



**School contact details**

Headteacher: **Ms J M Felkin** BSc MA NPQH

Deputy Headteachers:

**Ms R King** BA MA NPQH

**Mr J Browning** MA CertEd NPQH

Blatchington Mill School  
Nevill Avenue  
Hove  
East Sussex  
BN3 7BW

Our school phone number:

**01273 736244**

We have a lot more information about  
the school on our website:

[www.blatchingtonmill.org.uk](http://www.blatchingtonmill.org.uk)

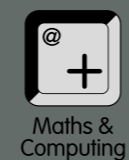
Blatch 6 website:

[www.blatchingtonmill.org.uk/blatch6](http://www.blatchingtonmill.org.uk/blatch6)

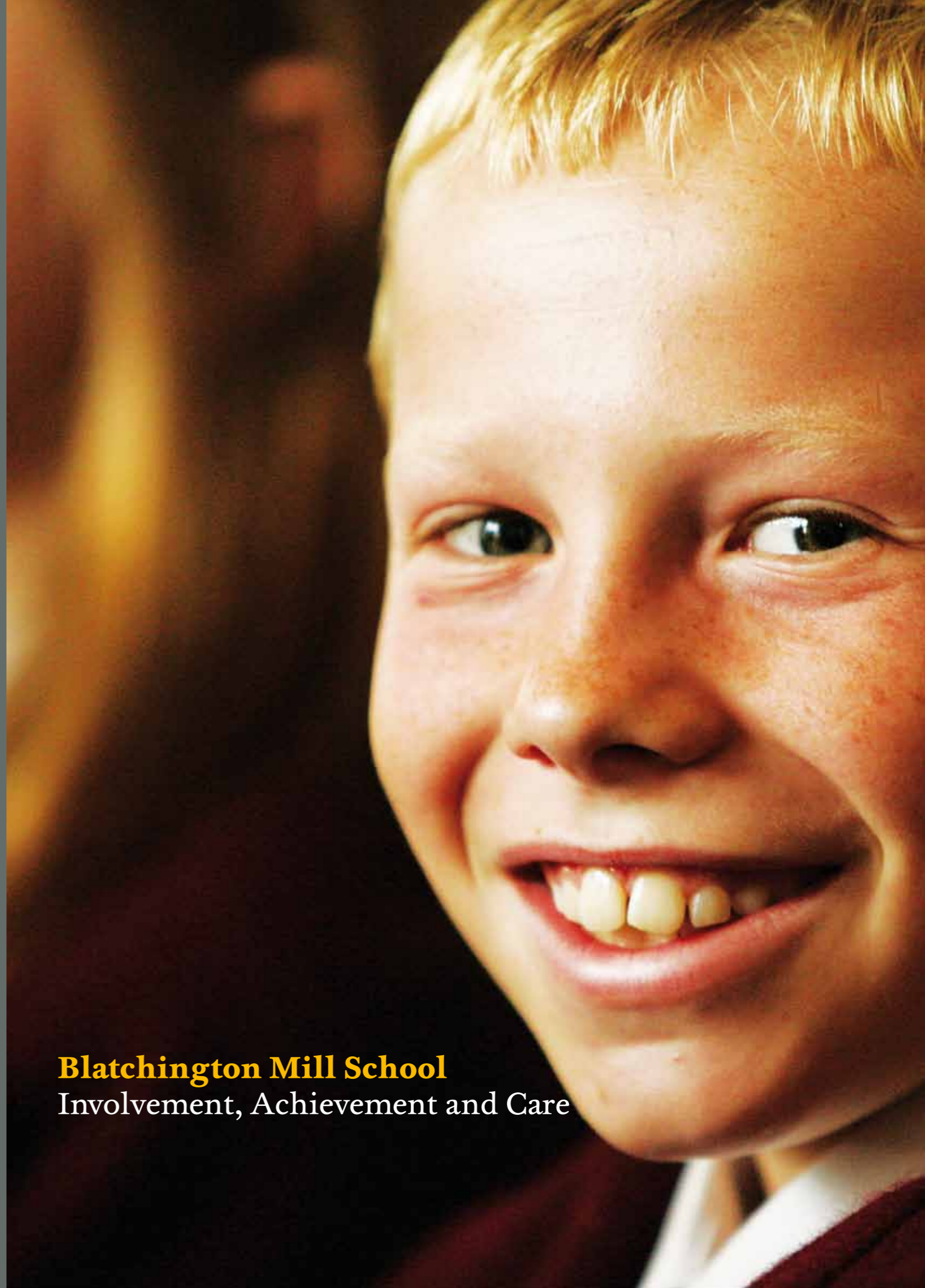
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Our fax number: 01273 739615



