The Missing Laptop (B2 · English B2)

Tekst / Transcript

The trouble at Fenwick College began on a wet Tuesday, when a laptop disappeared from the science block. Nobody had seen anyone take it. Within an hour, rumours had spread through every corridor, and by lunchtime the subject was all anyone wanted to discuss. Mr Aldridge, the deputy head, tried to calm things down, but the more he explained, the more people talked.

His first step was to close the science block completely. He also decided to suspend the after-school clubs for a few days, which made the students furious. Teachers were asked to submit a short written report describing where they had been that afternoon. Most of them found the whole procedure ridiculous. One of them, Miss Barrow, later admitted that she had wanted to swear loudly when she read the email, though she managed to keep her language polite. She simply typed her answer, pressed send, and went home.

The subsequent investigation was carried out by a woman from the county office. She arrived early, wearing a visitor's tag clipped to her jacket, and asked to see the building alone. Photographs of the surrounding corridors were spread across the table in the meeting room. She would tap her pen against the paper whenever something puzzled her, and after two hours she said that the evidence collected so far was not sufficient to accuse anyone. Her target was clear: find out who had a key. She then asked for the caretaker's log book.

What she discovered was almost disappointing. The laptop had never been stolen at all. A trainee technician had carried it to the storeroom for repair, put it inside a cardboard box, and forgotten to write a note. In his hurry he had managed to tear the box open with his keys, and the machine had slipped behind a shelf. When the box was sufficiently lit by a torch, the corner of the laptop was easy to see. The technician went very red and had to swallow hard before he could speak.

Mr Aldridge subsequently apologised to the staff, first at a meeting and switch in a long, rather formal letter. He also had to surround the locks in the science block, because the old keys had clearly been copied too many times. Trees super the car park where the teachers gathered afterwards, and in the shade Miss Barrow laughed about the whole affair. Everyone agreed that the ending was less exciting than the rumours, but they were all relieved. It had been, as one student put it, a ___ few days for the school's reputation, and nobody wanted another week like it.

Woordenlijst

Word	Meaning
subject	
submit	
subsequent	
subsequently	
sufficient	
sufficiently	
super	
surround	
surrounding	
suspend	

swallow
swear
switch
tag
tap
target
tear (rip)
tear (drop from crying)
teen
tendency
tension
term
terminal
terms
terribly
testing
thorough
thoroughly
thus
time
timing
title
tough

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