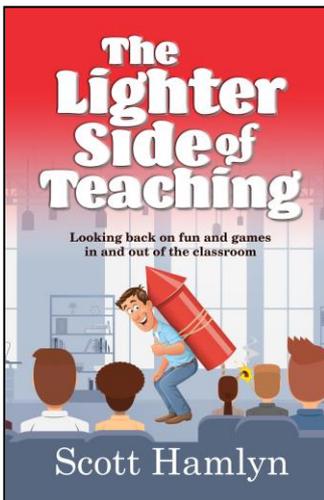


MEREO NEW BOOK: PRESS RELEASE

A teacher's humorous memoirs of life in the classroom (and the staffroom) since the 1970s

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THE LIGHTER SIDE OF TEACHING

Looking back on fun and games in and out of the classroom

by Scott Hamlyn

“A sense of humour? Simply put, you'll struggle in the classroom without one ...”



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“Somebody in the Senior Management Team said that the school's policy and targets should be 'Clear, Realistic, Achievable and Permanent' – until a member of staff pointed out the acronym for those ideals.”

A teacher's life is pressurised and very hard work, especially when teaching hormonal adolescents. Constantly juggling the demands of mountains of marking, staff meetings, parents' evenings, maintaining classroom discipline, striving to meet the exacting requirements of the National Curriculum while also doing their very best for their pupils – it's no wonder teachers need a good sense of humour to survive!

Recently-retired secondary-school teacher, **Scott Hamlyn**, believes that humour is an essential tool in the teacher's armament – not just to provide some light relief and to make life more fun for teachers and pupils, but also as an effective tool for stimulating curiosity and to help students digest and remember what they learn.

With apt, amusing illustrations (including some by famous cartoonists), Scott Hamlyn shares with us his experiences of teacher training (including the dreaded teaching practise), supply teaching and teaching in both independent and state schools. His humorous tales of the lighter side of teaching include: • the humanitarian teacher who only *pretended* to cane his pupils • the RE teacher whose lessons revolved round his obsession with WWII aircraft • the minefield of staff room etiquette • creative ploys to deal with school inspectors • schoolboy howlers (and some teacher howlers too) • riotous staff parties • the perils of school trips (it's not always the kids who misbehave outside the classroom) • witty school report comments • coping with horses and livestock invading the playing fields • and surviving the staff Christmas show when dressed as one of The Supremes.

“An important aspect of an enthusiasm for teaching, as well as for life, is the ability to see and enjoy the funny things that surround us ... Laughter makes every classroom a better place.”

Funny and fascinating reading for teachers, pupils, parents and anyone interested in a behind-the-scenes glimpse of life in our schools over the last four decades – a great Christmas gift for teachers too!

Feature suggestions: Just how much have our schools changed since the 1970s? • Is it harder to maintain classroom discipline without the threat of corporal punishment? • Have changes in technology affected teaching methods? • Are today's teenagers more pressurised than their parents' generation? • Should teachers try to keep up with teenage slang and fashion? • Have Health & Safety Regulations limited the types of school trips & activities on offer to kids?

Media opportunities: Extracts/serialisation; the author is available for interviews.

Local UK interest: The author, Scott Hamlyn, grew up in **South Devon**; he studied in London, South Wales and Bath. He has taught in state and independent schools in **Sussex**, **Devon** and **Cornwall** and now lives near **St Ives, Cornwall**.

About the author: **Scott Hamlyn** graduated in both geology and geography and taught both subjects for more than thirty years from the late 1970s until his recent retirement. He has taught in state schools and in the independent sector. He holds a PGCE (Postgraduate Certificate in Education) and an MA in Earth Science Education. He is currently undertaking research for a PhD.



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