

Rise and shine: wk. bg. 22.6.20

Good morning Blackfen students,

It's Week B.

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

Wowser alert! Woo-hoo!! Are you awake, yet?

At the end of last week, Blackfen School saw the arrival of its WINDMILL! You will remember Mr Brown's amazing photograph of the giant crane, as it slowly lowered the concrete stairs into place, inside the new building. But (come a little closer, so that I can whisper) the new building pales into insignificance beside the beauty and magnificence of the Blackfen Windmill. Quite frankly, there is no comparison to be made.

The Blackfen Windmill is the height of the sixth form building and the width of three classrooms. It has a navy blue base and a cherry-red tower and is topped by four massive bright, white sails, thereby conforming fully to the school uniform policy. It cannot be missed. Every plank of wood, bracket and hinge has been hand-crafted during the last three months. The sails were hoisted and hammered into place, last Monday morning and started to turn, almost immediately, when Year 10 and Year 12 students walked back into school.

*"When the winds of change blow, some people build walls and others build windmills."* The Chinese proverb starts with a metaphor that compares changes in our lives to gusts of wind. The proverb finishes by describing the different ways that we react to change, either by 'building' walls or by 'building' windmills. This week, let's consider building windmills. The sails of the windmill are designed to work with the force of the wind in the way they are constructed and angled. As the sails turn, they catch the wind, converting its energy into rotational energy which can be used to power mills, pump water, or even generate electricity. The windmill sails embrace the wind and use it.

There are changes that we embrace and enjoy. The pictures in the newspapers, last week, showed shoppers queuing to get into clothes shops for the first time since the lockdown started in March. They couldn't wait to change from shopping on-line to shopping in a real shop. They became excited little windmills, ready to embrace and enjoy every single second of this momentous change. Some of the changes in school turn you into mini windmills, for example, changing from one lesson to the next lesson, where you know you will do your best work and see your favourite teacher and friends. It's a change that lifts your heart and lightens your mood. Or what about the change from getting up on weekday mornings to getting up at weekends? That's a change which I really enjoy.

Last week, our Year 10 and Year 12 trailblazers led the school, their families and themselves to embrace a significant change. They got up at 'school time' (Ouch!); got dressed in school uniform (Where has it gone?) and walked into school and lessons and learning for a whole morning (I can't believe this is happening!) They worked on separate desks in classrooms; sat on separate benches at Break; sanitised their hands, walked apart and used different routes to move around the building. This change was a Force 10 gale and their little windmill sails whizzed round and round as they adapted to all of the new routines. But they did it. They embraced these changes and made them happen. Funnily enough, the teachers felt *exactly the same way* and their windmill sails flew round and round, too! But we were in it together and that's a good way to face change.

The Blackfen Windmill has been built by the trailblazing families and teachers of Blackfen School during the last three months. Together, we have embraced the most significant change that any of us, has ever experienced in our whole lives. We have not enjoyed every aspect of the change that has been forced upon us and that's why we will talk about 'building walls', next week. In the meantime, can you count how many windmills have been built in your home, during the last three months?

Best wishes to you and your family this week.

Yours sincerely,

Miss F Minnis

Deputy Headteacher

On behalf of Blackfen School leaders and teachers