

BOYS

By Tom Stevenson

Act 1 - Morning

3 actors play a range of people. The three main characters, Tyler, Riley and Xavier are in a classroom together. The three start the scene messing around, throwing things and talking over each other.

Xavier: *To the Audience* Welcome to Oldbrook Comprehensive, where hopes and dreams come to die.

Tyler: And boy don't we know it.

Riley: Situated in the ex-minors city of Nottingham. A Labor politician is as welcome as a nice cuppa tea.

Xavier: The kids who come here are as cultured as a slice of bread. I'm Xavier, captain of the school football team, I don't like it here, but the other schools in my catchment area were a catholic school or a private school, so, Oldbrook it is.

Tyler: I'm Tyler, I want to be a Doctor. Mum and Dad say I'm very ambitious, and no one from Oldbrook has ever made anything of themselves, so I should probably lower my expectations.

Riley: That just leaves me, I'm Riley, not the academic type, I met my friends for life at this school, and I know we'll grow up together, I've probably already met my future wife - thats the sort of place this is.

Xavier: Nothing really happens outside these wall.

Riley: You never escape the place.

Tyler: We wanted to share with you a normal day at Oldbrook.

Riley: From the students and teachers perspective.

Xavier: And it all starts, with Tyler being a nob

Riley: As always

Music

Tyler: Your mum, your mum, your mum is on fire watch your mother burn—

Xavier: Shut up, Tyler.

Riley: He's just jealous because his mum works on the corner giving hand jobs for a fiver!

Xavier: No she doesn't

Tyler: Yeah she doesn't charge! She'd do it for a lion bar!

Xavier: Shut your mouth!

Xavier Squares up to Tyler

Tyler: What are you going to do big man? Try and kiss me?

Tyler kisses Xavier quickly before running away and laughing

Xavier: Err, are you bent or something.

Riley: Ha! Jokest thing I've seen. Come on lover boys we'd better get to class!

They sit behind desks.

Tyler: First lesson, maths. I hate maths, I hate sweaty Mr Holland. *Impression* Sit down, open your text books to page 53 and bore yourself to tears learning about triangles.

Riley: I honestly think Mr Holland is in Love with Pythagorus.

Ty and Xav: The sum of the areas of the two squares on the legs equals the area of the square on the hypotenuse.

Riley: The man is so boring

Xavier: I can't be bothered to sit through another lesson like this - it drives me insane. Listening to his monotone voice. *Monotone impression* 2 add 2 is 4.

Tyler: His stale coffee breath and baggy trousers. Why would you want to be a maths teacher!

Riley: I can't wait to leave school, be anything I want to be!

Tyler: *Impression* You won't succeed in any job without maths.

Xavier: Mr Holland must live a sad life - if his aspiration was to be a maths teacher.

All Laugh.

Xavier: Oh shit he's coming.

Tyler becomes Mr Holland - it is clear he has been teaching for a long time, and he knows his subject very well.

Tyler: As Holland Right then class, *Sighs* settle down. Riley, please get down from the table. Okay, today we're going to be doing shapes, specifically looking at regular 2 dimensional polygons.

Now, heres a little joke to remember your key word - what did the pirate say when it's parrot died – Polygon!

Xavier: *To audience* Mr Holland would often try to inject 'fun' into his lessons, but it was always met with absolute silence.

Riley: Sir, can you just get on with it please?

Tyler: A polygon is shape with a finite number of straight lines, where the sum of the exterior angles is equal to 360 degrees— Turn to page 53 and do questions one through 12 on simple polygons.

Tyler as Holland sits down.

Riley: Work from a book, no surprise there.

Xavier: He must know the answers are in the back of the book.

Tyler: I know the answers are in the back of the book - but no cheating.

Riley and Xavier sigh, and fall away to their work

Tyler: 12 years I've been teaching here at Oldbrook Secondary school. I've been head of year, head of department, been turned down for the deputy-head job 4 times now. I've outlived the last 3 head teachers. I've achieved as much as I can working in a blue-collar school. The thing is, there's no room for progression anymore. The current system is to come in, do you job and go home - they want sheep not people. As long as I churn out 80% GCSE passes or above, my job is safe.

Xavier: You alright sir? You look pretty pissed off, I mean, upset.

Riley: What you thinking about sir?

Tyler: Nothing, oh. No it sounds silly. *To Audience* I wish they'd mind their own business.

Riley: Mr Holland was one of those teacher, once you got him on a subject, he'd talk about it for hours.

Xavier: Which meant no more work!

Tyler: I'm just thinking about how much I have achieved in life. I have been at this school for some years now, and I've seen pupils come and go— some starting new families, some being successful business people, and more than I'd like to admit, ones whom have wound up in prison. It's really good to reflect on life and your achievements boys. Helps to focus the mind and help you move forward. Now, Get on with your work please.

Xavier: On reflection sir - I think Riley is stupid

Riley: This lessons stupid.

