



Scene 1

(The school hall. As the **intro music** plays (**track 20**), the cast enters. Mrs Boots stands front and centre stage. Behind her, seated in a line, are the staff: Miss Spiggot, Mr Dodger (eating biscuits), Mr Longbottom (snoozing), Mrs Pepper, Miss Jones, Miss Daisy and the School Cook. A number of children, including the named Year 6 students, sit cross-legged facing Mrs Boots. Flash and Spice bounce to the front for their **DJ intro #1 (track 1 - vocal demo, track 21 - backing)**)

Flash & Spice Yo! Pop diggers!

Flash I'm DJ Flash!

Spice I'm DJ Spice!

Flash & Spice A tasty twosome – cool as ice!
We keep the beat, we keep the flow,
We're here to guide you through the show.
So if you'll let us set the scene,
It's school assembly – know what I mean?
There's a bombshell about to drop!
School of Pop, let's rock!



(Flash and Spice finish their rap and hold a gangsta pose!)

Mrs Boots Rupert and Jemima, stop all that silliness and sit down.

Flash & Spice (obediently) Yes, Mrs Boots. Sorry, Mrs Boots.

(Flash and Spice sit down with the other children, facing Mrs Boots.)

Mrs Boots So, at the end of our final assembly of the Spring term, sadly it is time to say goodbye to our longest-serving teacher, Miss Spiggot, who has taught Year 6 for an amazing forty-five years! (turning to Miss Spiggot) We will miss you so much, Miss Spiggot. Ditchwater Academy simply won't be the same without you. Perhaps you'd like to say a few words?

Miss Spiggot (sighing) If I really have to. (reluctantly taking centre stage) As Mrs Boots said, I have been plugging away here for forty-five long years, though it seems like centuries, during which time I have seen many members of staff come and go. So, I suppose I should leave you with some final thoughts about our time together here at Ditchwater. Firstly, Mrs. Boots, thank you for your leadership. You have guided the school well...under my supervision. And you, (pointing) Mr Baldy. Gary, we have worked together many years and...

Mr Dodger (spitting biscuit crumbs) Gary?! Gary Baldy?! My name is Jamie Dodger!

Miss Spiggot Yes, whatever. After a rather shaky start, you settled well into your role.

Mr Dodger Thank you, Miss Spiggot...I think.

Miss Spiggot And, of course, there's my dear, dear friend, Miss Jones. Now, Joanne, we have also known each other a long time...

Miss Jones It's Julie! Julie Jones!

Miss Spiggot Yes, whatever. You are an excellent Reception teacher. It's just a pity that you are teaching Year 4.

Miss Jones Er...thank you?

Miss Spiggot And to the rest of you, Mr Shorthand...

Mr Longbottom *(nudged awake by Miss Jones)* It's Mr Longbottom. *(He dozes off again.)*

Miss Spiggot ...Miss Lily...

Miss Daisy Miss Daisy.

Miss Spiggot ...Mr A A Ron....

Mr Aaron Mr Aaron!

Miss Spiggot ...Mrs. Salt...

Mrs Pepper Mrs Pepper.

Miss Spiggot ...and our school cook, Maude...

School Cook It's Marge!

Miss Spiggot Whatever! Your approach to food preparation is certainly 'original'. All of you, good luck with this bunch *(pointing to the children)*. I really don't envy...

Mrs Boots *(stepping in)* Let's have a round of applause for Miss Spiggot. *(All applaud.)*
Well, everyone, enjoy your Easter break. And, Year 6, you will have a new teacher for the summer term, who will be wonderful...I'm sure. His name is Mr Garlow, and he will see you through to the end of your time here at Ditchwater Academy. Thank you, everyone. You may go.

(The children stand and form a huddle stage left. The staff form a huddle stage right.)

Freya Mr Garlow? A man!

Tim Sounds scary.

Ash What? Even more scary than Miss Spiggot?

Alex Good point. I wonder what this Mr Garlow will be like.

Song **Mr Garlow**

*Track 2 - vocal demo
Track 22 - backing track
Lyrics p30*

(As the song ends, the children exit)

Mr Longbottom Mrs. Boots, what is this Mr Garlow like? How was he in the interview?

Mrs Boots Barry seems like a thoroughly decent chap, if a little 'enthusiastic'.

Mrs Pepper Sorry? Barry? Barry Garlow?

Mrs. Boots Yes. Barry Garlow. Why?

Mr Aaron Well, it's just that he has exactly the same name as the lead singer of Get This, the famous pop band from years ago!

Mrs. Boots Oh, yes. He did mention in his interview something about a previous career in music. Said he'd had a few 'number ones' and the occasional 'number two'. I thought he was just being rude.

Mr. Dodger Barry Garlow and Get This! Even I know they were the biggest pop band ever!

Miss Jones *(swooning)* The actual Barry Garlow...teaching in our school!

*(Miss Jones faints dramatically. As the **scene change music** plays plays (track 23), the staff members exit, two of them carrying off Miss Jones. The stage is made ready for the next scene.)*



Scene 2

*(An interview room. Mrs Boots and 4 Governors sit at a table with 'GOVERNORS' clearly written on a sign. Opposite them is a single empty chair. Flash and Spice bounce to the front of the stage for their next **DJ intro #2 (track 3 - vocal demo, track 24 - backing)**)*

Flash & Spice Yo! Pop diggers!

Flash I'm DJ Flash!

Spice I'm DJ Spice!

Flash & Spice A tasty twosome – cool as ice!
Now, pay attention to our rhyme,
We're going one month back in time.
We'll watch that interview procedure
To find another Year 6 teacher.
And so we're turning back the clock...
School of Pop, let's rock!

(Flash and Spice finish their rap and hold a gangsta pose!)

Mrs Boots Rupert and Jemima, are you on the board of governors?

Flash & Spice No, Mrs Boots.

Mrs Boots Then would you kindly stop doing all that ridiculous bobbing about, and skedaddle? Oh, and send in the first candidate.

Flash & Spice *(obediently)* Yes, Mrs Boots. Sorry Mrs Boots.

(Flash and Spice exit. Miss Bouncé flounces in.)

Governor #1 Ah, take a seat, Miss...

Miss Bouncé *(sitting)* Miss Bouncé. But please, call me Flouncy.

Governor #1 So your name is...let me get this right...Flouncy Bouncy?!

Miss Bouncé It's pronounced Bouncé!

Governor #1 Sorry, Flouncy Bouncé?!

Miss Bouncé Yes, that's correct.

Mrs Boots Hmmm. I think we'll stick with Miss Bouncé. Now, please tell the school governors and me why we should employ you as our new Year 6 teacher.

Miss Bouncé You should pick me because...*(thinking)*...I simply love little children. The littler the better.

Governor #2 You realise you'd be teaching eleven-year-olds, Miss Bouncé?

Miss Bouncé And how little are they? *(standing, raising her hand to knee level)* This high?

Governor #2 A little higher.

Miss Bouncé *(raising her hand to hip level)* This high?

Governor #3 Miss Bouncé, Year 6 children are about...your height.

Miss Bouncé Oh well. Never mind.

Governor #3 So, apart from wanting to teach little children, why else should we employ you?

Miss Bouncé *(skipping around)* Because I love skipping...and butterflies...and pretty flowers...and...

Governor #4 And what about teaching English and Maths, Miss Bouncé?

Miss Bouncé *(Stops skipping)* Oh, goodness me, no! Small children don't want to do all that. I certainly don't.

(Mrs Boots and the Governors look at each other in dismay.)

All NEXT!

(A little teary, Miss Bouncé exits, brushing past a track-suited Mr Beefy, who strides in confidently.)

- Mr Beefy** Morning. Beefy's the name.
- Governor #4** Please take a seat, Mr Beefy.
- Mr Beefy** I'll stand, if you don't mind. *(patting his stomach)* Good for the core.
- Mrs Boots** As you wish. So, Mr Beefy, why should you be our new Year 6 teacher?
- Mr Beefy** Leave it out, Guv'nor! The state of those other candidates, it's a no-brainer. You might as well give me the job here and now!
- Mrs Boots** I'm actually not a governor, I'm the headteacher! And to be clear, Mr Beefy, we'll make a decision after we've interviewed *all* the candidates.
- Mr Beefy** Please yourselves. But it's a waste of time if you ask me.
- Governor #4** Why, Mr Beefy? What can you bring to the job that the others can't?
- Mr Beefy** Just look at me. *(flexing muscles)* I'm a perfect specimen. I would insist all the children follow my strict regimen to achieve a healthy mind and body. We would start the day with ten burpees and twenty press-ups, followed by a quick 5k round the field and 60 seconds in an ice bath. I'd bring in my own ice bath, free of charge of course.
- Governor #5** Mr Beefy, you're seriously suggesting our children take an ice bath before lessons?
- Mr Beefy** Knew you'd like it!
- Governor #5** I don't think we like it one little bit, Mr Beefy.
- Mr Beefy** No? Well, did I mention the face stretches?

(Mr Beefy pulls a series of hilarious funny faces to the audience, finishing with holding a wide-eyed expression sticking his tongue right out at his interviewers! Mrs Boots and the Governors look at each other in dismay.)

All NEXT!

(Mr Beefy exits in a huff. Ms Harshly marches in.)

