happy relationship, so clearly evident, this should not prove a difficult task for him

and commitment which the nation will welcome."

Harry, like William, had already demonstrated his maturity to the nation in those traumatic days following Diana's death. Two weeks after her funeral, Charles paid tribute to his sons, saying: "I am unbelievably proud of the children, William and Harry. They have been quite remarkable and I think they have handled an extraordinarily difficult time with quite enormous courage and the greatest dignity."

With his courage and sense of humour - "He's a real joker," as Diana once put it - Harry has been a

rock for both his father and his brother in recent years. He has inherited his mother's *joie de vivre*, as well as her love of sport, learning to play polo as well as football at Eton. He gets his daredevil approach to life from his father, perfectly demonstrated by the photographs of him abseiling in Wales with William 18 months ago. His skill at snowboarding has led Charles to joke that his youngest son is now far more adept than he is on the slopes.

Harry looks set to be the son most likely to carry on the 'action man' exploits for which Charles was known in his 20s and 30s, when he trained as

a pilot, jumped out of planes and went deep-sea diving.

With the development of a more streamlined monarchy, the pressures on Harry to conform to traditional royal life have lessened considerably. It is no longer necessary for him to go to an Oxbridge college or to join the armed forces - although, as a child, he told his parents that he wanted to be a pilot. He will most probably follow the example of his cousin and close friend Zara Phillips and take a year out, possibly in Australia like her. He might also take the opportunity to do some voluntary work, which would be a fitting tribute to his mother, who took her sons to visit the homeless and AIDS patients.

Whatever happens, Harry will be called upon to support his brother in his future role as heir to the throne. Given the relaxed and happy relationship that is so clearly evident in the Confirmation photographs, this shouldn't be a difficult task. **H**

RÉPORT: IAN LLOYD



AS A HOLIDAY WITH KATE SPARKS
FRESH TALK ABOUT THEIR FUTURE

PRINCE WILLIAM

FULFILS HIS CHILDHOOD DREAM TO FLY



Prince William and Kate Middleton flew to the Queen's Balmoral estate last week for a short break, prompting new speculation about their future together.

The 25-year-olds, who have rekindled their romance after splitting up earlier in the year, were accompanied by a bodyguard on the scheduled flight to Aberdeen. While they were treated like the other passengers and served the same snacks, they were first off the flight. William then got behind the wheel of a Range-Rover to drive the 50 miles to Balmoral. The Scottish estate, where the young Prince has his own private cottage, is where he first romanced Kate when they were students at St Andrews University.

The break north of the border coincides with the

announcement from Clarence House that Prince William is to become the first king in modern history to serve in all three branches of the armed services by undertaking temporary assignments with the Royal Navy and the RAF next year.

Royal observers say William's commitment to training will delay any decision on his and Kate's future until 2009 at the earliest.

"Many in their circle believe it is not a question of if they announce their engagement, but when," a royal insider said. "Neither of them is in any rush."

Clarence House said the secondments would help prepare the Prince for his future role as head of the armed forces. It also means William, who is second in line to the throne, can at last fulfil his lifelong ambition to fly.

As a little boy, William would take any opportunity to clamber on board the royal helicopters, pretending to pilot them. He delightedly accompanied his father in 1985 when members of the Parachute Regiment parachuted into the gardens at Kensington Palace.

As he grew older, the Prince feared that, because his vision is not perfect, he would not be able to learn to fly.

But William is due to complete his term with the Household Cavalry, where he is a Second Lieutenant, at the end of the year, and will begin a four-month attachment with the RAF in January. He will learn to pilot helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft and spend next summer with the Royal Navy working on submarines, surface ships and the Fleet Air Arm.

"He will be able to share the working lives of airmen and sailors," his spokesman said.

To some extent, William will be following in the footsteps of his father and his great-grandfather King George VI, who both served in the Navy and the Air Force. Charles earned his wings in 1971 after training as a jet pilot at RAF Cranwell in Lincolnshire. Later that year he enrolled as a sub-lieutenant at the Royal Naval College in Dartmouth and ended his naval career six years later commanding the minesweeper *HMS Bronington*. His Uncle Andrew also saw active service flying Sea King helicopters during the Falklands War.

Former defence minister Lord King has welcomed William's decision. "I think it's important. They are quite different services and he'll meet quite different people," he said. "It will help give him the broad picture." However, Lord King does have one reservation: "I would have hoped it would be for longer," he said.

One likely reason for the relatively short secondments is that William is keen to learn other aspects of what has been dubbed "the art of kingship". The Prince will also be carrying out an increasing number of public engagements as he nears the end of his service.

In September last year, Clarence House confirmed that William "will aim to address the wider issues of preparing himself for his future roles - learning more about constitutional matters, charitable work and estate management".

William's decision to spend more time preparing for his future role as king would have had his mother's support. Diana was acutely conscious of the vital role the monarchy plays and she said it was important both her sons "understood and respected the tradition of which they are part".



REPORT: IAN LLOYD



William and Kate flew to Balmoral last week for a break, further fuelling engagement rumours. But William's commitment to be the first king in modern history to serve in all three branches of the armed services means any such announcement is unlikely before 2009