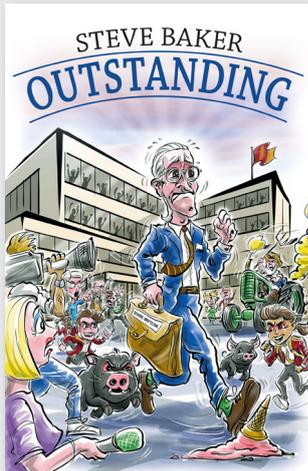


## P R E S S   R E L E A S E

*“At one level this is a fabulous well-crafted, fast-paced, humorous story, at another level it might reflect what will be left behind if politicians and the media continue to fuel a recruitment and retention crisis in schools. I loved it.”*

**- Will Ryan, passionate educationalist, teacher, head teacher, writer, consultant and associate of Independent Thinking Ltd.**



### **Outstanding**

**By Steve Baker**

ISBN: 9781785837401

Price: £12.99

Published by: Crown House Publishing

Date of publication: April 2025

**The hilarious story of a disillusioned head teacher preparing for an OFSTED inspection while coping with an incompetent reality TV crew, truculent teachers... and a lot of pigs!**

### **New satirical novel exposes the reality of modern-day teaching**

Teaching is arguably one of the most demanding professions of our time. Staff are consistently overworked, undervalued and under constant scrutiny. The pressure is relentless, expectations sky-high, and the day-to-day realities of the job, while often chaotic, are sometimes downright absurd.

Steve Baker's debut fiction title, *Outstanding*, captures the realities of the everyday stresses and pressures of teaching with a careful balance of laugh-out-loud comedy and sharp social commentary. Set against the backdrop of a struggling school in Norfolk, *Outstanding* tells the story of a downtrodden headteacher facing an Ofsted inspection. TV company *Educating Norfolk* have been invited in to film the cash-strapped school and just happen to arrive at the same time as the inspectors – producing hilarious results. With an outlandish and vividly drawn cast of characters, the book offers much-needed comic relief for teachers while also shining a light on the wider issues that plague the education system.

As a semi-retired teacher and behaviour specialist, Steve has first-hand knowledge of the pressures and chaos that teachers face in their daily work life. He writes: “I taught Drama and English for 17 years, and for ten of those years, I was a Head of Year. All my grey hairs and wrinkles can be traced back to that period. Naturally, I have a few things to say about the way things are.”

Educators and former students alike will feel right at home in Steve's world of larger-than-life personalities and brilliantly crafted satire. Amidst the chaos and hilarity, *Outstanding* offers touchingly poignant and thought-provoking moments, as Steve leads the unhappy protagonists towards a magnificent and heartwarming climax. His flair for writing is well-known to readers of his award-winning non-fiction title, *That Behaviour Book*.

Fundamentally, *Outstanding* is an outrageous comedy with fascinating characters in absurd situations. But behind the story lies a truth that every teacher will recognise; sometimes, the only way to survive the chaos is to laugh at it.

*“Witty, engaging, and blends comedy with biting social commentary.”*

**Isabella Wallace, education author and keynote speaker.**

## P R E S S   R E L E A S E

### About the author



**Steve Baker** lives in Anglesey, North Wales with his wife Sian. After a long career in education, from which he is semi-retired, he wrote his highly acclaimed non-fiction title, *That Behaviour Book*, which won book of the year in the *Teach Secondary* awards in 2023. As a life-long comedy fan, he's now written his first hilarious novel, *Outstanding*.

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### Articles and interviews available

Steve is available for interview, expert comment or by-lined articles on a range of topics, such as:

- What inspired you to write a comedy about teaching?
- How can comedy shed light on some of the most pressing issues in education today?

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