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**Blatchington Mill School**  
Involvement, Achievement and Care

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Our email address:  
[office@blatchingtonmill.org.uk](mailto:office@blatchingtonmill.org.uk)

Our fax number: 01273 739615

### Our Mill

Just outside our school gates lies West Blatchington Windmill. This is a restored Grade II listed flint and brick smock mill built around 1820. It was painted by John Constable in a striking watercolour dated 5 November 1825. Mills such as this are normally octagonal but ours is unique in having only six sides.

For more information or to visit the mill contact:

West Blatchington Windmill  
Holmes Avenue  
Hove  
East Sussex  
BN3 7LE

01273 776017

## A welcome from the Headteacher

Welcome to our prospectus, which reflects Blatchington Mill's ethos based on the premise that all children can achieve high standards with support and encouragement in a stimulating and well resourced environment. This school is for and about young people, and they are encouraged to express their views and play an active role in shaping the development of the school community.

Blatchington Mill prepares young people to meet the challenges of a changing world where there are exciting opportunities for those with the skills and determination to succeed. Consequently, the curriculum is designed to meet the needs of the individual; and his or her progress is carefully monitored so that modifications to the programme can be made as and when necessary. Learning to learn is as important as what is learnt and we make broad use of technology to supplement and stimulate the learning process.

The school's three specialisms, which you can read about on page 2, have been especially chosen to provide opportunities for students to develop and experience the life skills they will ultimately need, for example creativity and self-confidence.

My colleagues and I recognise the important role that parents and carers play in a child's education and we actively encourage them and communicate with them to promote their involvement.

This publication gives a flavour of how and why students thrive at Blatchington Mill. Nevertheless, there is no substitute for seeing the school at work for yourself, or for speaking to students and members of staff.

The students, staff and I look forward to welcoming you to our school. We warmly invite you to pay us a visit.

**Janet Felkin**  
Headteacher

Education is not the filling of  
a pail, but the lighting of a fire.  
William Butler Yeats

Blatchington Mill offers a fully rounded education to pupils between the ages of 11 and 16 in our school and from 16 to 19 in our sixth form college 'Blatch 6', providing a complete range of academic and vocational subjects at all levels.

Our sixth formers come from Blatchington Mill and also from other local schools. Blatch 6 has its own prospectus, which you can get from the school or from our website. Our contact details are on page 8.

We have three specialisms at Blatchington Mill: Performing Arts, Maths and Computing, and Vocational Studies. The recognition of our particular expertise in these three areas means that our teaching in these subjects is boosted by extra government investment.

### **Our specialisms**

#### **Performing Arts**

Blatchington Mill has an unrivalled commitment to the promotion of Performing Arts. We have held this specialism now for more than six years and our command in this field is well recognised. Our experience means that the quality of our regular performances is outstandingly high.

In 2006 Blatchington Mill students won a national drama competition that led, finally, to a thrilling performance of Nicky Singer's *Feather Boy* at the National Theatre.

We have a thriving music department and our bands and orchestras make frequent musical tours around the world, most recently visiting Germany and the USA. Our music studio – equipped with the latest recording technology – is always busy.

We produce some superb dance too and we have put on several outstanding shows to sell-out audiences, including our hugely successful sixth form event: *Strictly Come Dancing*.

This proficiency in the performing arts has led our staff and students to take their expertise into the wider school community, working alongside local primary-school children in a number of exciting arts projects.

Several of our students have gone on to develop flourishing careers in media and the arts.

#### **Maths and Computing**

In addition to providing formal recognition of the high quality of our subject teaching, our second specialism in Maths and Computing has allowed us to furnish some 50 classrooms with interactive whiteboards. Furthermore, we have continued to develop our ICT and Maths-based courses, such as Personal Finance. These measures have improved the teaching and learning experiences for our students.

With a specialism in Maths and ICT, our KS3 and GCSE results in the subject continue to be superb. We are also able to offer both Statistics GCSE and AS Level Maths as options to our more able students. We liaise closely with other schools in the city, working especially with local primary schools so as to share our expertise. As part of our programme of development in Maths, we use online tools to help our students with their work.

#### **Applied Studies**

In January 2006 Blatchington Mill was granted a third specialism, in Applied Studies.