- Ms Harshly** *(with authority)* I assume one sits here? *(She sits)*
- Governor #6** Yes, indeed. Please take a...oh, you have already! Now, *(looking at notes)* you must be Ms Harshly.
- Ms Harshly** That is correct.
- Governor #6** So, Ms Harshly, why should we pick you to be our new Year 6 teacher?
- Ms Harshly** Now, look here. In my book, there is only one way to educate children. You must challenge their young minds.

Governor #7 Well, of course. I think we'd all agree with that. And how will you be challenging the minds of our Year 6 here at Ditchwater Academy?

Ms. Harshly I teach all my lessons speaking Ancient Greek. I never utter a word in English.

Governor #7 All Ancient Greek? No English?

(Mrs Boots and the Governors look at each other in disbelief.)

Mrs Boots Thank you, Ms Harshly. We'll be in touch!

(Ms Harshly marches off defiantly. The Governors and Mrs Boots pace about, frustrated that the interviews aren't going well. During the next song, the previous three interview candidates re-enter to rap their verse.)

Song

Hey, Guv'nor!

Track 4 - vocal demo
Track 25 - backing track
Lyrics p31

(Mrs Boots and the Governors point to the door and the candidates leave in a huff. After the final call of 'Next', Mr Garlow enters with a flourish, larger than life!)

Mr Garlow You called? Barry Garlow at your service. *(air-guitar pose)* KERRANG!

Mrs Boots *(unimpressed)* Sit down please, Mr Garlow.

Barry *(sitting with a flourish)* Your wish is my command, oh esteemed leader!

(The Governors and Mrs Boots look at each other with a 'who-is-this-guy?' expression!)

Governor #8 Mr Garlow, please tell us...

Mr Garlow *(interrupting)* Why you should pick moi? Well, I believe I was born to teach.

Governor #8 Born to teach? So, that is what you've being doing since birth is it?

Mr Garlow BOING! *(pointing with both hands)* You got me, dude! I actually spent my younger years being the most spectacular pop star in the most excellent pop band, Get This.

Governor #1 Ah, so you are *the* Barry Garlow? Sorry, but we didn't recognise you! You've changed quite a bit!

Mrs Boots *(shrugging at the Governor next to her and mouthing...)* Who is he?

Mr Garlow Well, my pop career was half a lifetime ago. I'm now a family man and I've recently retrained as a primary school teacher! I want to inspire children to go out into the world, full of confidence and aspirations. *(He stands and adopts a heroic pose)* To think big, aim high. To achieve amazing things, like I did. *(air guitar pose)* KERRANG!

- Governor #2** Well, that's good to know. Thank you, Mr Garlow. I think we've heard enough. You may go.
- Mr Garlow** Can I ask when I'll find out if I've got the job?
- Mrs Boots** The governors and I will discuss all the candidates and let you know. We won't be long. In my experience, it only takes a minute.
- Governor #3** Ha! Very good, Mrs Boots!
- Mrs Boots** *(confused)* Why? What did I say?
- Mr Garlow** Cool! In that case, I'll catch you later, dudes. *(air guitar pose)* KERRANG!
- (He exits. The Governors and Mrs Boots look slightly stunned. After a brief pause...)*
- Mrs Boots** Okay. So, who do we think should be given the job?
- All Governors** *(enthusiastically)* Definitely Mr Garlow!
- Mrs Boots** Not really my cup of tea and awfully unconventional. But...he does have a certain 'je ne sais quoi' that could go down well with the children.
- Governor #4** The actual Barry Garlow!
- Governor #5** Teaching at Ditchwater Academy!
- Governor #6** You couldn't make it up!
- Governor #7** *(to the audience)* Well, I mean, someone obviously did.
- Mrs Boots** I have no idea what you're talking about, but I think we're all agreed. Let's give him the news, shall we? *(calling out)* Mister Garlow!

*(As the **scene change music** plays plays (track 26), the Governors and Mrs Boots exit and the stage is made ready for the next scene.)*



Scene 3

*(The classroom. The named Year 6 children – see character list – plus extras if numbers allow, are in their classroom. They sit at tables facing a whiteboard. Flash and Spice bounce to the front of the stage for their next **DJ intro #3 (track 5 - vocal demo, track 27 - backing)**)*

- Flash & Spice** Yo! Pop diggers!
- Flash** I'm DJ Flash!
- Spice** I'm DJ Spice!
- Flash & Spice** A tasty twosome – cool as ice!
A new school term, the kids are keen,

Mr Garlow's on the scene!
Wondering how he'll settle in?
Will he sink or will he swim?
Well let's find out, it's 9 o'clock...
School of Pop, let's rock!

*(Flash and Spice finish their rap and hold a gangsta pose, then take their seats with the rest of the class. We hear the **school bell (track 28)** and Barry Garlow enters with a flourish. He struts over to the whiteboard and, as the spellbound class watches, writes 'MR GARLOW' in large letters. He then spins round with a huge smile and greets the children.)*

Mr Garlow Good morning, Year 6. My name is...*(pointing behind to the whiteboard)*... Mr Garlow! *(air-guitar pose)* KERRANG!

Class *(timidly)* Good morning, Mr Garlow.

Mr Garlow No! Like this... 'Good morning, Mr Garlow *(air-guitar pose)* KERRANG!'

Class *(with a little more confidence)* Good morning, Mr Garlow.

Flash *(very unsure)* Kerrang?

Mr Garlow *(pointing at Flash)* You. The cool banana. Hit me with your name, dude.

Flash It's...errr...Rupert, Mr Garlow.

Mr Garlow Well, Rupert. You are on my pop-tastic wavelength. *(saluting)* I salute you. The rest of you, shall we try again? Good morning, Year 6. My name is Mr Garlow, *(air-guitar pose)* KERRANG!

Class *(standing)* GOOD MORNING MR GARLOW! *(air-guitar pose)* KERRANG!

Mr Garlow POP-TASTIC!

Spice *(shooting a hand up)* Mr G! Is it true you used to be a real-life pop star?

Mr Garlow *(modestly, but secretly happy to be asked)* You got me! Time to 'fess up. Yes, you are looking at the one-and-only Barry Garlow, one-time member of the awesome pop band, Get This!

Alex *(shrugging)* Never heard of them.

Flash Alex, you're kidding! Get This were pop royalty back in the day!

Spice *(putting an arm round Flash's shoulder)* We love all kinds of music, Mr G. Even the old stuff. When we grow up, we're going to be radio DJs.

Flash & Spice School of Pop, let's rock! *(holding a gangsta pose!)*

Mr Garlow Loving the attitude! I wonder if anyone else has dreams for the future? C'mon the rest of you, tell us what you're gonna be when you grow up!

NB - the characters associated with each 'dream job' in the following song can be changed to match any changes you have made to name and/or gender.

Song What You Gonna Be?

Track 6 - vocal demo
Track 29 - backing track
Lyrics p32

(The song grinds to a halt as Alex refuses to sing. All sit back down.)

Joe Alex doesn't sing.

Mr Garlow Alex! Is this true?

Alex I hate singing. I was once made to sing at my auntie's wedding. I was so bad, I made everyone cry. I have never been so embarrassed in my whole life. I will never, ever, ever sing again. Full stop!

Mr Garlow Hey, I'm cool with that. Note to self...Alex, they no sing.

Sam Can we do some maths now, Mr Garlow? Singing is fun, but we're not really learning anything, are we?

Class Sam!

Mr Garlow I beg to differ, Doctor Sam. Performing arts give you the confidence to face an audience, which is usually a bunch of strangers. When you're a doctor, your audience will be all your patients.

Ricky So, being a doctor is a kind of performance.

Tim You have to hold people's attention.

Jody Yeah. And you get to wear a doctor's costume.

Freya It's just like being on stage.

Sam I'd never thought about it like that. Interesting.

Mr Garlow You kids are A-MA-ZING. The future looks bright. Give me a KERRANG!

(All stand, apart from Alex who looks uncomfortable.)

Class *(air-guitar pose)* KERRANG!

Mr Garlow Right. Time for some algebra!

Class Oh!

Sam *(punching the air)* Yay!

(As the **scene change music** plays (**track 30**), all exit. The stage is cleared for the next scene.)



Scene 4

(A forest. Wearing hi-vis bibs, the named Year 6 children, plus extras if numbers and space allow, enter with compasses and maps. They look lost. Flash and Spice, also in hi-vis bibs, bounce to the front of the stage for their next **DJ intro #4 (track 7 - vocal demo, track 31 - backing)**)

Flash & Spice Yo! Pop diggers!

Flash I'm DJ Flash!

Spice I'm DJ Spice!

Flash & Spice A tasty twosome – cool as ice!
The Year 6 class have all jumped ship
And gone on their residential trip.
They're hiking through the countryside,
But which direction? They can't decide!
They're suffering a mental block...
School of Pop, let's rock!

(Flash and Spice finish their rap and hold a gangsta pose.)

Alex You two, stop messing about! We could do with some help here! Less than 24 hours into our residential trip and we're already lost!

Flash & Spice (joining the others) Sorry, Alex.

Joe They've given me a map of (peering) Klofron! I've never heard of 'Klofron'.

Sam Joe, you're holding the map the wrong way round!

