

Names On the Verge of Extinction

Some names are common, like James, Emma, Olivia or Liam. But what about the names which are on the decline or even becoming extinct? We interviewed some of our teachers with names on the decline. The first one was Charles Pettit who when we asked about how he felt about his name being on the decline, he replied that he is “disappointed” and “upset” He said that the name has a flexibility within it. For example, Charlie for fun, Charles for work.

Another Charles we interviewed was Charles Young who said that Charles is the heir to the throne. He also said that he was named after his Grandad’s brother. As well as this, he remarked that when he started teaching, there were lots of people named Kylie because of Kylie Minogue.

Darryl Tomlin said that he liked to be one of a kind, he said that he used to watch a bad show called Birds of a Feather which had a Darryl in it and he didn’t like it. He did say however that The Walking Dead has a Darryl and that he is really good.

Sharron Ashworth replied to the question by saying that she didn’t like her name and that her parents named her from the Bible. Her parents were quite offended when she said she didn’t like her name, and she didn’t mind that it was on the decline.

Terry Cooper said that his name was replaceable, but it was nice to have a historical name, he also said that he was named after his Granddad and that his name becoming extinct isn’t too sad.

Tracy Grant however said that she was “gutted” and she was quite sad that her name was becoming less common.

As well as names on the verge of extinction, the research also showed that people with the same Christian name could look alike. We took photos of some of our 6th Form students with the same name and asked other students if they looked alike. We had two Connors, two Olivers and two Megans.

Gregor said: “They don’t look alike, it’s just a name. It doesn’t really make any difference to your looks.”

Danny said: “It’s just a name. When you get your name, you’re just a baby and you can’t tell how you will turn out. Plus, you don’t choose your name yourself.”

Matthew said: “It doesn’t make any difference, they all look different and are different heights. I’m an identical twin and me and my brothers have different names, but look exactly the same!”

Rory, Oliver & Alfredo, Year 10.