Tyler: Look at them, bunch of ungrateful sod's. They don't know how easy they have it. When I was there age I was at school all day and working with my mum at the mill in the evenings - I didn't get chance to play with myself of an evening, let alone spend each night killing Nazi Zombies on my Xbox station. At the weekends I frequented a boxing club in the west-midlands, all we had was a ring and some old beaten punch bags, but I was eager to make a difference to my life, I was the under 17 regional champion. By the time I was 18, I was a fully fledged member of the Royal Navy, deployed to the Falklands. I was on board HMS Sheffield serving under Sir John Woodward, when it was sunk by an Exocet missile. We lost 20 good men that day. During my shore leave my father died and I had to stay at home and look after my mum and sister. I went

back to school and did my O-levels in Mathematics and Computer Science. A careers advisor told me there was a huge push on getting men into teaching - I bit the bullet and after 4 years of training I became a teacher. After my mum passed away, I moved to Nottingham, moved to Oldbrook school. Became a trainer at the local boxing club, and even coached a member of the 2012 boxing squad. It's good to reflect on life, and your achievements.

Xavier: Sir, I've finished. Do you want me to move on to the next bit? The sum of the exterior angles?

Riley: Sir, he just looked at the answers in the back of the book

Xavier: No I didn't, stop lying.

Riley: Who you calling a liar, I'll nock you out.

Tyler: *As himself* Xavier, give me the answers, I'll give you a bubble gum.

Xavier: The answers are in the book.

Tyler: Some idiot has ripped them out of this one

Xav & Ril: Par.

Riley: Just have to do your work then wont you.

Xavier: Instead of gorming at the clock, waiting for break time.

Tyler: I wasn't gorming, I was just thinking. About sir.

Riley: You were thinking about sir?

Xavier: GAY!

Riley: Do you want to bum him?

Xavier: Sir! Tyler wants to bum you sir.

Tyler: Shut up. You'll get us into trouble.

Riley: Oh! We might get a detention, so you get to spend more time with your beloved Sir. Staring into his eyes, dreaming about him.

Tyler: He's like 50... and I'm not gay for sir! I was just thinking, he's old, he must have seen the world, and like done lots of things. There's no way he's been a maths teacher all his life.

Bell Rings

Riley: Finally, break! When the bell rings at Oldbrook, it's like another chapter. Everything that has just happened is in the past. Everything you've just learned gets left at the door and you don't carry that baggage on to your next lesson.

Xavier: Break is only 15 min long, it's just about enough time to have a fag, cover up the smell with some Lynx Africa and hear about how Jacob Greenwood fingered Clair Smart during their biology lesson.

Tyler: That will be bullshit. Have you heard the new Cradle of Filth album?

Riley: Shut up, you greb. Next lesson, Chemistry. Which I am well up for because Miss Hughes is

dead fit. Honestly, my hands get all sweaty.

Xavier: Remember the time you got a boner for Miss Hughs

Riley: No I didn't

Xavier: Yes you did, one of the buttons came open from her shirt and you told everyone you could see her nipples.

Tyler: Then you went straight to the toilet during break and was in there for a good 15 minutes. Sam Evans said you were power wanking.

Riley: Shut up, no I wasn't, I went for a— poo.

Look at Riley in disgust

Xavier: We get to Miss Hugh's lesson, on time, of course. Riley wouldn't let us be late for this lesson. Miss Hughs is a tall attractive woman, she had dark hair and dark eyes, and hasn't been a teacher for very long — truth be told, she's not even a good teacher, but the students seem to get on with her

Tyler: That's because she's only about 4 years older than the sixth-formers.

Riley: She is the best teacher ever— she was so happy when I got an B in my mock exams.

Xavier: *As Hughs* Right class, today we're going to look at the Alkaline metals on the periodic table and seeing how they react to water. Now, as the school wont extend my science budget you'll have to watch these experiments on video. Riley can you get the TV out of the cupboard please.

Riley: Of course I can miss.

Tyler: *Taking the Micky* Of course I can miss.

Xavier: You're such a sweet little man.

Riley: *To Audience* Little man, not boy. I'm so in there.

Riley wheels on an old TV and VHS player on a trolley into the class. Xavier puts in a video and presses play. Tyler and Riley stare at the screen, but occasionally watch what Miss Hughs is doing.

Xavier: I'm not teaching, not today. I'm so bogged down with marking, that I haven't even had chance to do my lesson prep. But the kids bought the line about my science budget. They're just happy to not have to do any writing. We've had staff meetings about the 'changes in the academy' every day, then I was at a rehearsal until 11 o'clock last night — I am taking on the role of Mrs Lovett in Nottingham Amateur Harmonics rendition of Sweeney Todd. It's my first lead role since I joined. I'm so excited. I've always wanted to be an actress. I wish Riley would stop looking at me, it's disgusting the way he undresses me with his eyes. Has he no respect for women at all? Watching the video please boys, there will be a quiz on it afterwards.

Ri & Ty: Yes miss.

Xavier: Why the fuck did I say that? I was employed at this place to teach drama— but when Oldbrook became an academy, the first place to get the funding cut was the arts, specifically Drama. My chapel of the arts became a dreary humanities block over night. Luckily for me Mrs Fat Bitch went on maternity. Sorry Mrs Furbidge. So now I'm here, teaching bottom set chemistry, to kids who only know Acid as a drug. I'd better get on with this marking - I've taken a stack home every night this week - I haven't even thought about writing my schemes of work for next term. Shit the video's ended. questions. Okay kids, can anyone tell me the chemical symbol for

Sodium?