Joe (turning the map round) Oh. Norfolk! That explains it! Thanks Sam.

Freya No wonder we're lost! Norfolk is so...big. It makes you feel so...small!

Ricky That's what it's gonna feel like at secondary school next term. We'll be the smallest kids again...(pointing to the ground) just like those ants.

Mike Little fish in a big pond..... Little chicks in a big nest.... Little frogs in a pond of much bigger frogs.... Little geese...

Megan (cutting him off) We get it! We'll be small and everything around us will be new and massive!

Ash And, we'll have to go to different rooms to do different subjects! New subjects, like physics...

Jody ...and chemistry, and biology!

Mike There's going to be a boatload more homework.

Megan It's going to be really different. It's scary.

Flash But guys, we'll get to do more of the cool stuff, like music!

Alex I'm not singing. No way!

Spice They might make you, Alex.

Alex If they do, I'll pretend to be ill or something. Anyway, I don't want to think about it. Come on, *(pointing at map)* we need to get here before dark.

(The children try to look enthusiastically at their maps, but their faces betray an air of sadness.)

Jody I was really enjoying this residential until we started talking about leaving Ditchwater Academy. Now I just want to go home.

(Mr Garlow enters, also wearing a hi-vis bib and carrying a map and compass..)

Mr Garlow Here you all are! I was getting worried! *(air-guitar pose)* KERRANG!

All Children *(unenthusiastically)* Kerrang.

Mr Garlow Hey, dudes. Why the long faces? What's the sitch?

Tim Year 7. That's the sitch. Being the smallest kids in the school.

Ash Physics, chemistry and biology.

Alex Music!

Mr Garlow Oh, come on! Secondary school's an adventure! You should be excited.

Sam But we're not. We're actually scared.

Mr Garlow Hey, you'll have each other. You're all in this together, right?

Sam S'pose.

Mr Garlow And we know that if you work together, it'll be

Mr Garlow S'pose?! Come on, let's lighten the mood with some fun-kee sounds.

Joe Music, you mean? But we're in the middle of a field!

Freya How can we do music? We don't have instruments or anything.

Mr Garlow Au contraire. Of course we have instruments!

All Where?

Mr Garlow *(waving his hands and wagging a foot)* Right here, dudes. Our hands and feet are perfect instruments!

(The backing track to the next song starts (track 32). Mr Garlow starts clapping, counting out aloud after the 4th clap.)

One, two, three, four! One, two...come on, join in!

All One, two, three, four! One, two, three, four!

(The children join in, clapping hands, stamping feet and visibly cheering up! All except Alex who steps to the side, looking unhappy. Mr Garlow shouts encouragingly over the clapping...)

Mr Garlow There you go! Feeling better already! Whenever the world feels like a scary place, just remember all the great times you've had with your friends. Those memories will stay with you forever. Come on...

Song Remember

*Track 8 - vocal demo
Track 32 - backing track
Lyrics p33*

*(All stamp and clap throughout. Alex doesn't join in, although we do see him/her gradually showing signs of being moved by the song. Then, after the second chorus (see lyric sheet p33) he/she is carried away by the moment and steps up to centre stage to sing a solo! The rest stop the rhythm and watch with wonder. We then launch into a triumphant final chorus, after which Alex receives high-fives, hugs and back-slaps. As the **scene change music** plays (track 33), all exit and the stage is made ready for the next scene.)*



Scene 5

*(The canteen. The school cook stands behind a table on which there are plates, cutlery and food trays. A group of children queue-up to be served. These can be a new group if numbers allow, or the named Year 6 children – it's flexible and won't interrupt the continuity. Flash and Spice bounce in front of the table for their next **DJ intro #5 (track 9 - vocal demo, track 34 - backing)***

Flash & Spice Yo! Pop diggers!

Flash I'm DJ Flash!

Spice I'm DJ Spice!

Flash & Spice A tasty twosome – cool as ice!
It's time we had a change of scene,
So let's check out the school canteen.
It's lunchtime for the kids and teachers,
On the menu, funky pizzas!
There's a meal that's hard to top...
School of Pop, let's rock!

(Flash and Spice finish their rap and hold a gangsta pose.)

School Cook Rupert and Jemima, don't you have packed-lunches?

Flash & Spice Yes.

School Cook Then kindly go away! You're blocking this queue of hungry people!

Flash & Spice Sorry.

(Flash and Spice exit. One by one the queuing children take a plate and cutlery and step forward.)

Child #1 *(pointing into a tray)* What's that with the yellow and pink bits on top?

School Cook *(batting away the child's finger)* No touching, thank you! That is what is known as Hawaiian pizza. It's a classic! The yellow bits are pineapple and the pink bits are ham. *(seeing Child #1's expression)* What's the matter? Is it the ham? You're not one of them... *(pulling a disapproving face)*... vegetarians, are you? I can't abide fussy eaters!

Child #2 *(leaning in)* Ham and pineapple?! On a pizza?! Gross! Baked potato, sausage and beans for me, please.

Child #1 Yeah, me, too!

(The cook serves Children #1 and #2 their meals and they exit. Children #3 and #4 file by.)

Assistant What can I get you? I can recommend the pizza.

Child #3 *(pointing into the tray)* But it's got yellow stuff on top!

School Cook *(batting away the child's finger)* No touching, thank you!

Child #4 *(sniffing the tray)* Is that...pineapple?!

Assistant *(pulling the tray away from the child's nose)* And no sniffing either! For your information, it's Hawaiian pizza. A classic, topped with ham and, yes, pineapple.

Child #3 GROSS! Baked potato, sausage and beans, please.

Child #4 Me too!

(The cook serves Children #3 and #4 their meals and they exit. She addresses the remaining queuing children.)

School Cook Right, the rest of you. We've just run out of baked potato, sausage and beans. All we have left is Hawaiian pizza.

All Children Hawaiian pizza? What's that?

School Cook Really?! You don't know?! It's a classic. Traditional pizza topped with ham and pineapple.

All Children Eurgh! GROSS!

(All the children hurriedly exit. The teachers enter and form a queue - Mr Dodger first, then Miss Daisy and Mr Longbottom, who immediately dozes off on his feet. Mrs Pepper,. Mr Aaron and Miss Jones bring up the rear.)

Assistant *(to the audience)* Honestly! Children today have no manners...or taste! I'm sure the teachers will show a little more appreciation of fine dining.

Mr Dodger *(taking a plate and addressing the cook)* So, ladies, what's on the menu today? Any chocolate digestives?

School Cook *(sighing)* I'm afraid not, Mr Dodger. All we have left is what you see here.

Mr Dodger *(peering at the tray)* Wow! If I'm not mistaken, that looks like Hawaiian pizza! *(holding out his plate)* You can send a slice of that my way!

Assistant *(happily serving him a slice)* Delighted to, Mr Dodger. I'm glad you know a classic dish when you see one.

Miss Daisy *(pointing into the tray)* Marge, is that pineapple? On a pizza? Who does that?

Assistant *(sighing and batting her finger away)* It's a very popular topping, Miss Daisy!

Miss Daisy Really? It doesn't look very popular to me.

School Cook Well, it's popular in Hawaii. Anyway, it was a special request from Mr Garlow. *(swooning)* Oh, he's been like a breath of fresh air in this place. Someone with a bit of culture and breeding.

Miss Daisy Well, go on then. If it's good enough for the great Barry Garlow...*(holding out her plate)*...I'm sure I'll like it too.

(Miss Daisy is served a slice. She and Mr Dodger stand to one side and bite into their pizza.)

Miss Daisy Well, who knew? Hawaiian pizza is amazing!

Mr Dodger Indeed it is. Mister Garlow strikes again!

(Mrs Pepper nudges Mr Longbottom to wake up and take his turn.)

Mr Longbottom *(waking up, startled and confused)* What's that? Someone mention Mr Garlow?

Mr Dodger *(with a mouthful of pizza)* Yes. It appears his unconventional approach has extended to the school canteen. He requested Hawaiian pizza. You should have some. It's amazing!

Mrs Pepper Barry's certainly made an impression here at Ditchwater Academy.

Miss Jones *(dreamily)* Oh, how I wish I was eleven years old again and a pupil in his class. Mind you, I'd never get any work done. I'd just stare at him!

Mr Longbottom All my Year 5s can talk about is being in his class next year! He needs to know that being a good teacher isn't just about being popular!

Miss Jones Jealous, are we?

- Mr Longbottom** *(defensively)* Why, because he's an ex-pop star who everybody seems to adore? *(sulkily)* Well, maybe just a teeny bit.
- Mr Aaron** Well, I'll happily admit I'm a fan. I think he's amazing, just like this pizza!
- School Cook** *(enjoying the praise)* Well, I used my own bare hands to stretch my focaccia!
- Mr Longbottom** Ooh! Sounds painful!
- Mrs Pepper** No, silly! Focaccia's an Italian bread! Marge stretched the dough by hand to make the pizza base!
- Mr Longbottom** Is that so? Well, I never. Ha! Every day's a school day.
- School Cook** Indeed it is! Come on, I'll teach you how to make one...

(The children join the cook and teachers on stage. During the song they could assemble model pizzas from assorted parts, holding them aloft and performing a simple choreographed routine.)