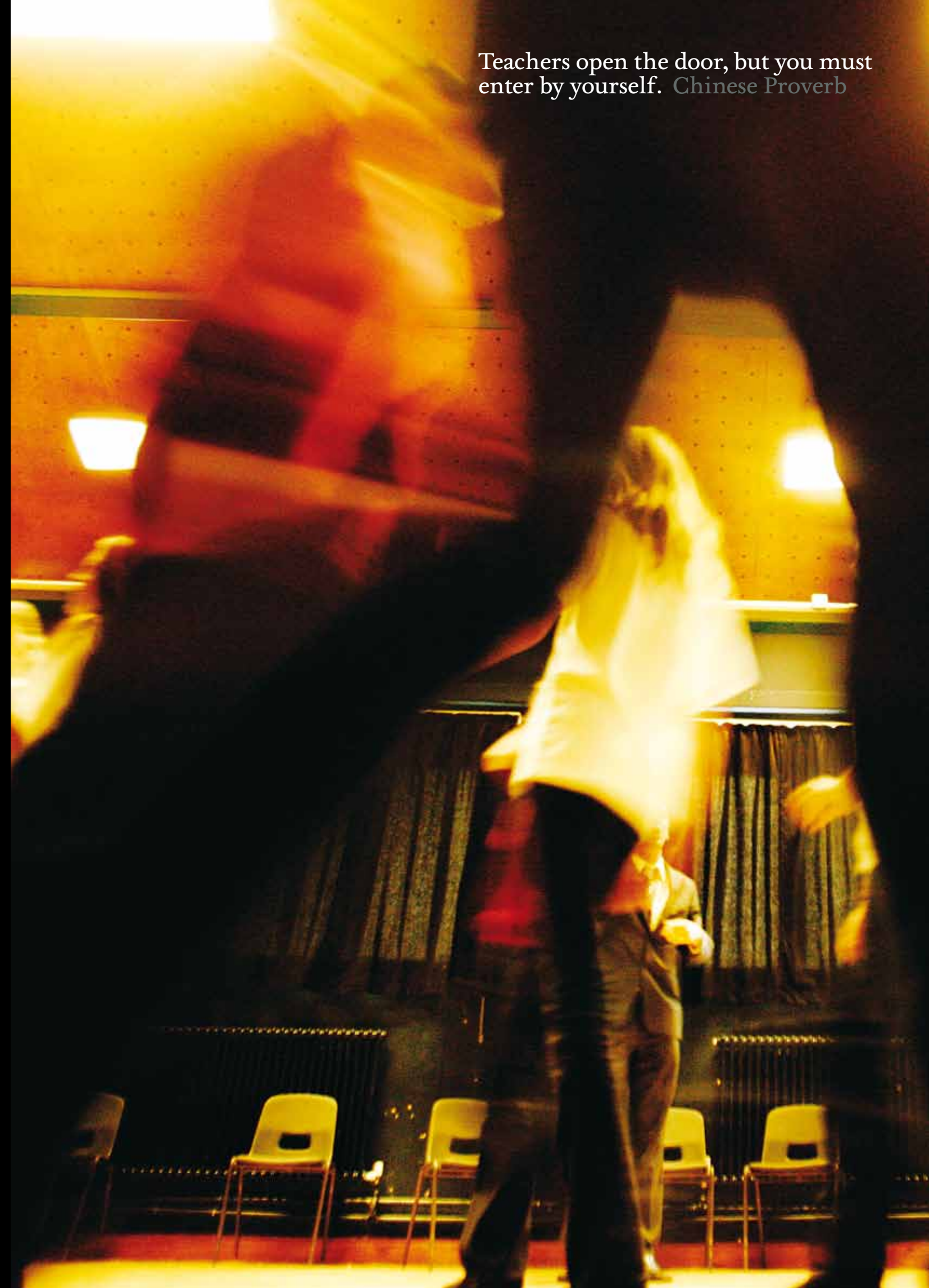
Applied Studies cover a broad range of subjects and we are already working with local professionals to provide our students with high quality hands-on learning.

Our approach at Blatchington Mill is designed to provide a flexible and personalised programme that best meets the individual requirements of our students. The aim is to respond to their needs and to provide courses they really want to study that will help them when they enter the job market or further/higher education.

We provide a number of applied 'lines' including Art and Design, Leisure & Tourism, Hairdressing, Motor Mechanics, Creative and Media, Health and Social Care, ICT, Construction, and Hospitality and Catering.

We are a leading school in this rapidly growing area, which will become increasingly important for all schools over the next few years.

