

HOW KATE IS PREPARING TO BE QUEEN

One day she will be Queen Consort. Here's how Kate is getting ready for the role...

Ever since she was a child, those close to Kate have known her to be focused and always prepared, so it should come as no surprise that she is eager to begin properly laying the foundations for when William takes the throne.

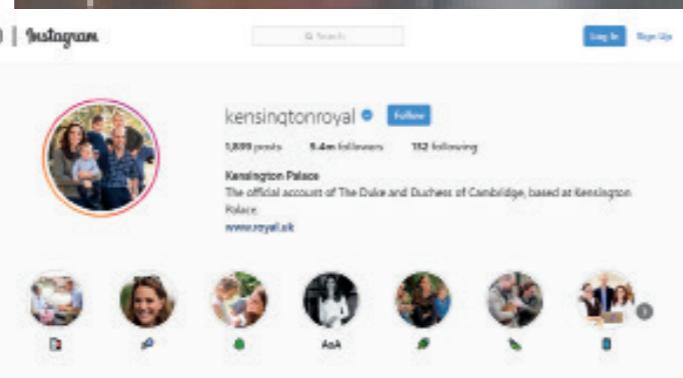
Since returning from her last maternity leave, several months ago, Kate has been throwing herself into Royal duties. Insiders say both she and William are now ready to get serious about the future and what lies ahead, with a powerful 11-point plan.

1 UPPING HER TRAINING

Over the last few months, Kate is said to have been spending more one-on-one time with the Queen than previously. In these meetings, insiders explain that Kate and her grandmother-in-law talk about what's expected of Kate as the future Queen Consort. In fact, according to Royal experts, since the Queen has taken her "under her wing" to discuss exactly what the position entails, Kate appears to take every word she says very seriously and makes notes on everything. From how to properly preside over a state dinner to how to greet Royalty and officials from different cultures, this first-hand training will undoubtedly prove invaluable when William is King.

2 SOCIAL MEDIA SAVVY

In April of this year, Prince Harry and Meghan set up their own Instagram account, @Sussexroyal. That left the Kensington Palace account, which previously had been shared by the four young Royals, to focus solely on the Cambridges. Currently the account has 9.5 million followers and updates regularly. With the majority of Instagram users being aged 18-34, Will and Kate are very much making sure to bridge any gaps with the younger generation and keep them in the loop with their activities. ›



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3 UNIVERSAL APPEAL

The Cambridges, now more than ever, understand how important it is to appeal to as many people in the UK, and the world, as possible. This could be why William is being very clear about his and Kate's unprejudiced views. When asked recently how he would react if any of his children were gay, he replied, "You don't really start thinking about that until you are a parent, and I think – obviously, absolutely fine by me!" This public statement is powerful, especially for the LGBTQ+ community.



Kate and Rose Hanbury used to be close

4 CUTTING HER 'RURAL RIVAL'

One Royal story that has caused a lot of intrigue this year is the abrupt end to the Duchess's friendship with the Marchioness of Cholmondeley, Rose Hanbury (pictured right).

Rose lives with her husband in Norfolk, not far from one of Will and Kate's residences, and belongs to a social group nicknamed the 'Turnip Toffs' by the media.

Apparently Rose and Kate were close until something happened to cause Kate to suddenly distance herself from her friend, thus resulting in the pair becoming 'rural rivals'.

Rumours about the alleged tiff were rife in the Norfolk society set, and it wasn't long until the gossip inevitably made it to the papers with the word 'affair' alluded to on occasion.

This was, of course, all dismissed as nonsense, but it's said that Kate was not happy about the 'drama' and is keen to keep her social circle very small and private going forward.

5 SHOWING FOOTAGE OF HER KIDS

Over the years, Prince George and Princess Charlotte have been pictured at weddings and Royal events, but the only peek into their normal lives has been through the odd picture released by the couple, such as the children on their first day of nursery and school. But since the birth of Prince Louis, we've been given a little more insight into the personalities of the kids, with actual video footage of the children playing and chatting in Kate's Chelsea Flower Show Garden. Slowly but surely, the pair are letting the public in.



The young Royals only discussed the foundation 18 months ago

6 PLAYING TO HER SKILLS

If there's one thing that Kate really excels at, it is connecting to children and she's fully embracing her skill by bonding with the little ones she encounters.

Amongst her many charitable endeavours, the Duchess is patron of Action For Children and Place2Be which concentrates on the mental health of children and young people. She's making it clear now that when she's at the top, kids will be of utmost importance.

7 SPLITTING THE ROYAL FOUNDATION

What was once The Royal Foundation, presided over by both the Sussexes and the Cambridges, is now simply The Royal Foundation of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge.

It's not been revealed exactly what caused the division, though the Palace released a statement saying, "These changes are designed to best complement the work and responsibilities of Their Royal Highnesses as they prepare for their future roles, and to better align their charitable activity with their new households."

Harry and Meghan breaking away from Kensington Palace to create their own household and now with the split of the foundation, Will and Kate can concentrate on the Cambridge brand, while carrying out fewer duties as a foursome.

8 WINNING OVER THE QUEEN

One of Kate's most recent projects was her Chelsea Flower Show Garden, called 'Back to Nature'. Once it was complete, she and William gave his grandmother a grand tour and she appeared delighted by the green space. Insiders commented that since the Queen is a Patron of the Chelsea Flower Show, it went some way to earning Kate some Brownie points with the Monarch.



The Queen is impressed with Kate's new project

9 GETTING POLITICAL

It's well-known that Royals must appear politically-neutral, with most family members staying away from discussing politics in public. But recently Will and Kate decided to follow their own rules. When visiting Cumbrian farmers, the pair opened up a discussion about Brexit. They didn't offer their opinion on the matter but, whilst the farmers talked about the 'dire consequences' a no-deal Brexit would have on their livelihoods, the Duke and Duchess nodded along.

10 CHANGING HER 'WORK SHY' REPUTATION

Although it seems to be Meghan who is bearing the brunt of the Royal backlash these days, it wasn't too long ago that Will and Kate came under constant criticism for being 'work shy'. At the time, the number of public appearances they attended was compared to the elders of the Royal Family and they were found to be sorely lacking.

But recently things have changed. William no longer has a job with the East Anglian Air Ambulance and two of their children are now at school and nursery, giving the pair more time.

However, recently Royal writer Katie Nicholl wrote that the Queen is very impressed with Meghan's work ethic and is 'astonished' by 'her drive'.

Perhaps, if rumours are anything to go by, a little healthy competition between the Sussexes and the Cambridges has helped spur them on.



11 STEPPING UP HER STYLE



The Duchess means business



For many years, nearly every high street dress, bag or shoe that Kate donned became an instant sell-out. But after Meghan joined the family, with her love of a sharp, tailored trouser suit, suddenly there were comments that Kate's style was looking a little outdated.

Not anymore! Kate has stepped up her sartorial game with a sophisticated transformation. She is now embracing trends with ankle skimming wide-leg trousers and brightly coloured pussy-bow shirts.

As well as one day being Queen Consort, Kate clearly has no intention of letting her style crown slip.