Song Pizza Song

Track 10 - vocal demo
Track 35 - backing track
Lyrics p34

*(As the **scene change music** plays (track 36), all exit and the stage is set for the next scene.)*



Scene 6

*(The school hall. In a line facing the audience, each teacher sits behind a table, their name-card visible, ready for parental consultations. A vacant chair is at the end of each table, at a right-angle to the teacher. Mr Garlow's table is furthest right. A queue of parents - mostly female, holding Get This merchandise, and wearing Get This t-shirts - extends off stage! Nobody is queueing to see the other teachers, who tap their pens on clipboards expectantly, except Mr Longbottom who is asleep. Mr Garlow has lots of lines in this scene, which can be written on his clipboard as cues. Flash and Spice bounce to the front for their next **DJ intro #6 (track 11 - vocal demo, track 37 - backing)***

- Flash & Spice** Yo! Pop diggers!
- Flash** I'm DJ Flash!
- Spice** I'm DJ Spice!
- Flash & Spice** A tasty twosome – cool as ice!
It's parents' evening in the hall,
The teachers welcome one and all.
He's popular, that Mr G,
We're wondering why that might be!
They're all queuing round the block!
School of Pop, let's rock!

(Flash and Spice finish their rap and hold a gangsta pose.)

Mr Dodger *(spitting biscuit crumbs)* Rupert and Jemima. Parental consultations are not a place for children! How can we tell the truth about you if you're earwiggling? Off you go, please!

Flash & Spice Sorry, Mr Dodger.

(Flash and Spice exit. Mrs Tipps is at the front of the queue and goes to sit at Mr Garlow's table.)

Mr Garlow *(looking at his notes)* Good evening, Mrs Gibbs.

Mrs Tipps No. I'm Mrs Tipps, but call me Tiggy. *(excitedly)* I have all your albums!

Mr Garlow Tiggy Tipps? *(looking at his notes)* Sorry, I don't appear to have you on my list. Who is your child?

Mrs Tipps Barry Tipps. I named him after you! *(pushing a Get This album in front of him)* I don't suppose I could have your autograph on my Get This album? 'We Are on Fire' is my favourite song. I think you're amazing!

Mr Garlow Sorry, Mrs Tipps...

Mrs Tipps Tiggy!

Mr Garlow Sorry, Tiggy, I don't have a Barry Tipps in my class.

Mrs Tipps Yes, I know. He's in Year 5.

Mr Garlow Year 5? *(calling over to Mr Longbottom)* Mr Longbottom...

Longbottom *(snorting awake)* I didn't do it, officer...what?

Mr Garlow Mr Longbottom. I believe I have one of yours. *(signing the album and handing it back)* Mr Longbottom will see you now, Mrs Tipps.

Mrs Tipps Tiggy! Thank you, Barry! Thank you!

(She stands, kisses the album, clutches it to her chest, then holds it up so everyone can see. She exits, straight past Mr Longbottom, who shrugs then dozes off again! Mrs Gibbs is now at the front of the queue and goes to sit with Mr Garlow.)

Mr Garlow *(tentatively)* Mrs Gibbs?

Mrs Gibbs Yes, that's me.

Mr Garlow Fabulous. Amy is doing so well this term. I'm expecting...

Mrs Gibbs No, no! Different Gibbs! I'm William Gibbs' mum. He's in Reception.

Mr Garlow Mrs Gibbs, you do know that I'm the Year 6 teacher?

- Mrs Gibbs** Of course I do, but my William will be in your class in six years' time. He's ever so clever and has a lovely singing voice. You've probably seen him in the playground. And he's ever so cute...*(giggling)*...like you!
- Mr Garlow** *(calling over to Miss Daisy)* Miss Daisy? I have William Gibbs' mother for you. *(to Mrs Gibbs)* Now, if you don't mind Mrs Gibbs, I'm only here to see the parents of children I actually teach, so...*(gesturing for her to leave)*
- (Mrs Gibbs lets out a sob and rushes out, straight past Miss Daisy, who shrugs. Mrs Biddles is now at the front of the queue and goes to sit with Mr Garlow.)*
- Mrs Biddles** Ooh! It looks like it's me next!
- Mr Garlow** *(looking at his notes)* Mrs Biddles is it?
- Mrs Biddles** He said my name! *(She faints, sliding off the chair onto the floor!)*
- Mr Garlow** Oh, for goodness sake!
- (Mr Garlow rushes round and lifts Mrs Biddles by the armpits back into the chair. She comes round and gazes longingly into Mr Garlow's eyes, then at her own armpits.)*
- Mrs Biddles** Barry Garlow actually picked me up...by the armpits. *(dramatically)* I'm never washing them again!
- (Mrs Biddles runs off in an excited tizz. Mr Ripley is now at the front of the queue and sits down.)*
- Mr Ripley** Good evening, Mr Garlow. We're the Ripleys, Alex's parents.
- Mr Garlow** Ah, Mr and Mrs Ripley. Your Alex has really turned a corner since our residential trip. What a fabulous singing voice!
- Mr Ripley** You're not wrong there. Gets it from me, of course.
- Mr Garlow** Of course. So, I'm also seeing a big improvement in Maths and Eng....
- Mrs Ripley** *(interrupting)* Actually, you probably remember us.
- Mr Garlow** Have we met before?
- Mr Ripley** Have we met!? Wembley Arena, 2004? We jumped up on the stage, grabbed a microphone and sang 'We Are on Fire' with you and the band.
- Mr Garlow** Wembley Arena, 2004? Yes, but we're not here to talk about...
- Mr Ripley** *(interrupting)* I knew you'd remember! One of your security guys kindly escorted me off stage. Pleasant chap, if a bit clumsy. Accidentally caught me on the chin with a stray elbow.
- Mrs Ripley** And the door staff were very helpful escorting us through the backstage area. It's a shame they didn't stop to let us meet you before they threw us through the fire doors. Anyway, good to catch up.

(The Ripleys exits. Next in the queue, her arm in a cast and sling, Mrs Dibley sits with Mr Garlow.)

Mrs Dibley Hello Barry. Could you autograph my arm? I broke it while practising one of your more challenging dance routines.

Mr Garlow Good evening, Mrs...

Mrs Dibley Just call me Jane.

Mr Garlow Good evening, Jane. So, who is your child?

Mrs Dibley Phoebe Dibley. She's in Miss Jones' class.

Garlow *(sighing, standing and addressing the queue)* Now, look here everyone. If I don't teach your child, can you please leave this queue?

All *(sadly)* Oh!

(All exit, ignoring the other teachers, who watch them in disbelief.)

Teachers Charming!

(Mr Grimley remains. He approaches Mr Garlow but stays standing in a confrontational manner. He leans forward placing both hands on the table, glowering at Mr Garlow.)

Mr Grimley Good evening, Garlow. I'm Grimley – Keith Grimley. I'm Sam's father.

Mr Garlow Ah, the excellent 'Doctor' Sam. A bright kid.

Mr Grimley Where to start? As you rightly pointed out, my child is going to be a doctor. This was decided before Sam even started here at Ditchwater Academy, a school at which standards seem to have seriously slipped in recent weeks. Perhaps you'd care to explain why the only thing my child seems to be interested in at the moment is performing arts?

Mr Garlow *(nervously)* I assure you Mr Grimley, Sam is still keen on maths and science, and is doing really well in both.

Mr Grimley Nonsense! If that's the case, why does Sam spend every evening dancing around the house and singing! I dare not imagine what her/his SATs results are going to look like!

Mr Garlow Err...*(looking at his notes)*...predicted to be pretty groovy. I wouldn't worry.

Mr Grimley And, what's all this Kerplunk business?

Mr Garlow Kerplunk? *(realising)* Ah, that. Well, you see, *(standing, about to demonstrate the air guitar KERRANG)* what you do is...

Mr Grimley *(interrupting)* Don't even think about it! Now, listen here, Garlow, this cannot go on! I have written to the school governors, demanding your

immediate dismissal. I don't know who you think you are, but there's one thing you're certainly not...and that's A TEACHER! Good evening!

*(Mr Grimley storms off and, as the other teachers exit, a despondent Mr Garlow walks to centre stage. Suggestive of a dream-sequence, the other members of Get This enter, wearing t-shirts displaying a band logo and each carrying a mic on a stand. They should be up to 6 in number, a combination of boys and girls. They line up behind Mr Garlow, heads bowed and hands clasped in front of them. After the first verse, they perform a simple dance routine and join in with the background vocals which can be sung live, or mimed using **track 39**.)*

Song I Used To Be A Pop Star



Track 12 - vocal demo

Track 38 - backing track

Track 39 – backing track with background vocals

Lyrics p35

*(As the song ends, Mr Garlow and Get This remain with heads bowed and hands clasped. As the **scene change music** plays (**track 40**), they then exit and the stage is set for the next scene.)*



Scene 7

*(The staffroom. The teachers and cook sit round the coffee table, talking animatedly, except Mr Dodger who is rifling through a biscuit tin and Mr Longbottom who is asleep. Flash and Spice bounce to the front for their next **DJ intro #7** (**track 13 - vocal demo, track 41 - backing**)*

Flash & Spice Yo! Pop diggers!

Flash I'm DJ Flash!