Teachers open the door, but you must enter by yourself. Chinese Proverb



## Responsibility

At Blatchington Mill we make sure that students are prepared for the world they will be joining when they leave. We take pains to see they are fully informed about issues such as drugs – including tobacco – as well as the broader topics of health and relationships. Careers Education is an important part of PSE (Personal and Social Education) and our detailed programme introduces students, among other things, to the role of the helping agencies such as the police and health professionals.

Community leaders, including those from a variety of faith groups, and charities, regularly come to work with our students or to speak at our assemblies.

We have introduced a Supportive Listeners programme. Year 10 students – trained by Samaritans – work with new Year 7 students, being there to talk to them and help them settle in. Our Junior Sports Leaders in PE help run clubs, and activities such as Sports Day, boosting student responsibility and encouraging independence. Members of our year council and school council are voted in by fellow students.

## Student Support

We monitor our students' needs very carefully. A lot of time is spent prior to transfer gathering information to ensure that a suitable support and input package is appropriate and ready for when the

students start at our school. Please contact Mr Wheatly-Crowe at school to discuss any special educational needs issues. There is also provision for 'Gifted and Talented' students

## Senior Students

Students from Year 11 can apply to become 'Senior Students', having reached a stage where they would like to pay something back to the school community, say by helping younger children with their reading. A Head Boy and Head Girl are selected by interview. They are supported by deputies, and assistants, reflecting the management of organisations which they may join in the future. As part of their duties they help to organise the Year Book, Prom, and parental tours.

## Student Voice

Our students are encouraged to express their views directly to the school's decision makers. Student reps from each year are able to pass forward their views in our School Council and our governors also regularly meet students.

## Leading Edge Partnership

Blatchington Mill runs a Leading Edge Partnership that links us with other schools in the area, one secondary and one primary. The benefits of a partnership of this kind are many. Among the most useful to our students, as well as our staff, is the development of shared expertise across the three schools.

We have student researchers giving students a genuine voice, finding out what the student body thinks about such topics as the transition from Year 6 to Year 7, food in the canteen, or how to get more boys to do Art. Their findings are presented to the appropriate staff so that change can happen. And it does. The format and design of this prospectus, for example, were strongly influenced by discussions with students.

## YAC (Youth Advice Centre) counsellor

We have a professional specialist counsellor at the school who is on hand to listen to children as and when they feel the need. Our counsellor is here to provide a completely confidential listening ear and is not a member of the teaching staff.

## Student Services

Student Services is often the first port of call for parents as well as students. The office is located in the East Wing, close to the Frant Road entrance. Our Student Services staff are responsible for many aspects of students' day-to-day life at school, such as attendance, dinner tickets, and lunch boxes left at home. They can pass on to students messages from home and deal with queries about holiday forms, lockers, and first aid. They can answer most questions that parents have about the school.

Blatchington Mill is a safe and happy environment where we all – students and staff – look out for each other.

## Security

Our policy is to provide all students, staff, and visitors with a safe environment, and to safeguard equipment and property. We take personal security extremely seriously and have for some time had in place effective anti-bullying and anti e-bullying policies. Our new Learning Development Officers are here to care for the security and academic development of your child.

The school is fully protected by alarms connected to the Police. Our fire alarms are regularly tested and the school is secured at all times by sophisticated security lighting so that there are no pools of darkness around the campus. We have the benefit of 81 high-definition cameras in a number of key areas, transmitting images straight to laptops in the school, along some five miles of cable.

Education: a debt due from present to future generations.  
George Peabody

## Achievement

At Blatchington Mill we are aiming to nurture well-rounded happy individuals, who are involved, responsible and prepared for life. But we are also aiming for high achievement.

Since 2002, official figures for our teaching performance have been consistently better than the average and have risen steadily year by year. In 2006 we were gratified to learn that our teaching had reached the level where it could be described as a statistically significant element of our students' high performance.

## Rewards

We reward our students' achievement in several ways. We send home celebration postcards when students do especially well and we telephone parents to let them know how well their children are doing. This is in addition to the formal awards system we use in homework diaries, with students being honoured at the end of each term in special assemblies.

## Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11)

Key Stage 4 is where students prepare for their GCSEs or other public examinations. Our Key Stage 4 results are excellent. In fact, Blatchington Mill School has achieved some of the best exam results in the city over a sustained period of time.

