

A message from Mr Brown Wednesday 10 June 2020

“Never look down on anyone unless you are helping them up.” Jesse Jackson

This quote is by Jesse Jackson Sr. who is an American civil rights campaigner. He has spent his life campaigning for racial equality, fairness and justice. I remember him running for president of the United States in the 1980's and remembering how disappointed I was when he was not elected as President. His work to make the world a better and fairer place continues to this day. Look him up on google to see what he has committed his life to doing. A truly amazing person.

How many of you have had to ask for a helping hand over the last few months? You might have been suffering, in pain or just struggling to keep going. A quick phone call, an email or a social media chat with someone may have helped you enormously just to cope with everything being thrown at you at the present time. You may have asked for help from a family member and hopefully they have been able to help, even with the most complicated problems. Alternatively, you may have contacted a member of staff to ask a question on something you were unsure about. Getting help has not been easy over the last 3 months as we have not always been able to receive any face to face feedback and something written is not always as effective in helping as having a good long conversation about it. Even having a virtual conversation with a group of people is not the same. Discussion is stifled and it is not always easy to put across your point of view. However, getting support, advice and help at this time is vitally important because this is not an easy journey to travel on our own. So, if you need some help make sure you look at the Covid-19 section of the school website which has lots of helpful information.

And what if your journey, you feel, is an easy one at the present time and you don't need any help? If you do, now is therefore the time to use this ability to cope yourself by helping others because you will never know when you need that support returned to you. We sometimes make unintentional value judgements when we are coping and others are seemingly not. I wrote, last week, about injustice and the unfair world we live in and how, we all, at times in our lives, may feel superior to another individual or group. How do we change this to ensure that we live in a fair, just and equal society? The only way we can change things is from the inside. If we help people, feel differently and act differently then we can make the society in which we live more equal. In turn, this will make a better society for us all.

I also include a photograph which shows the progress on the building work in school (as at last week). In the image you can clearly see how a crane is being used to do something that 100 or more people could not do on their own. The crane, which was in place to install the stairs in the building, was able to quickly help – naturally, through the skill of the crane driver - to carry out the work within a day. Think about the times when we have needed a "crane" to help us up and the times when our wonderful work has ensured that we have been a "crane" to help others...and there have been so many examples of this and the kindness shown to others over the last few months.

So, don't look down on others. Do something about it and give them a helping hand....and then give yourself a pat on the back for helping them up.

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

Matthew Brown