Spice I'm DJ Spice!

Flash & Spice A tasty twosome – cool as ice!
The staff are on their coffee break,
They've had some news that's hard to take.
Today they came to school to find
That Mr Garlow has resigned!
Now they're in a state of shock!
School of Pop, let's rock!

(Flash and Spice finish their rap and hold a gangsta pose.)

Mrs Pepper Rupert and Jemima. This is the staffroom. It's where adults come to get away from children and eat biscuits. Please leave immediately!

Flash & Spice *(exiting obediently)* Yes, Mrs Pepper. Sorry, Mrs Pepper.

Mr Dodger Well, *(taking a biscuit)* he's left all his custard creams, which is a bonus.

Miss Daisy *(wistfully stirring her tea)* It's such a shame. I hadn't even plucked up the courage to ask him to sign my 2002 Barry Garlow swimwear calendar.

- School Cook** *(sighing)* I'm glad he didn't turn out to be a vegetarian. You know, he regularly complimented me on my bangers and mash.
- Miss Jones** There was always laughter coming from the Year 6 classroom. *(raising her cup)* Here's to you, Mr Garlow. We shall all miss you.
- All** *(sadly)* Kerrang.
- Mr Longbottom** *(snorting awake)* What?! Oh yes, kerrang.
(Mrs Boots rushes in, waving a pile of printed emails.)
- Mrs Boots** My inbox is on fire!
- Mr Longbottom** More complaints from parents?
- Mrs Boots** No. Quite the opposite! I've had hundreds of emails from parents asking if they can send their children to our school! Most are from outside the catchment area! Apparently news has spread about how brilliant we are! Listen to this...*(reading an email)* 'Dear Mrs Boots, I am enquiring as to the availability of a place for our son next September in Year 6 at Ditchwater Academy. Our friend, Dave Ripley, says his child, Alex, has blossomed this term at your wonderful school. Kerrang!' And this one...*(reading another)* 'Dear Mrs Boots, can I please, please, please, please, please...' that's five pleases! '...reserve a place for my daughter in Mr Garlow's class next term. I have heard such wonderful things about him. Kerrang!' *(waving the pile again)* There are loads more!
- Mr Aaron** *(looking at his phone)* And look! The school is trending on social media!
(reading) 'Ex-pop star is a hit at Ditchwater Academy'!
- All** *(enthusiastically)* KERRANG!
- Mrs Boots** There's simply no way I can accept Mr Garlow's resignation after all this!
- Mr Dodger** But it does sound like he's made his mind up.
- Mrs Boots** Well, we'll see about that. Mrs Pepper, give me your phone...
- (Taking Mrs Pepper's phone, she strides to the front of the stage and quickly dials. During the phone call, she unwittingly mentions a string of familiar song titles and lyrics!)*
- Mrs Boots** *(with authority)* Mr Garlow?... Mrs Boots here...yes, Bossy Boots...*(the staff giggle)*...Now, look here, I refuse to accept your untimely resignation... Yes...I'll explain why if you give me a second – please, **just have a little patience!** You see, things have gone crazy here at school this morning... yes...in a wonderful way! In fact, **today this could be the greatest day of our lives!** I don't know how you've done it...I'm asking myself, **could it be magic,** because you've certainly cast a spell over Ditchwater Academy and made it **shine!** Since you walked out, **all I do each night is pray** that you'll have a change of heart...So, I want you back in your classroom as soon as possible...and **I want you back... I want you back... I want you back for good!** Goodbye, Mr Garlow!



(All applaud Mrs Boots, who takes a bow. As the **scene change music** plays (**track 42**), they then exit and the stage is set for the next scene.)

Scene 8

(In the classroom. The named Year 6 children, plus extras if numbers allow, sit miserably at tables with textbooks, facing the whiteboard, where Miss Spiggot now stands. Flash and Spice bounce to the front for their next **DJ intro #8 (track 14 - vocal demo, track 43 - backing)**)

Flash & Spice Yo! Pop diggers!

Flash I'm DJ Flash!

Spice I'm DJ Spice!

Flash & Spice A tasty twosome – cool as ice!
Now, since Garlow's little flip,
Miss Spiggot's back to crack the whip!
We're in the final week of term,
But still Miss Spiggot's standing firm!
The Year 6 class are fit to drop!
School of Pop, let's rock!

(Flash and Spice finish their rap and hold a gangsta pose.)

Miss Spiggot Rupert and Jemima! Have you forgotten where you are?! Sit down!

Flash & Spice Yes, Miss Spiggot. Sorry, Miss Spiggot.

(Flash and Spice take their seats. Miss Spiggot addresses the class.)

Miss Spiggot Good morning, Year 6.

All (unenthusiastically) Good morning, Miss Spiggot.

Miss Spiggot Now, I know this is your last ever week here, but this is still a school, and a school is a place of learning. So, maths books open at page 14.

Joe If it's our last ever week here, why do we need to do maths?

Miss Spiggot Silence! Whatever happened to putting your hand up before speaking? Goodness knows what has been going on here with that Mr Garbo.

Sam (raising a hand) Miss Spiggot, as you know I'd usually be dead keen on a maths lesson first thing. But is there really any point?

Miss Spiggot I cannot believe the impertinence! If this is the effect Mr Gumbo had on you, then it's a good job he's gone!

Alex (raising a hand) Miss Spiggot, could we maybe start the day with a song, before we hit the textbooks?

Miss Spiggot A song? You're the last person I'd expect to want to sing, Alex!

(Mr Garlow bounds on!)

Mr Garlow *(air-guitar pose)* KERRANG! Hold on to your wig, Miss Spiggot. I'm back!

Class YEAH!

Miss Spiggot Mr Gaga! Do you mind? We were just about to do some algebra.

Mr Garlow In their last week at primary school? They should be chilling, surely?

Miss Spiggot I suppose you'd prefer they did some of your *(dismissively)* pop music?

Mr Garlow Now, that's not such a bad idea.

Miss Spiggot If you insist on doing music, can't we do something more suited to a school? A spot of Beethoven or Mozart, perhaps?

Megan Boring!

Mr Garlow Au contraire, dude. Ludwig Van B and Wolfgang 'Rock Me' Amadeus were the pop stars of their day. I love those guys! I know, let's mash it up. *(talking to smart speaker)* Alexa...play Funky Classics.

Alexa **(track 44)** I will add fluffy pancakes to your shopping list.

Mr Garlow *(slightly annoyed)* No. Alexa. Play...Funky...Classics.

Alexa **(track 45)** Sorry. I cannot find Monkey Magic on your playlist.

Mr Garlow *(more annoyed)* No, for goodness' sake. Alexa. Play Fun.. ky...Class...ics.

Alexa **(track 46)** Calling Chunky Gladys from your contacts.

Mr Garlow *(panicking)* No, Alexa! Alexa, STOP! I said 'Funky Classics!' Oh, forget it!

Alexa *(short pause, then...)* **(track 47)** Playing Funky Classics on Spotify...

Song **Funky Classics**

Track 15 - vocal demo
Track 48 - backing track
Lyrics p36

(During the song, Miss Spiggot thaws and starts to really get on down! By the end, she is dancing on a table. As the song ends, Mrs Boots enters.)

Mrs Boots What is all this noi...*(seeing Miss Spiggot)* Miss Spiggot!

Miss Spiggot *(still singing & dancing on the table)* Give me funky classics, Ludwig!

- Mrs Boots** *(seeing Mr Garlow)* Mr Garlow! I wasn't expecting you back until tomorrow.
- Mr Garlow** Ah, Mrs Boots. Well, I came back early to give you some news. Good news and bad news, actually. I felt so bad about resigning, I called my old band mates from Get This. The short story is they are coming to Ditchwater to perform at the leavers' barbecue tomorrow evening!
- Mrs Boots** A Get This reunion? At our school?! So, what's the good news?
- Mr Garlow** That is the g...ah, very funny, Mrs Boots! Well, Unfortunately, the press got hold of it and now The One Show is turning up to cover the event.
- Class** We're going to be on the telly!
- Miss Spiggot** It's a shame I won't be here. I'll miss my favourite member of Get This, Jason Banana. But I'm off to Glastonbury with the girls and a case of prosecco. The benefits of retirement. Must dash...toodle pip!
- (Miss Spiggot exits, dancing and singing Funky Classics.)*
- Mrs Boots** The One Show at our school! *(She pulls out her phone)* Hello! À La Mode Beauty Salon? It's an emergency! Can you fit me in for a full makeover tomorrow at 3.30? Great. See you then. *(She puts her phone away)* Chop, chop. We have work to do. We're going to be on the telly!

(As the scene change music plays (track 49), all exit and the stage is set for the next scene.)



Scene 9

*(The school field or playground. The cook is tending to the barbecue. Mr Longbottom sleeps on a deckchair. The One Show director and camera operator are in a huddled discussion. The children, plus extras, mingle with the teachers, parents and governors, drinking and eating. Flash and Spice bounce to the front for their next **DJ intro #9 (track 16 - vocal demo, track 50 - backing)**)*

- Flash & Spice** Yo! Pop diggers!
- Flash** I'm DJ Flash!
- Spice** I'm DJ Spice!
- Flash & Spice** A tasty twosome – cool as ice!
Oh, what a story this has been,
And now we're at the final scene!
So, we'd like to welcome you
To the leavers' barbecue.
Will it slay, or will it flop?
School of Pop, let's rock!

