

## Session I Drama II

(Narrator) In this role-play a Transition Year Student called James Murphy, son of Kevin and Maureen Murphy, is called to the school office. His teachers have raised some concerns regarding this bright pupil. Mr Brown, the school principal of St. Aidan's College, a Catholic School, has called James to his office for a chat. The conversation results in calling his parents to the school office.

Cast:

Mr Brown Principal - Gerry Coyle

James Pupil – Shane Mc Mahon

Parents:

Kevin Murphy - Liam Lenihan

Maureen Murphy – Angela Mc Crossan

Setting school office

Music fades to silence.

**Principal:** Ah James, how are you?

**James:** Alright, sir.

**Principal:** nice Convers, I'd like to buy a Superhero Pair for my nephew, where did you get yours ?

**James:** I got them in New York when I went with my dad.

**Principal:** I suppose they were dear enough!

**James:** Don't remember. Dad used his flexifriend, he was doing his present shopping for Christmas.

**Principal:** Ah grand, now I called you in as I am concerned about you. Some of your teachers tell me you are sleeping in class, and, are generally falling back in your grades and also you have dropped out of the hurling team. Is there anything you need to talk to me about?

**James** No, sir!

**Principal** You look a bit pale, are you feeling sick or...?

**James** I'm feeling a bit dizzy..

**Principal** Would you like a drink of something? Did you have a good breakfast before you came to school this morning?

**James** I skipped breakfast, sir!

**Principal** Is this a regular occurrence, do you not have breakfast with the rest of the family?

**James** Mam and Dad are normally away before I get up.

**Principal** I see, right, I need to speak to your parents. Have you a number I can call to arrange a meeting?

**James** I can give you Mam's mobile number. I have it here in my mobile if you let me turn it on

**Principal** ok, go ahead.... Is that an iPhone 4

**James** Yeah, Mam gave it to me when she got the iPhone 5

## scene 2

**Principal** Hello Mr and Mrs Murphy, please have a seat. Can I get you tea, coffee?

**Maureen** Maureen and Kevin, please. Coffee would be lovely.

**Kevin** Yes, coffee, now what can we do for you, time is money and all that, and we know your also a busy man.

**Principal** I have some concerns about James, he appears to be falling behind, he sleeps in class and has no interest in the hurling and he tells me he regularly skips breakfast and I

**Maureen** I didn't know he skipped breakfast and anyway he gets three euro every day for lunch

**Kevin** Look Mr Brown, we leave the house every morning at 7 I drop Maureen to the train and I drive to work for 8 to get stuff done before the phones start at 9 There's stuff in the house if the kids want it. We work long hours to give them things to keep up with all the other kids, its all money!!!

**Principal** As a parent myself I know the benefit a good breakfast has on growing children and it sets them up for the day, no breakfast and they are listless and can't concentrate.

**Maureen** There is always food in the house, he can go to the freezer and take what he wants.

**Principal** I know the pressure there is on families what with work and other commitments, and James is not the only child coming in not having had breakfast and the school was thinking of starting a breakfast club.

**Maureen** A breakfast club? What would that do?

**Principal** For a small weekly fee we could set out some cereal, tea and toast for children who have not had breakfast at home. As a Catholic School the Board has a duty of care for those children who for one reason or another come to school without having had a basic breakfast.

**Kevin** Like charity, my son will be coming here having a breakfast with kids from the flats! What about the bullying

**Maureen** It might be a good idea, Kevin.

**Kevin:** I would not want it if it meant James getting labelled. Anyway, breakfast at school might not be his thing. You know what teenagers are like, especially James.

**Maureen:** But the idea of children getting a warm breakfast does sound appealing and very practical. I didn't realise the problem was so widespread.

**Kevin:** I agree but as long as there's no labelling of children. I would not like you to think Maureen and I don't care enough about our Son. We love him dearly.

**Principal:** Of course not, James told me about your trip to New York and the Iphone 4 you gave him. You are good and generous parents. The School Board feels nobody would be pressurised into having breakfast in school. The invitation would be a general and regular invitation. It's an experiment to see what the uptake will be.

**Kevin:** I'd go with that. I feel a little embarrassed our son has drawn attention to himself in this way and I thank you for your concern. Who is going to fund this venture?

**Principal:** The school Board will part fund it and Fr. O Hare, the Parish Priest, is happy to make some funds available. We also want to see if there is departmental funding and we are wondering if some businesses in the parish might fund it quietly.

**Kevin:** If there's anything I can do I will be happy to bring your ideas to the Company Management.