



The Class Next Door

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FIRECRACKER



A MISCHIEVOUS AND FUNNY
FACTUAL ENTERTAINMENT FORMAT



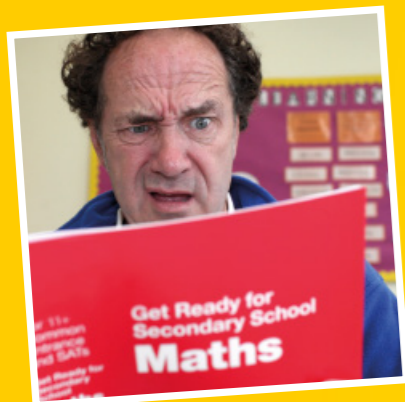
SCHOOL'S OUT... OR SO THEY THOUGHT!



The Class Next Door

DETAILS:

Commissioning Broadcaster: **Channel 4**
 Producers: **Firecracker Films**
 Number Of Episodes: **4 x 60'**
 Scheduling: **Primetime**
 Genre: **Factual Entertainment**



A mischievous and funny factual entertainment series with a serious question at its heart - what is school doing to our kids? In this series, we find out what it's really like being 11 today - the hard way.

Series Overview

A brilliantly funny and warm brand new factual entertainment series which sees a class full of parents being sent back to school. The twist - their kids are in the classroom next door.

Parents will discover what being an 11 year old child today is really like, revisit some of the highs and lows of their formative years, and maybe even put the odd old demon to rest. Shooting in a real school during the school term, and with real teachers, the extra class of parents will go through the same regime and curriculum as their children - from school uniforms and sitting exams to sex education and detention.

Each episode is driven by the narratives of parents as they endure the daily routine of school all over again - and how they compare to their kids next door.

The experience also brings them closer to their children. As they share study tips at the breakfast table, the parents finally understand what their children are going through. But as they wrestle with past participles, prepositions, percentages and probabilities, we also wonder - does school really need to be so tough?

At the end of the series, as the children and the parents take the notorious end of year test, the audience has gained a fascinating insight into the modern school system.

Format Overview

Each episode has its own narrative built around the stories of a few key characters. There is also a series narrative, led both by the characters' developing stories and by events such as the school play or sports day which is built to in the last few episodes. Key events across the series are also featured, such as assembly, playtime and lunch.

Mirroring the school term, each episode culminates naturally in an event in which the kids and the parents are required to show what they can do: a spelling bee, an art exhibition, a sports day, a musical performance, etc. The events show just

how hard the kids work, reveal the parents' talents that they had buried since school, and bring out their competitive spirit!

The format isn't just about official lesson time as it also shows how the parents cope with the politics of the playground at age 40 and how do they create new friendships and hierarchies. In addition to the action in the classroom and playground, the format invites viewers inside the staffroom so they can hear the teachers' insights into their new class to find out who the troublemaker and the teacher's pet are.



Episode Breakdown Based on a 4-episode series

EPISODE 1:

- **Getting ready** - The parents pull on their school uniforms for the first time in years or even decades - what are they letting themselves in for?
- **Arrival and assembly** - As they get ready to file into assembly, the parents check each other out. Who will become allies, and who will be competitors?
- **Meeting the teacher** - For most of the adults it's been years, decades even, since they sat in front of a blackboard.
- **The first test... and the shock of the results** - It's clear that some parents may well excel in certain subjects but all will have blind spots.
- **The troublemakers emerge** - It doesn't take long for people's personalities to come out. Who will be the class clown, the teacher's pet and the naughty one?
- **Playtime / making new friends** - After a tough morning they head to the playground for the first time, a hierarchy starting to take shape.
- **Teacher's first reactions** - In the staffroom, the teachers discuss the new pupils.

EPISODE 2:

- **The Politics of the playground** - Relationships form as the term rolls on. While the kids' social groups cut across class and race, is this reflected in the parents' friendship groups?
- **Differences in ability start to emerge** - There might be some surprises. Who excels at maths when calculators are banned?
- **Musical performance** - All of the parents have to learn an instrument they have never played before, leading to an orchestral performance in front of the whole school.
- **Sex education** - The parents re-discover their inner juvenile as they snigger their way through class.
- **Auditions for the school play** - When the class is told they will be performing a musical at the end of term, it's dog eat dog as the alpha parents compete for the lead roles.

EPISODE 3:

- **Hidden talents** - For many of the parents, the end of school meant the end of learning. Whilst some haven't picked up a paintbrush since school, that's no indicator of skill. One parent, who excelled in art at school wonders why she ever gave up and resolves to revive her talents.
- **Girls and boys** - Some of our mothers recall feeling alienated in science, a subject that felt like it was only really aimed at boys, but today, everyone is focused on lessons driven by compelling experiments and engaging hands-on activities with electricity and light.
- **Art exhibition** - Kids and parents alike put their work into an art exhibition for the whole school to see. Can you tell the difference between the kids' work and the adults'?

EPISODE 4:

- **The two classes are shaken up** - What do the parents learn from being mixed with the kids?
- **The generation gap** - When it comes to computing, the parents start to feel very old as the kids run rings around them with their expert grasp of coding and web design.
- **Sports day** - For some, simply making it around the track without dying is a major personal triumph but for others this is war. Get ready for some seriously competitive behaviour.
- **The tests** - Both the parents and children sit their exams.
- **Parents' evening** - The closing weeks of term, our parents' own parents come in to see how their grown-up children have fared. Alternatively, the parents' own children come in to consult with the teacher about mum or dad's progress.
- **School Play** - With the adults and kids all playing roles in the end of term performance, this is one event the whole school has been waiting for.
- **Leavers' prize-giving** - The series concludes with a grand leavers' prize-giving for kids and parents, complete with awards including most improved learner, best attendance, and the mischief award.
- **Farewell party** - As they bust some moves in the school disco, the children and parents all say farewell to primary school. It's been a hilarious journey of glorious triumphs and embarrassing failures. Some might say, the best years/weeks of their lives...