(Flash and Spice finish their rap and hold a gangsta pose. The director approaches them.)

- Director** Oi! We're trying to sort our camera angles here and it's impossible with you pair bouncing around and ruining our shot! Clear off!

Flash & Spice Sorry!

(Mr Garlow enters and stands protectively by Flash and Spice.)

Mr Garlow Hey, director dudes, don't be dissing DJ's Flash and Spice! They're the coolest cats in this place! *(to all)* So, do I get a *(air-guitar pose)* KERRANG!

All *(enthusiastically)* KERRANG!

Mr Longbottom *(startled out of his sleep)* It just came off in my hand, honest! What?

Mr Garlow *(to the cook)* So Marge, *(sniffing the air)* what's cookin', good lookin'?

School Cook *(giggling)* Oh, Mr Garlow! Well, this hot dog has your name on it. *(handing him a hotdog)*

Assistant Plenty of mustard...extra hot...like you!

(Mrs Boots flamboyantly enters, sporting a complete makeover! All look at her open mouthed, just as Mr Garlow takes a bite of his hotdog...)

Mr Garlow Mmmm! Hot-dog-licious!

Mrs Boots Well, thank you Mr Garlow. One does like to make an effort. *(inspecting the BBQ)* So, ladies, what do we have here? Anything for us vegetarians?

School Cook Of course, Mrs Boots. Chicken burger?

Assistant Lamb chop?

Mrs Boots Hmmm, I think I'll leave it for now. Thank you anyway.

(Mrs Boots goes to mingle. Mr Garlow gathers the Year 6 children around him.)

Garlow So, this is it. Primary school's done and dusted. How are you all feeling?

Tim Pop-tastic! I can't wait for big school.

Freya It's going to be such an adventure.

Ash We're moving onwards and upwards.

Sam More maths, physics and chemistry! What's not to look forward to?

Mr Garlow Why, that sounds like Doctor-Sam-heaven! *(They hi-five.)*

Mr Grimley *(striding towards Mr Garlow)* Garlow!

Mr Garlow Oh! Mr Grimley! *(nervously)* Sam and I were just...

Mr Grimley Relax, Garlow. I'm here to give you a long-overdue apology. I got you wrong. I now realise you're an excellent teacher. I might go so far as to say, inspirational. I was out of order accosting you at parents' evening

and then demanding your dismissal. I'm truly sorry. And furthermore...
(clearing his throat and adopting an awkward air guitar pose)...KERPLUNK!

(Everybody laughs, including Mr Grimley. Mr Garlow shakes his hand.)

Mr Garlow Thank you, Mr Grimley. Apology accepted. (His **phone** rings - **track 51**. He answers it.) Hey!...Say again, dude...You're all stuck where?...On the motorway in the Limo with the One Show presenters, Alice James and Roland Kamp?... Dude! That's a disaster!...Yeah, keep me informed. (to all) Get This and Roland Kamp from the One Show are stuck in traffic!

Mrs Boots But in two minutes, millions of viewers are expecting to see a Get This reunion! And I've had my hair done especially!

Alex (stepping forward) Mrs Boots. Maybe we can help. The Year 6 class has written a song about our time at primary school.

Mike Mr Garlow inspired us! We've spent all our break and lunchtimes on it, putting the words and music together!

Jody And we've been practising performing it too. We could sing it now... if you like?

Mrs Boots Director? Can we do this?

Director Sure. Why not? But hang on...we don't have a presenter!

Flash & Spice (bouncing forward) Oh, yes you do! You've got TWO!

Director 2 If you say so, kids. We are going live to the nation in 5, 4, 3, (motions 2 and 1 but doesn't say them aloud)

(Flash and Spice deliver their final **DJ intro #10 (track 17 - vocal demo, track 52 - backing)**.

The camera operator takes position and starts filming, continuing to capture the action until the end.)

Flash & Spice Yo! Pop diggers!

Flash I'm DJ Flash!

Spice I'm DJ Spice!

Flash & Spice A tasty twosome – cool as ice!
Coming in at number one,
Here's a song Year 6 have done!
Cameras roll, we're going live
With...(The beat stops)

Spice (aside to Alex)...errr, what's the band called?

Alex (shrugging) I dunno!

Spice Okay, cool! (The beat starts again)

Flash & Spice Cameras roll, we're going live,

With 'I Dunno'! Hi five!

(Flash and Spice finish their rap with a hi-five, hold a gangsta pose. Their classmates step forward to join them and lead the cast in the song.)

Song **Friends Forever**

*Track 18 - vocal demo
Track 53 - backing track
Lyrics p37*

(Mrs Boots barges her way through in front of camera, determined to have her moment on TV.)

Mrs Boots You heard it here first, folks! Here at Ditchwater Academy! Where I, Christine Boots, am headteacher! Everyone, please show your appreciation again for our magnificent Year 6 band, 'I Dunno'!

(As all applaud, Alice James, Roland Kamp and Get This enter to gasps and swoons from the ensemble.)

Alice James Don't panic! We're here! And that sounded great!

Director 2 Finally! Alice, Roland – we are live! Do your thing, quickly!!

Alice James Okay, *(taking a microphone from her pocket and speaking to the camera)* Good evening viewers. Well, wasn't that a treat? Hey Barry, come on over and let's have a chat.

Mr Garlow *(joining them)* Hi Alice, Hi Roland! Good to see you. It's been a while.

Roland Kamp Well, well, well! Barry Garlow, the 'schoolteacher'. Who knew? That was quite the epic performance from your class. They're a credit to you!

Mr Garlow Thanks, Roland. They really are a fab bunch of cool dudes. They've all got such big dreams – they told me about them – and I know they're gonna go on to do great things! We're sure gonna miss them here, but they're ready for different challenges and different adventures. We just know they're gonna smash it at their next school...and beyond!

Alice James Now, we could chat with you all night, Barry, about how fantastic these kids are and what a special place this school is...

Roland Kamp But, we have a Get This reunion waiting over there! Anything you'd like to say before the performance?

Mr Garlow Just one thing, yes. *(to the cast and audience)* IT'S BEEN POP-TASTIC! GOODBYE, YEAR 6!

Class *(enthusiastically)* GOODBYE MISTER GARLOW!

All *(air guitar pose)* KERRANG!

(Mr Garlow takes up his position at the front of Get This, with the whole cast around them.)

- Roland Kamp** Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, for the first time in over twenty years, supported by these fantastic kids, fantastic parents and fantastic staff from this fantastic school..
- Alice James** We give you Get This with their classic hit, 'We Are on Fire'. Take it away...



Mr Garlow

Verse 1
(Children)

Will he be nice, will he be kind,
Will he be perfectly fine?
Will he be frumpy, terribly grumpy
And shout all the time?

(Staff)

Will he be weak, will he be meek,
Will he be terribly shy?
Or will he mingle?

(Miss Jones)

Will he be single?

(Staff)

Be the sociable type?

Chorus

(All)

*So, Mr Garlow, we'll meet you in a fortnight,
Oh, Mr Garlow, what are you like?*

(Cook)

I hope he's not a vegetarian!

Verse 2

(Children)

Will he be gross, picking his nose,
Will he have really bad breath?
Will he be hairy, will he be scary
And bore us to death?

(Staff)

Will he be smart and look the part,
Smelling of nice aftershave?
Will he be stinky, fond of a drinkie,
Constantly misbehave?

Chorus

(All)

*So, Mr Garlow, we'll meet you in a fortnight,
Oh, Mr Garlow, what are you like?*

(Cook) *I hope he's not a vegetarian!*

Verse 3

(Children) Will he be trendy, still in his twenties,
Or will he dress like my dad?

(All) Will he be fine?

(Miss Jones) Will he be hot?

(All) Will he be everything Miss Spiggot is not?



Hey, Guv'nor!

Verse 1

(Governors) Hey Guv'nor! What on earth we gonna do?
Hey Guv'nor! These are rubbish interviews!
Hey Guv'nor! We only have one job to do.
We need a teacher and we need to find one soon!

(Miss Bouncé) So, what exactly is wrong with me?
I love butterflies and hugging trees.
True enough, I don't like maths,
But I don't see what's wrong with that!

(Governors) Next!

Verse 2

(Governors) Hey Guv'nor! She really doesn't have a clue!
Hey Guv'nor! Is this the best that we can do?

(Mr Beefy) Hey, I'll tell you this for free,
You'll regret it if you don't pick me.
I follow a healthy regimen,
That's why I'm a perfect specimen.

(Governors) Next!

Verse 3

(Governors) Hey Guv'nor! This is a school, it's not a zoo!
Hey Guv'nor! We need a teacher, not Kung Fu!

(Ms Harshly) Discipline is what you need!
If it's young brains you intend to feed,
I'm the teacher that you seek...
I'll have your children speaking Greek!

(Governors) Next!

(All) Come on, Guv'nor! Give us a job!

(Governors) Next!

(All) Come on, Guv'nor! Give us a job!

(Governors) Next!

(All) Come on, Guv'nor! Give us a job!

(Governors) Next!

