

**Wednesday 24 June 2020**

**“Your dreams are like cement. If you water it with actions it becomes a hard concrete mass but if you leave it exposed and unwatered it will be blown away.” Israelmore Ayivor (Inspirational writer, blogger and speaker)**

Dear Blackfen students

You will have seen, in the news at the weekend, the tragic murders of 3 young men in Reading. One of these was a history teacher at a school in Wokingham. This school, the Holt school, is very similar to Blackfen school. I have sent our sincere condolences to the Holt school community on behalf of the Blackfen community at this time. Our thoughts are with Mr Furling's family and all members of the Holt school community as they face this challenging time for them all.

In the email earlier in the week, Ms Minnis wrote to you about the windmill, which followed the crane we had on site. In her description, the windmill was at the heart of the Blackfen community decked in Blackfen uniform colours! The windmill was a symbol of the trailblazing which has gone on during the last few months.

The machinery on site this week looked more like a windmill. It was special machinery for delivering a gloop of cement/concrete to form the first floor of the new building. (You can see it in the photo getting ready for action). Yesterday, it was a gloopy mixture that could be “brushed around”. If you stayed in it too long it would set around your feet. Today, it is a hard and permanent mass.



We have been on what seems like a very long journey. At times, this has been a painful journey and there has been a great deal of suffering. On this journey, and the journey of life, we all have dreams and aspirations and I talked a bit about this last week.

Have you ever put your hand in a bag of cement? I first came across cement when my father was building a small wall in the garden of our house. Later, bigger projects were to follow. I remember watching him building a pyramid shaped out of dry cement and sand making sure the proportions of sand to cement were correct. He would then make a hollow in the middle and into the centre of this volcanic shape he would carefully pour some

water. He would continue adding water while mixing with his shovel until the dry cement and sand became mixed as a gloopy cement mixture. It was now ready to be used and would be shovelled into a wheelbarrow and taken to where it was needed. As projects became larger, he would hire a small cement mixture to do this work. Around the edges of the work area, cement and sand would remain dry and would be carried away by the wind.

What about your dreams and aspirations? Do you water them with actions as in the quote above? In other words, do you follow your dreams and take steps to realise those dreams by taking action? If you do, those dreams will become a concrete and permanent mass. Or do you think to yourself that you cannot achieve those dreams and leave them without taking action thereby exposing them so that they blow away?

Follow your path, be sure of your dreams and take action. Mix that cement carefully and you will have a solid and permanent mass.

I wrote to your parents and carers on Monday to update them on the present situation and the future plans with the announcement that the government plan is for all students in every class to be in school full time in September. I will share further details on this in the coming weeks. It is the virtual sports day on Friday. Make sure you complete some or all of the activities and make your entries count for your community. Most importantly, have fun while you are doing it.

Water and feed your dreams this week, so that they become reality in the future.

My best wishes to you, your family and your friends at this time.

Matthew Brown.