



**ALL
WE
CAN**

Every
person's
potential
fulfilled



Partner School Assembly

Along with the accompanying PowerPoint (available at allwecan.org.uk/schools), please use the following as a full script or adapt for your context

Introduction

As a school we want to encourage you to care about global issues and to help others.

One of the ways we are going to do that together is by supporting the charity All We Can. They work around the world helping local organisations tackle poverty and injustice in their communities. The way All We Can does this is a little different to what we might expect, so we're going to hear a story to help us understand why.

Story

I wonder if you have ever watched a high jump competition at the Olympics or World Championships? If you have, you'll know that all the competitors use the same technique to try and get as far over the bar as possible – they do a curved run up towards the bar and then launch themselves backwards into the air.

Because absolutely everyone uses this technique, I wonder if you can even imagine a different way of jumping over a high jump bar?

But in 1968, at the Olympic games in Mexico, there was only one man high jumping in this way, and his name was Richard Fosbury. For years and years everyone had assumed the best way to jump really high was to go over the bar forwards or sideways, so this is what all the best athletes did. Richard Fosbury couldn't quite fulfil his potential with the traditional methods so he started experimenting with different ways of jumping, and he realised that by totally flipping the way he looked at the problem he could massively improve his performance.



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At the Olympics, he was the only person using this new method that many onlookers thought was ridiculous. But he defied expectations to win gold in a new Olympic record.

The technique that Fosbury developed became known as the 'Fosbury Flop', and most remarkably, at the next Olympic games the vast majority of high jump athletes had adopted this new technique which no one had even thought of a few years earlier.

Sometimes, we have to totally flip the way we look at things to allow us to make progress. Sometimes, things that seem silly at first, turn out to be very wise indeed.



Show the students the video in the accompanying PowerPoint and ask them to look out for what happens in 1968.

All We Can have totally flipped the way they look at poverty. They have realised that people experiencing poverty are actually the experts in their own situation and are capable of identifying solutions for themselves.

That means All We Can's job isn't to come into a community and tell them what they should be doing, it's to partner with local communities and support them in what they are already doing. For a while, this looked to others like a silly idea, but just like with Richard Fosbury, more and more people are now starting to look at things in the same way.

Activity



Before leading the assembly, watch this video. As an illustration that sometimes we need to flip our perspective on a problem in order to solve it, try this activity with one or two volunteers. You can use a plastic bottle rather than a glass one, and any kind of paper rather than money.



Conclusion

One of the places where All We Can apply their very different way of looking at poverty is in Malawi in Southern Africa. We are going to show a video now which tells us a little bit more about one of All We Can's local partners called Eagles.



Show the video in the accompanying PowerPoint, also available at https://youtu.be/1fncGaj_rhA?si=fGHJRZ7YJoPG4aiS

As a school, we have the exciting opportunity to raise money that will go towards this important work of putting local communities in the driving seat of change.

We also have the opportunity to reflect on what other areas of our lives we need to flip our perspective on. What problems are we facing that we need to look at differently, like with the high jump or the paper under the bottle? Could you be brave this week and do something a little bit differently?

