

Rise and shine: wk. bg. 1.6.20

Good morning Blackfen students,

It's Week A.

THE PIPS HAVE SOUNDED! GET UP! GET DRESSED! GET GOING!!

16. Sixteen. What does it mean?

Big idea: Sixteen is a symbol of wholeness. Sixteen is the number of perfect completeness. Sixteen is a number of perfect measures. Number 16 is a square number: $4 \times 4 = 16$. In biology, if a cell divides itself in half every 30 minutes, you will have 16 cells in 2 hours. 16 pieces are used by each player in a game of chess. Caterpillars typically have 16 legs. But when they emerge from their chrysalis as a butterfly or moth, they have only six legs.

Big event: In the United States, the 16th birthday is a mark that a girl has come of age. She is not a legal adult yet, but 16 is when many girls learn to drive, can get jobs and assume other adult responsibilities. The 16th birthday marks the end of a girl's childhood, so many American teens celebrate their 16th birthday with a big party.

Big change: Under British law, when you reach the age of 16, you can leave school; you can marry with parental consent (or without it in Scotland); if you are convicted of an imprisonable offence, you can be given a community service order; if you are a boy, you can join the armed forces with parental consent; you can drive an invalid carriage or a moped; you can buy cigarettes and tobacco; you can have beer, cider or wine with a meal in a restaurant; you may become a street trader.

Big secret: Just sixteen words in Wikipedia describe the unknown Walter D. Wintle as "*Poet. Little is known about him; he may be a pseudonym for a more well-known poet*". (I have cheated by counting 'well-known' as one word). That's it: a whole person in sixteen words – and the name of this mysterious person might not even be his own!

But the unknown Walter Wintle knows what you're thinking on a Monday morning, starting all over again (I can't / I won't / I shan't / Whatever). In fact, the wise words of Mr Brown to Year 11 students, at the start of their public examinations, are based on a well-known, 16-line poem, written by the unknown Walter Wintle. Read it now (slightly adapted) and take a good look at your golden, stunningly sublime and stupendously stylish plant container and then turn moody Monday into a Wonder Woman Winner.

"If you think you are beaten, you are
If you think you dare not, you don't,
If you like to win, but you think you can't
It is almost certain you won't.

If you think you'll lose, you're lost
For out of the world we find,
Success begins with a woman's will
It's all in the state of mind.

If you think you are outclassed, you are
You've got to think high to rise,
You've got to be sure of yourself before

You can ever win a prize.

Life's battles don't always go
To the stronger or faster woman,
But soon or late the woman who wins
Is the woman WHO THINKS SHE CAN!"

Best wishes to you and your family this week.

Yours sincerely,
Miss F Minnis

Deputy Headteacher
On behalf of Blackfen School leaders and teachers