

# September 1913



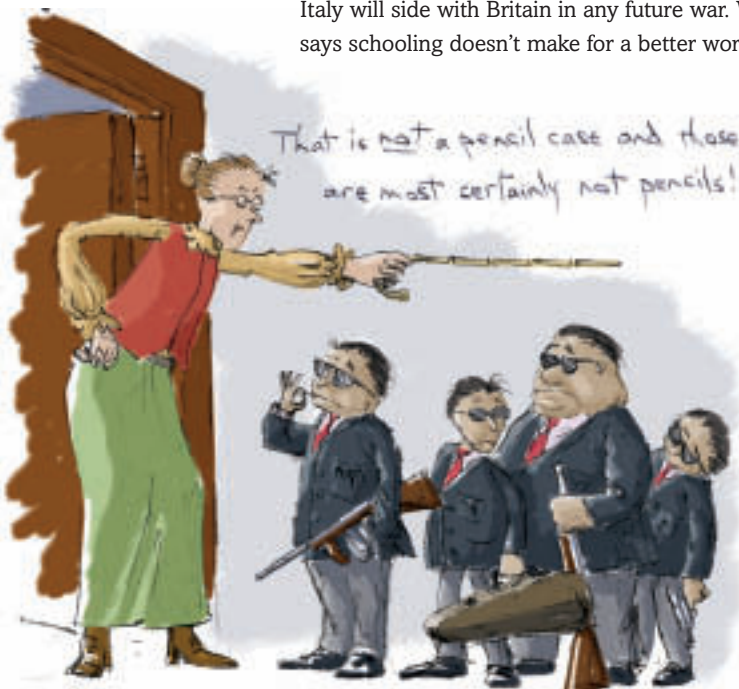
## Headteacher's log

### Monday 22

I am very pleased that Middlemire Chamber of Commerce has approved our 1913–14 curriculum plan, and graded it 'Cool'. Without this approval, we might have been listed as an 'at risk' school. The new criteria require some readjustment of teachers' mindsets. For example, in RE, history, physical geography, English literature, and languages, children are 'customers' and teachers have to compete for their attention. But in the core subjects, arithmetic, spelling, writing and grammar, practical science, entrepreneurship and employee-loyalty, the children are 'operatives', who will be punished for inattention and disobedience. These are clear signals to the children which subjects really matter.

### Tuesday 23

It is good to have our CPD-obsessed colleague Miss Nigella Bounder with us again. On one of her many courses she met a senior Italian politician, who arranged for her to be seconded for three months. She has been Acting Director of an at-risk boys' school in Naples, Collegio d'Inferno. She found that the school's neighbourhood was also at risk because of the school. However, in her short stay she changed half the staff, excluded sons of the local mafia, installed a new curriculum, and imposed a school uniform, including cap. There have been two notable results of Miss Bounder's work. The senior Neapolitan Godfather has begged for his grandson to be admitted to Collegio d'Inferno. And the Italian government has said that Italy will side with Britain in any future war. Who says schooling doesn't make for a better world?



### Wednesday 24

Today's assembly was in our series 'People Who Help Us'. It featured the Loamshire Police, and was conducted by their schools officer, Sergeant Callum Stone, who gave a highly entertaining account of life in the force. The caretaker informed me that a number of our boys had tethered their ferrets behind the cycle sheds before going into the hall this morning. The police are very keen to engage positively with all age groups in the community. In fact, this assembly arose because Miss Cartwright asked a policeman the time one Saturday afternoon, and found herself on the police mailing list for financial appeals. Melinda can be very persuasive, and put in a word for the school's collective worship programme.

### Thursday 25

St Chryptosporidium's is on the list of 638 schools threatened with closure. This is a shock, in view of our steady improvement, our multiple specialist statuses, the dogged loyalty of our regular Ofsted Inspector, Professor McSpreader, and our renown in high places due to Bishop Potsmoker. All this seems to count for nothing. Mind you, at least we are not in the 'death row' part of the list. Canon Thunderton-Armstrong, tells me to cheer up and says that, even if the axe were to fall on us, he could find a financial sponsor to ensure that our becoming an academy would still leave us in peace to carry on as before. He is writing to his friend the weapons dealer in Stornaway, whose procurements for the British government are essential at this critical time in the country's affairs. His requests to government on our behalf will not be refused.

### Friday 26

Sir Magnus Cerebrum led our assembly this morning. He is Professor of Mathematics and Quantum Mechanics at the University of Loamshire. He spoke movingly of his early life of poverty, delinquency, drunkenness and school exclusion. Aged 15 he was converted at a Salvation Army street meeting. He credited all his later educational progress to that experience of transformation by Christ. Miss Bounder complained to me afterwards that the presentation detracted from the transforming effect of education alone.

■ Leonard Bookman