



When life brings  
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that almost blow you over...  
close your eyes,  
hang on tight,  
and **BELIEVE.**

Friday 26 June 2020

**“When life brings big winds of change which almost blow you over... close your eyes, hang on tight and believe .” (Anon.)**

**Dear Blackfen students**

Have you ever been in a working traditional windmill? Sometimes you pass a windmill while on a journey. They look strange and mysterious when all around them might be fields or other more modern buildings. They look a bit like they have landed from a previous century. A so called by-gone era. Of course, these are the traditional type windmills with huge wooden sails as opposed to the modern wind farms which you might see off the north Kent coast. These modern wind turbines are used to make electricity. Traditionally, windmills were used to mill corn and wheat to make flour to bake bread. Inside a mill you would see huge millstones turning round to grind the corn or wheat.

Earlier in the week Ms Minnis wrote about the windmill and I was amused by a story I read about a farmer/miller who bought a farm which had 2 windmills. The farmer decided to demolish one of the windmills as they did not think there was enough wind for both of them. You might need to think about how foolish the farmer was.

Windmills do look beautiful especially when they have been lovingly restored. I am no windmill expert but the most important thing for the windmill is the wind and harnessing the power of the wind to drive the mill. When it is strong, more flour can be made and when the wind dies down, the sails move more slowly and the stones grind less corn and less flour is made. Over the last few months life has brought huge, and sometimes devastating, winds of change to our lives. At times, we have had to really hold on tight to keep going. We have had to close our eyes and sometimes we have had to hope for the best. However, key to getting through these winds of change to ensure that we still progress on our journey is that we have had to believe - in our family and friends, in scientists and politicians, in health care professionals and teachers and most significantly, in ourselves.

As we continue to face challenging and ever changing situations in our lives when nothing seems normal, make sure you believe in yourself and believe in all those who are helping you. Know that, however strong the wind is blowing in your face and messing your hair up and stopping you moving forward, you can do it. Just hang on tight and believe!

My best wishes to you and your family this weekend.

Matthew Brown