(All) Come on, Guv'nor! Give us a job!
Give us a job!

(Governors) *(pointing emphatically at the door)* Next!



What You Gonna Be?

Chorus (All) *So, tell us what you gonna be, what you gonna be,
What you gonna be when you're all grown up?
So, tell us what you gonna be, what you gonna be,
What you gonna be when you're all grown up?*

Verse1

(All) Sam!
(Sam) I'm gonna be a doctor, make people well all day,
They'd come to me with problems and I'd make them go away.
(All) Jody!
(Jody) I'm gonna be in fashion, design the coolest clothes,
Dressing up celebs for that red carpet pose.

Chorus (All) *So, tell us what you gonna be...*

Verse2

(All) Ash!
(Ash) I'm gonna play for England, scoring goals all game,
Hear the fans at Wembley, singing out my name.
(All) Ricky!
(Ricky) I'm gonna be a scientist, working up in space,
Making great discoveries to help the human race.

Chorus (All) *So, tell us what you gonna be...*

Verse 3

(All) Freya!
(Freya) I'm gonna be Prime Minister, the country's number one.
Being in charge of everything has got to be good fun!
(All) Joe!
(Joe) I'm gonna be a fireman, brave's my middle name,
Coming to the rescue and putting out the flames.

Chorus (All) *So, tell us what you gonna be...*

Verse 4

(All) Flash and Spice!
(Flash & Spice) We're gonna be cool DJs on the radio,
Rocking up the nation on the breakfast show.
(All) Alex!

(Alex refuses to sing. The song grinds to a halt.)



Remember

(Mr Garlow) One, two, three, four! One, two...come on, join in!

(All) One, two, three, four! One, two, three, four!

(The children join in, clapping hands and stamping feet and visibly cheering up! All except Alex who looks uncomfortable and takes him/herself off to the side.)

(Mr Garlow) There you go! Feeling better already! Whenever the world feels like a scary place, just remember all the great times you've had with your friends. Those memories will stay with you forever. Come on...

Chorus (All) *Remember all the fun we had.
Remember the good times and the bad.
Whenever the world feels like a scary place,
Remember those days.*

Repeat *Remember all the fun we had...*

(Carried away by the moment, Alex steps up to centre stage and sings a solo. The rest stop the rhythm and watch with wonder.)

Solo (Alex) Remember when we met on our very first day?
Remember, I got lost and you showed me the way?
I was the new kid, d'you remember way back then?
You put your arm around me and said 'I'll be your friend'.
When I was feeling down, you put a smile on my face,
Now when we're together, it's the happiest place.
Every one of you is special to me
And I will never, I will never forget what you mean to me.

(As the music pauses, everyone takes in what they have just witnessed, then we launch into a triumphant final chorus.)

Chorus *Remember (YEAH!) all the fun we had.
Remember (YEAH!) the good times and the bad.
Whenever the world feels like a scary place,
Remember...*

(Alex) *You gotta remember...*

(All) *Remember those days.*



Pizza Song

Verse 1 Start with the base, make it round, like your face,
Then stretch your focaccia.
Give it a spin, make it nice and thin,
Then pour on passata.
Now let's get those taste buds rocking,
With your favourite pizza topping!
What pizza do you like?

Chorus *The simple Marinara, square Siciliana,
Veggie Vegetariana, Neapolitana,
Cheesy Margherita, or eggy Fiorentina,
Foldy-up Calzone, Quattro Stagioni,
Or is it the one-and-only Pizza Pepperoni?*

Verse 2 That was such fun, let's make another one,
So stretch your focaccia.
Spinning's a must, for a nice thin crust,
Then pour on passata.
Now let's get those taste buds rocking,
With your favourite pizza topping!
What pizza do you like?

Chorus *The simple Marinara, square Siciliana...*

Middle It's not all about the base, 'bout the base,
It's the topping!
It's not all about the base, 'bout the base,
It's the topping!
What pizza do you like?

Chorus *Is it the simple Marinara, square Siciliana,
Veggie Vegetariana, Neapolitana,
Cheesy Margherita, or eggy Fiorentina,
Foldy-up Calzone, Quattro Stagioni,
Or is it the one-and-only Pizza Pepperoni?
Pizza Pepperoni!*



I Used To Be A Pop Star

Verse 1 I used to be a pop star,
Always at the top of my game.
I drove around in a very posh car,
And people would call out my name.
Every day our fans would tell us
How brilliant we are.
Yes, I used to be a pop star.

Verse 2 (*Bop shoo wop...Bop shoo wop*)
I used to be a pop star.
(*Ever so, ever so long ago*)
Is that all I can do?
(*He's ever so, ever so, ever so slow*)
I tried teaching, but look where we are,
I'm a failure, (*Yes you are*)
And it looks (*And it looks*) like I'm through.
(*Yes, you're through...Aah...*)
I want to make a difference,
But was aiming too far.
Yes, (*Yes*) I used to be a pop star.
(*Ever so long ago, so long ago*)

Middle Although I can't take it, (*Stand up and face it*)
I've let everybody down. (*Down, down, down, down*)
Thought I was terrific, just the ticket.
(*But you are just a clown*)

Verse 3 (*Bop shoo wop...Bop shoo wop*)
I used to be a pop star.
(*Look how you've let yourself, let yourself go*)
Is that all I can be?
(*Being a show-off is all that you know*)
Turns out teaching was never for me.
(*Why don't you quit, and end our misery?...Aah...*)
I want to make a difference,
But was aiming too far...(doo, doo, doo)
Yes, (*Oh, yes*) I used to be a pop star.
(*Ever so long ago, now it's time to go. Go!*)



Funky Classics

Verse 1 Hey y'all, did you know,
Three hundred years ago,
Vienna was the place to go? Oh yeah!
Let's start with Mozart,
On top of the pop chart,
A classical music hero.

Chorus *Funky classics!
Give me funky classics,
Play those funky classics, Wolfgang!
Funky classics!
Give me funky classics,
Play those funky classics, yeah!
Alright!*

Verse 2 Beethoven's next up,
And he shook it all up,
The heavy metal of his day. Oh yeah!
He was the best, (*the best*)
Although he was deaf, (*was deaf*)
A rock star all the way.

Chorus *Funky classics!
Give me funky classics,
Play those funky classics, Ludwig!
Funky classics!
Give me funky classics,
Play those funky classics, yeah!
Alright!*

*Funky classics,
Give me funky classics,
Play those funky classics, yeah!
Give me funky classics,
Play those funky classics, yeah!
Oh yeah!*



Friends Forever

Verse 1

No need to worry now, my friends.
It's a beginning, not the end.
Yes, this is our adventure,
We'll always stick together,
Come what may.
We've had the best time ever
And we'll be friends forever and a day.
Our future starts today.

Verse 2

This school to us means everything,
But now it's time to spread our wings.
Yes, this is our adventure,
We'll always stick together,
Come what may.
We've had the best time ever
And we'll be friends forever and a day.
Our future starts today.

Verse 3

No need to worry now, my friends.
(Don't worry now my friends)
It's a beginning, not the end.
(Not the end)
It's time for us to spread our wings,
(Time to spread our wings)
So together let us sing.
(Let us sing)
Yes, this is our adventure,
We'll always stick together,
Come what may.
We'll be there for each other,
Supporting one another,
All the way.
We've had the best time ever
And we'll be friends forever and a day.
Our future starts today.
We'll be friends forever.



We Are On Fire

Verse 1 Feeling good, look at us boys and girls,
Standing on our own two feet and taking on the world.
We've had some good times, good times,
And we're ready for more, more, more,
There's no stopping us now,
'Cause this is what we've waited for.

Chorus *We are on fire!*
Moving on and moving up higher.
We are on fire!
Yeah, we're moving, moving on.

Verse 2 Bring it on, come on, and give us all you got.
We're ready for anything and feeling red hot. Tsssss!
So, let us all show ya, show ya,
We're ready for more, more, more!
There's no stopping us now,
'Cause this is what we've waited for.

Chorus *We are on fire!*
Moving on and moving up higher.
We are on fire!
Yeah, we're moving, moving on.

(Flash & Spice) That's it, the end of the show,
But before you all get up and go,
There's just one more thing to do...
Give it up for the cast and crew!