Students from 14 to 16 are now able to study a wide range of courses, ranging from the traditional classroom based ones such as Physics, English and Business Studies, to the School based practical courses such as Drama, Dance and Design & Technology. We also offer a wide range of practical 'Applied Learning Courses' based either in school or at a local college including Construction, Hairdressing, Sport & Recreation and Equine Studies to name but a few. Students can take these subjects further in Blatch 6. For more on our sixth form see our Blatch 6 prospectus, available from the school or from our website. Our contact details are on page 8.

We have a huge number of high achieving students in all subjects. Our musical and community accomplishments are well known in the city, as are our sporting achievements. We can also boast a wide range of successful sports teams who compete locally as well as nationally. Our students recently competed in the England Schools' Athletics Championships in Gateshead, and reached the semi-finals of the national under 14s basketball tournament.

## Key Stage 3 (Years 7 to 9)

Our Key Stage results are also high each year in all three core subjects: English, Maths and Science – significantly above national averages.

We intervene to support all students in achieving the best progress possible in each year of the Key Stage.

Give me six hours to chop down a tree and I will spend the first four sharpening the axe.  
Abraham Lincoln

A mind once stretched by a new idea  
never regains its original dimensions.  
Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr



## Involvement

### Research and Information Centre (RIC)

Our Research & Information Centre, known as the RIC, is a centralised resource area which combines library and IT facilities to support academic study across the curriculum. A range of magazines and daily newspapers are always available in the RIC.

There are over 40 networked computers in the RIC for student use and a separate area for 6th form students. All computers provide a range of software applications and Internet access.

The RIC aims to provide a welcoming and stimulating study environment and is staffed throughout the day. Students can come to the RIC before school, during break, at lunchtime and after school for independent study or to read. Classes are brought to the RIC by their teachers for research-based lessons.

All students are given a comprehensive induction to the RIC facilities during Year 7. Our specialist staff are always on hand to provide expert guidance and help students to develop good research skills.

The RIC library contains a wide range of non-fiction books linked to the National Curriculum. We also have a broad selection of fiction which caters for all ages and interests and new books are regularly added. The RIC is open until 4.00pm each day and many students find it a pleasant environment in which to do their homework or read.

We encourage you to visit the RIC to see this superb study facility for yourself.

**Blatchington Mill School has achieved some of the best exam results in the city over a sustained period of time.**

### Work Experience

Year 10 students attend a week's Work Experience to gain insight into the world of work and to show how their studies relate to employment. This practical experience helps students to plan their future.

Many of our Work Experience placements have led our students on to rewarding careers, both locally and further afield.

We have an excellent Careers programme which includes seminars, enterprise sessions and study skills workshops. Blatchington Mill School was recently awarded 'Committed to Careers' status.

Every year we hold a careers fair where employers from a wide range of occupations give insight into their professions and speak informally to students.

### Visits

At Blatchington Mill we run a whole variety of study trips. We've recently visited America, France, Spain, and Italy. We've been hill walking and skiing, and we've organised foreign exchanges. We've studied European art, visited galleries and music workshops, locally, nationally and across the world.

### Clubs

Staff and students organise many clubs and specialist groups and a brochure listing clubs is issued to all students at the start of each year. Subjects include art and design, IT, chess, science, photography, drama, music and dance, theatre, technology, and religion. Some departments run 'clinics', which students can attend to boost their academic performance.

### The Governors

Our school has a strong and effective governing body that includes parents, teachers, local government officials, and a whole range of professionals from a cross section of our community.

### FAB (Friends At Blatch)

FAB is a lively and effective group of parents and friends of the school. Their twin roles are, first, to assist senior staff with self evaluation of the school's performance – a government requirement – and, second, to raise thousands of pounds every year, through a variety of special events, for the benefit of the school. They meet twice a term and would welcome you as a member.

### Community Involvement

Blatchington Mill School is strongly involved with the local community. Our excellence in Performing Arts means we are able to support numerous local primary and secondary schools, for example with our Performing Arts (PA) initiatives in local primary schools. We have an extended day (until 8pm) for Performing Arts classes, which is an opportunity for any student to take an extra PA course. We are involved too with the Family Festival at Hove Town Hall and *Battle of the Bands* at the Concorde.

We welcome the local community into our school, which is always a hub of activity with many community sports clubs from archery to cricket using the facilities. Groups use the Windmill Theatre and we host for the west of the city the Saturday-morning Brighton and Hove Performing Arts Service.

Each of our year groups supports a particular charity and our students raise thousands of pounds with activities such as Rag Day.



Education is the most powerful  
weapon you can use to change  
the world. Nelson Mandela