

Scene 1

(As Intro Music plays (CD track 8) the cast enters and positions are taken for the opening song. When all are in place, fade the music.)

Song 1 – A Blast From The Past *(CD track9, lyrics p22)* *(Whole Cast)*

(As Intro Music plays (CD track 10) everyone sits down. The lights come up on a side stage, made to look like a family living room – see staging suggestions/scenery. Mum and Dad sit on armchairs, Gran and Grandpa on the sofa, and James and Alice on the floor looking fed up!)

Mum ~ Well, I don't know why you two are looking so glum. It's your last week at school, then you've the whole of the summer holidays to look forward to.

Dad ~ *(jokingly)* If anyone should be down in the dumps it's your mum and me. We'll have you two under our feet for six weeks! In fact, I think I'll write to school suggesting they cut the holidays down to a fortnight, just to stop you spoiling our summer!

Alice ~ Dad! Stop teasing!

Gran ~ So, James, Alice, why *have* you got faces like a wet weekend?

James ~ Well, Gran, we just don't see why we need to go to school for this last week. There are three people in our class going on holiday early – one to Disney World, and the other two to Center Parcs.

Alice ~ They get an extra week's holiday while we're still working. It's not fair!

Grandpa ~ But don't you usually take it easy in the last week? Didn't you tell me there are parties, your school trip, DVDs to watch and a non-uniform day to look forward to?

Alice ~ Big deal, Grandpa! Being able to wear a hoodie instead of a school jumper is hardly the same as going to Disney World.

Gran ~ Well, it would have been a big deal in mine and your Grandpa's day. You should have seen what we had to wear as a uniform – hats, ties, blazers, pleated grey skirts....

James ~ Grandpa wore a skirt! Now that I'd like to have seen!

Grandpa ~ Ha ha! Very funny! The girls wore the skirts, silly. It was shorts for us boys, even in the winter. We had to wait until secondary school before we were even allowed near a pair of long trousers!

James ~ *(to Mum and Dad)* Was that the same for you two?

Mum ~ Not quite. Dad and I went to primary school in the 70s. Things were a little bit more... 'casual' back then.

Dad ~ When I think about the truly horrific clothes we did wear though, I’d rather have put up with the blazer-tie-shorts combination that Grandpa had to go to school in!

Gran ~ So you two, count yourselves lucky that you go to school nowadays, when what you wear is a little more flattering.....

*(As a **theme tune** plays (CD track 11) the action moves to the main stage, where two trendy fashion experts stand with clip boards, and dressed in some quite ridiculous clothes – see staging suggestions/costumes. They could be loosely based on presenters like Gok Wan or Nicky Hambleton-Jones. **Their many lines should be written as cues on their clipboards.**)*

Presenter 1 ~ Check you out, girlfriend! Don’t you just look fab-u-lous!

Presenter 2 ~ Oh, just a little something I threw on! But hey, how about you! That outfit is so out-there! Who says green and purple don’t go together?

Presenter 1 ~ Absolutely! But enough about me. Tell this lot why we’re here.

Presenter 2 ~ OK everyone, we’ve got a little catwalk show for you in which we’ll be taking a fashion-trip back through time, to show you outfits that the most on-trend school kids have worn over the past hundred and fifty years. And have we got some gor-ge-ous threads lined up today. So let’s get things moving, as we head back to the late 1800s. Bring on the models.....

(A Victorian boy and girl enter and parade as if on a catwalk. The boy is dressed as a chimney sweep and holding a sweep’s brush, while the girl wears a bonnet and pinafore, and has her arm in a blood-stained sling – see staging suggestions/costumes. They pose centre-stage between the presenters.)

Presenter 1 ~ Now, most Victorian kids had little education, if any, but those that did attend school would go straight from work. *(pointing to the boy)* Check out this cool cat! Black is always flattering to the figure – see how skinny he looks! The cut-off trousers and bare feet say “I’m a casual guy!” The sooty face hides any unsightly pimples, and the brush is the perfect accessory!

Presenter 2 ~ *(pointing to the girl)* And how about this young lady, on her way to the local dame school straight from a sixteen hour shift at the mill. The grubby pinafore-and-bonnet combo is classic and timeless, accentuating that ‘waif’ look. Accessorized with a blood-stained sling, added after she lost two fingers in a spinning jenny, this outfit says “I’m ready to recite my times-tables.” Gorgeous! OK, let’s skip forward to the 1940s.....

