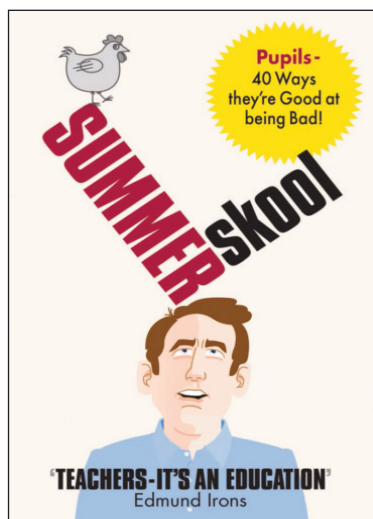




SKOOL'S OUT FOR SUMMER

Local teacher Edmund Irons details the tricks of the trade when it comes to classroom antics

Having spent over 20 years working in advertising, with demanding clients and tight deadlines, Edmund Irons thought a career in teaching would provide a much calmer way of life – a steady income, long holidays, and home by 5pm. 'I quickly learned that teaching is one of the most stressful, time-consuming and misunderstood careers I could have chosen,' explains Edmund. 'Most newly-qualified teachers work 12 hour days and are faced with pressures both from education policies and pupils.'

During the first year of his teaching, Edmund was a supply teacher, working in over a dozen schools in towns in West Kent, from Sevenoaks to Cranbrook, from Maidstone to Tunbridge Wells. I found that, no matter which school I taught at, the pupils seemed to use the same tactics during lessons to distract them from learning. It was the idea that they must be learning these tactics from somewhere that gave rise to the book, *Summer Skool*.

Summer Skool is a humorous story of a group of boys who take classes to learn specially-designed tactics to slow down lessons and stress-test the education system. Throughout the book the boys try out their new-found skills on the hard-pressed Mr Godfrey.

'There are serious issues of teacher retention and teacher workload,' explains Edmund. 'Over 40,000 UK teachers reportedly left the profession last year. My book adopts a light-hearted style, but with a serious message – one which might help new teachers and parents to develop a better understanding of a teacher's workload, school politics and classroom challenges.'

EDMUND IRONS spent 20 years as a PR consultant, industrial editor and copywriter producing numerous short books, feature articles and newsletters for science, technology and environmental companies. Edmund later re-trained as a teacher of secondary school Mathematics and has spent a decade teaching and tutoring.



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