CLEAR THE CLOUDS

WHY YOUR MOOD MATTERS

Parental complaints

WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON?

EDTECH UPGRADES AT BETT 2023

"WE HAD TO REGAIN HEARTS AND MINDS"

Q & A

DAVID HUNTINGFORD

School: Provost, William Ford Junior School, Dagenham
@Bett: Speaker – The Creative
Classroom: Spaces, tools and opportunities for creativity to thrive in primary schools.
Bett Academy Live – March 31, 11–11.30

WHAT WILL YOU BE SPEAKING ABOUT AT THE BETT SHOW?

I'll be joining Tom Doust, of the Institute of Imagination, with whom we've been partnering over the past year, to discuss our collaboration. I heard Tom speak at an event last year, and what he said was everything I wanted for my school. After the presentation I approached him and, while our authority isn't one the Institute normally works with, we have since formed a great working relationship.

WHY WAS CHANGE NEEDED IN YOUR SCHOOL?

I had taken on the headship of William Ford in 2020 and it was clear a lot of modernisation was needed – not least in pedagogy – as well as a fresh and more creative approach to delivering the curriculum. Creativity was not just for subjects such as art and music, but needed to be interwoven into the whole curriculum and to be its main driver.

WHAT CONDITIONS DID YOU INHERIT WHEN YOU JOINED WILLIAM FORD?

We had no iPads in school and no record had been kept of the ones given out during lockdown, so we didn't know where they were. The ones we got back were in a very poor state. There was no computing suite and the wifi didn't work. So, we needed to find the money to invest in systems. We now have a computing suite and have installed computers so that every child has access and other devices can be plugged in.

HOW DID THE INSTITUTE OF IMAGINATION SUPPORT YOU?

The Institute loaned us iPads, and included us in remote training sessions, so we could see how other schools were using creativity in the curriculum. It was good for our staff to see that it was something taking place all over London with schools working collaboratively. The Institute really inspired us to think differently about making lessons more engaging to deliver.