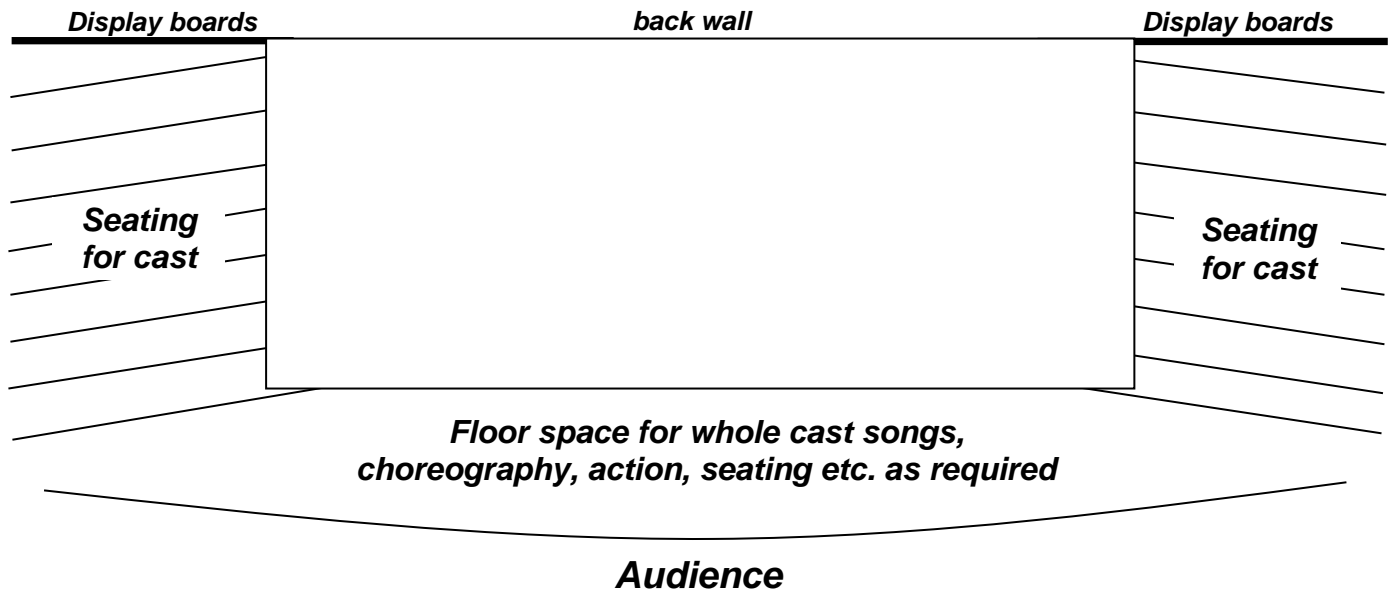
(During the instrumental section, all take turns to come to the front – we suggest in groups - to bow and receive applause.)

Chorus *We are on fire!*
Moving on and moving up higher.
We are on fire!
Yeah, we're moving, moving on.
Woo, woo! Yeah!



STAGING AND PRODUCTION SUGGESTIONS

'School Of Pop' has been written to be adaptable to most school hall set-ups, whether you have a stage or not. Below is just one representation of a possible staging layout.



- **Scenery**

We recommend using our digital backdrops for display behind the main stage – see our website for details. If you prefer to create your own permanent backdrop, decorate the wall with a large 'School Of Pop' logo, as on the front cover, or set a design challenge for your children. This can be replicated on the display boards behind the seating areas.

- **Furniture**

Scene 1: 7 chairs

Scene 2: 1 or 2 classroom tables and 6 chairs.

Scenes 3 & 8: Classroom tables and chairs for at least 9 children. A mobile whiteboard.

Scene 4: N/A

Scene 5: 1 or 2 classroom tables.

Scene 6: 6 Classroom tables and 12 chairs.

Scene 7: 6 chairs and a coffee table.

Scene 9: A mobile BBQ. A deckchair.

- **Props**

Scene 1: A packet of biscuits.

Scene 2: A table-top sign reading 'GOVERNORS'

Scene 3: A whiteboard pen.

Scene 4: Maps and compasses for all children and Mr Garlow.

Scene 5: A stack of plates. A jar of cutlery. Serving utensils. Trays of food items (real or fake) including jacket potatoes, sausages, beans and slices of Hawaiian pizza. 'Model' pizza components for the song.

Scene 6: Name cards, clipboards and pens for all teachers. Get This posters, albums and CDs. Microphones on stands for Get This members.

Scene 7: A tin of biscuits. Cups for all teachers. A pile of email print-outs. A mobile phone.

Scene 8: Text books for all children. A mobile phone.

Scene 9: Drinks and hotdogs/burgers etc for all BBQ guests. BBQ utensils. A large model film camera. A mobile phone. A microphone.

• **Reducing the cast size**

Minimum cast number: **25**

Some speaking and non-speaking characters appear in only one scene. This allows for the doubling and tripling-up of parts played by your cast, thus reducing the number you need to fulfil all the main roles. Other characters can be combined or cut. See suggestions below:

Speaking Part	Also playing part/s
4 of the named Yr 6 Children	The 4 Children (scene 5)
All 6 named Parents (scene 6)	The 4 Governors, Miss Bouncé & Ms Harshly (scene 2)
2 named Parents (scene 6)	Director & Camera operator (scene 9)
Mr Beefy (scene 2)	Roland Kamp (scene 9)
Miss Daisy / Miss Jones	Combine parts – omit reference to Miss Daisy
Mr Longbottom / Mr Dodger	Combine parts – omit reference to Mr Longbottom
Non-Speaking Parts	Action
6 Get This Members	Reduce to 3
Extra Children & Parents	Cut all these parts

• **Increasing the cast size**

To **80+**

Firstly, you could have a dedicated choir to lead all songs – number unlimited.

Extra speaking parts can be introduced to share the lines of certain characters. For example, in scene 2, increase the number of governors to a panel of 8, with existing lines re-distributed.

Get This can include up to 10 members.

Increase the number of non-speaking parts (children, teachers, parents, One Show production crew) in particular scenes. They can join in with (or even lead) the songs associated with those scenes if appropriate.

Scene / Song:	Including/led by more...
Sc 1 Mr Garlow	Children & teachers
Sc 2 Hey Guv'nor!	Governors
Sc 3 What You Gonna Be?	Children
Sc 4 Remember	Children
Sc 5 Pizza Song	Children & teachers
Sc 6 Song N/A	Parents
Sc 7 Song N/A	Teachers
Sc 8 Funky Classics	Children
Sc 9 Friends Forever	Children

• **Audience seating**

Rather than rows of chairs facing the stage, why not set up tables so families can sit together, or join other families and friends, to enjoy the performance cabaret-style with drinks and snacks.

Of course, should you have any questions, or if you want further advice about putting on this musical

CHARACTER INFORMATION

NB - a spoken line is defined here as each time a character speaks, usually between 1 & 10 actual lines of text.

♪ indicates the character has a singing/rapping solo/duet/small ensemble – either a whole song, verse or line.

Speaking character	No. of lines	In which scenes	Costume suggestions
DJ Flash ♪	25	All	School uniform plus baseball cap and shades
DJ Spice ♪	25	All	School uniform plus baseball cap and shades
Mrs Boots	29	1,2,7,8,9	Smart business suit
Miss Spiggot	19	1,8	Tweed suit
Mr Dodger	9	1,5,6,7,9	Smart/casual teacher outfit
Miss Jones ♪	6	1,5,6,7,9	Smart/casual teacher outfit
Mr Longbottom	10	1,5,6,7,9	Slightly scruffy/casual teacher outfit
Miss Daisy	8	1,5,6,7,9	Smart/casual teacher outfit
Mrs Pepper	5	1,5,6,7,9	Smart/casual teacher outfit
School Cook ♪	19	1,5,7,9	Chef's whites or caterer's hat and tabard
Governor #1	7	2,9	Smart business suit
Governor #2	6	2,9	Smart business suit
Governor #3	5	2,9	Smart business suit
Governor #4	6	2,9	Smart business suit
Miss Bouncé ♪	8	2	Flowery summer dress, sandals – bit of a hippy
Mr Beefy ♪	7	2	Tracksuit, padding for muscles...and a chest wig
Ms Harshly ♪	4	2	Smart suit
Barry Garlow ♪	66	2,3,4,6,8,9	Trendy, cool sparkly (if possible) suit. Shades. Hi-vis bib
Joe ♪	5	1,3,4,8,9	School uniform and hi-vis bib
Freya ♪	5	1,3,4,8,9	School uniform and hi-vis bib
Sam ♪	9	1,3,4,8,9	School uniform and hi-vis bib
Jody ♪	5	1,3,4,8,9	School uniform and hi-vis bib
Ricky ♪	5	1,3,4,8,9	School uniform and hi-vis bib
Ash ♪	5	1,3,4,8,9	School uniform and hi-vis bib
Alex ♪	9	1,3,4,8,9	School uniform and hi-vis bib
Child #1	2	5,9	School uniform
Child #2	1	5,9	School uniform
Child #3	2	5,9	School uniform
Child #4	2	5,9	School uniform
Mrs Tipps	5	6,9	Get This/Barry Garlow t-shirt, jeans/skirt
Mrs Gibbs	2	6,9	Get This/Barry Garlow t-shirt, jeans/skirt
Mrs Biddles	3	6,9	Get This/Barry Garlow t-shirt, jeans/skirt
Mr Ripley	5	6,9	Get This/Barry Garlow t-shirt, jeans
Mrs Dibley	3	6,9	Get This/Barry Garlow t-shirt, jeans/skirt, sling bandage
Mr Grimley	7	6,9	Suit
Get This (4-6 members) ♪	Singing only	6,9	Get This t-shirts, variety of funky hats, pants/skirts and shoes/trainers
Director	2	9	Black t-shirt, black jeans, microphone headset
Roland Kamp	4	9	Jacket over t-shirt, jeans and cool trainers
Non-speaking characters		In which scenes	Costume suggestions
Camera Operator		9	Black t-shirt, black jeans, microphone headset
Children		1,3,4,8,9	School uniform
Parents		6,9	Casual adult clothes or Get This fan clothes