



February 1909

Headteacher's log

Monday 3

Our Mr Peel is showing disturbing signs of professional development. His thesis for a Master's degree, on teaching blood sports at KS1, has been published entitled *View Halloo!* and is obtainable from all bad bookshops. Having private means, he has bought a new Bell-Edison digital phone, which few can afford because it uses so much paraffin. Over the weekend, he wired it to his Fox-Talbot and photographed his inner ear. This afternoon he showed the results as magic lantern slides to the whole of Y6 in the hall. By sheer coincidence we had an unannounced visit, just as this hi-tec science lesson was beginning, by the County Educational Technology Adviser ('Ruth the Megabytish damsel').

Tuesday 4

I interviewed, separately and alone, two staff mentioned in an Ofsted report after Friday's drugs tests in the school. Melinda Cartwright brought class records to show me that the fathers of all five children carrying traces of Red Bull were long distance freight wagon drivers, who drink RB to keep them alert on night runs. She said it must have been served as a cordial at home. I was satisfied that she had not dosed her class, but warned her that all children must be clear of performance-enhancing drugs for the rest of this term. The school will now be subject to further random checks, and children and staff will have to give samples before, during and after the SATS tests.

Wednesday 5

A letter today from Simon Branch, the new Schools Minister and a keen Primitive Methodist, told heads that Ofsted would be carrying out drink-teach investigations, initially with breathalysers, to be followed if necessary by more intrusive sampling. This would apply to all staff, but at least two additional tests per year would be administered to senior management teams.

Thursday 6

Clarice Parsnip was sent to my office by Miss Primforth with a comment in her exercise book commending her excellent work in Maths. I looked into Clarice's

eyes. Then I noted in my commendations record book that there was no sign of dilation of the pupils, and that Clarice's good work was, in my opinion, an unassisted performance. I awarded Clarice her gold sticker and a chocolate liqueur.

Friday 7

I was busy all day planning a series of weekly Y6 assemblies on citizenship, for which yet more government funding is offered. As we are a Church school, I'm letting our Rector, Canon Thunderton-Armstrong start with a presentation on the new Burial Fees Measure and its effect on the pastoral strategies of parishes. Next, I'm hoping to book Professor Anthony Viagra, who has the Chair of Artificial Virility in the University of Essex. I've been able to secure Admiral Byng to talk about the need for discipline in society, thanks to Dr Michael Jackson, County Pastoral Care Adviser and Senior Lecturer in Victimology at the University of Loamshire. Finally, I'm approaching the British Empire Fund for Nature for a speaker on their new 'Save the Locust' campaign.

■ Leonard Bookman