(The Victorian boy and girl exit, and a wartime boy and girl stride on and parade – see staging suggestions/costumes. They both carry gasmask boxes on strings, and wear coats which they unbutton in typical ‘model’ style to reveal the outfits underneath.)

Presenter 1 ~ *(pointing to the boy)* With his cap worn at a jaunty angle, his school tie hanging loosely from his white-ish shirt, this young chap is setting the trend for his wartime classmates. That tank top is ahead of its time and those classic grey shorts are exquisitely cut from coarse, itchy material. The grubby knees say “I’m a man of action in the playground” and the gas mask accessory give him some real ‘blitz-chic’!

Presenter 2 ~ *(pointing to the girl)* And what about this ‘it’ girl? The grey ankle socks highlight *her* grubby knees to perfection too, meaning she’s as much of an action-icon as any boy. But the feminine lines of her grey skirt show us she’s still very much a lady. The hair is worn pinned-back, as hot water and shampoo is in short supply. Her gas mask box can double as a handbag, in which she can keep one of her mother’s lipsticks, ready to be applied at playtime before that all-important game of kiss-chase! Stunning!

(The 1940s couple exit, and a 1970s boy and girl make a ‘groovy’ entrance and parade – see staging suggestions/costumes.)

Presenter 1 ~ Forward now to the 1970s. *(pointing to the boy)* This cool nylon tracksuit is designed to be figure-hugging. Not only does it look fabulous for everyday wear in the classroom, but it also means that this chap is always ready for an impromptu PE lesson. The stripes down the arm and outside leg say “I’m streaks ahead in the fashion stakes – catch me if you can!” On the downside, however, similar tracksuits are sometimes worn by middle-aged male teachers, who forget that the tightness of the cut can highlight their expanding waistlines!

Presenter 2 ~ *(pointing to the girl)* This groovy customer is the epitome of ‘hip’. The pattern and colour of that wing-collared blouse is designed to confuse and disorientate her teacher, enabling her to get away with even the flimsiest of excuses for not doing her homework! And those fab flared dungaree jeans may be at the cutting edge of style, but they’re practical too. On gusty days in the playground they double as a fashionable windbreak, which this young lady and all her friends can shelter behind until the bell rings. Fabulous!

(The 1970s couple exit, and a modern day boy and girl enter, both wearing school sweater and grey trousers – see staging suggestions/costumes.)

Presenter 1 ~ And now we’re bang up to date. This is what the discerning schoolboy and schoolgirl are wearing in the new millennium. And how can we best describe it.....?

Both ~ Boring! Utterly boring!

Presenter 2 ~ Where’s the fun? Where’s that splash of something that says “I’m cool at school”? Nowhere, that’s where! *(to the boy and girl)* So you two, you can both go and get changed, while we try to bring a bit of glamour back to this catwalk – go on, off you go!

(The boy and girl exit.)

Presenter 1 ~ Don’t worry, everyone, we still have something fabulously fabulous up our sleeve. The most glam garment ever to grace a schoolgirl’s frame! This one’s just for the ladies, but you guys will appreciate it too!

Presenter 2 ~ It’s sadly fallen out of favour over the last few decades, but it’s something that all those gorgeous grans and yummy mums will remember wearing with glee! Both robust yet feminine, when you put these on it made going to school an absolute pleasure!

Presenter 1 ~ This garment's dual function meant that whether you were swinging on the apparatus in PE, or sitting for long periods on your classroom chair, you could do it with confidence.....and with style!

Presenter 2 ~ So for those of you who remember owning a pair, and for those who've only ever dreamed of wearing more substantial underwear..... we've brought them back!

Presenter 1 ~ Making a return to the catwalk, and we hope to your wardrobes, ladies and gentlemen, give it up for those fabulous, those gorgeous, those glamorous.....

Both ~ NAVY BLUE KNICKERS!!!!!!!

(Depending on how much embarrassment is likely to be caused, the modelling of the knickers can be done in one of two ways. A girl dressed in traditional PE kit of white vest, white socks, black plimsolls and, of course, a magnificently large pair of navy blue knickers, saunters down the catwalk. Alternatively, find (or make) the largest pair you can and have them carried on a ceremonial cushion, and then stretched between two models. To wild applause the other models and the presenters assemble at the front.)

Song 2 – Navy Blue Knickers *(CD track12, lyrics p23)*
(Presenters and models supported by the whole cast)

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