

## Mr Mets 12: Prof Charlton-Perez's Shiny New Office

We begin this episode with an apology. Last time, yet again, we made fun of Prof Clark. However, he has no idea what we are apologising for, as he did not see last year's episode. Despite this, he still requested an apology. Whatever happened last time, we are sorry, and would like to assure you that we will not be making fun of you in any way during this episode.

Before we continue, we will have a quick sound test for everyone in the room and those joining remotely.

And now, it's time for The Adventures of the Mr Mets. Episode 12: Prof Charlton-Perez's Shiny New Office.

### SCENE 0: outside Happy Met Land

After a year of emptiness, things were getting back to normal in Happy Met Land – even Prof Methven's sense of direction.

### SCENE 1: the Head of School office

Also, changes were underway in Happy Met Land. Following the departure of Prof Cosh for Reasonably Happy Kent Land, Prof Gray and Prof Plant had been preparing the Head of School office for its new incumbent. They were very pleased with their efforts and knew that he would be pleased too.

"It's ready!" called Prof Gray.

Prof Charlton-Perez, new Head of School in Happy Met Land, gazed in wonder around his new office. "I love it."

"Everything is shiny and new," said Prof Gray. "You have a new desk to work at, a new chair that is so perfect you will never have to fill in a DSE assessment again, saving you several hours a month. You have a coffee table for your very important meetings and a sofa just the right size for an afternoon nap. You have a new computer, so you can write papers about the stratosphere and then tweet about them. And finally, you have the Very Special Phone. If you are having IT problems, it allows you to connect directly to someone at University IT that can actually fix your problem."

"It's more beautiful than I could ever imagine," said Prof Charlton-Perez, wiping away an emotional tear. "A phone link to someone that can actually fix IT problems?"

"It's all yours," said Prof Gray. "Although we can't get you settled into it quite yet. You must first greet the Happy Met Landers in the coffee room. I think it's going to be a popular one – it's the first time we have had a wine reception since before lockdown."

Prof Charlton-Perez took one last look at his shiny new office before setting off to the coffee room.

### SCENE 2: the coffee area

In the coffee room, the Happy Met Landers were chatting and waiting eagerly for the arrival of their new Head of School. The wine was indeed popular and no expense had been spared.

There was plenty to talk about. Earlier in the year, someone had played French music to Prof Tailleux during WCD in an attempt to get him to sing in French. The identity of the person who played the music remains a mystery to this day. Prof Clark, however, found it hilarious and had since taken on the challenge of trying to get Prof Tailleux to sing in French. With the help of his undergraduate class, Prof Clark had created an app on his phone that could take control of Prof Tailleux's laptop at the touch of a button.

Suddenly, there was a fanfare. "Ladies and gentlemen!" called Prof Gray. "I hereby present your new Head of School and Tweetmaster General – Prof Charlton-Perez!"

"Hooray!" shouted everyone.

"Thank you!" said Prof Charlton-Perez. "I am honoured to see so many of you here. I am glad to see you have all started on the wine."

“Cheers!” shouted everyone.

“Hear, hear!” shouted Prof Frame.

“As Head of School, I now have three announcements to make,” continued Prof Charlton-Perez. “First, good news! Following my work as Dr Carbon, we are well on the way to becoming carbon neutral. We now have brand new LED lighting throughout the building.”

“Ooooooh,” said everyone.

“Prof Plant, would you be so kind as to turn on the new coffee room LED lights for the first time.”

Prof Plant turned on the lights.

“Ow! I can’t see anything!” shouted Prof Ambaum.

“Aaargh! It’s too bright!” shouted Prof Shine.

“Ow! You kicked me!” shouted Dr Inness.

[Je T’Aime starts playing]

“Not again,” said Prof Tailleux. “It’s not funny.”

“Turn them off!” shouted Prof Charlton-Perez. “Never mind. We’ll get the Niblocks back to deal with that. Second – we have also taken steps to move towards carbon zero by installing solar panels on the roof.”

“Eeeeeeee,” said everyone.

“Prof Plant, would you be so kind as to the switch the Department across to solar power for the first time.”

Prof Plant turned on the solar panels.

“I can’t see anything again!” shouted Prof Ambaum.

“Aaargh! It’s too dark this time!” shouted Prof Shine.

“Ow! Will you stop kicking me!” shouted Dr Inness.

[Je T’Aime starts playing]

“Now it’s really not funny,” said Prof Tailleux. “I will not sing along to this.”

“Turn them off!” shouted Prof Charlton-Perez. “What’s happened to the solar panels?”

“I’m afraid to say they are not on the roof yet,” said Prof Gray. “The scaffolding is there, but the installation has been delayed by another three months.”

Prof Charlton-Perez looked sad. “Well, that’s a shame,” he said. “I was hoping we could be fully Dr Carbonated by now. Then all that remains is one request. Now that I am Head of School – can we stop the panto jokes about the stratosphere being pointless?”

“Awwwwww!” said everyone.

“Thank you, Prof Charlton-Perez,” interrupted Prof Gray. “Now I’m afraid we have to move along. Next up in your calendar is to give a seminar to the Vice Chancellor over in the Palmer Building.”

“But I haven’t had any wine yet,” said Prof Charlton-Perez.

“You’ve gone from Head of Department to Head of School,” said Prof Gray. “Did you think your workload would go up or down? The seminar is about the stratosphere, though.”

Meanwhile, the Happy Met Landers were really enjoying the wine.

“Well, it’s a shame about the solar panels,” said Dr Inness. “It would have been great to have those on the roof already by now.”

A thought suddenly appeared in Prof Clark’s mind. “How many academics would it take to install some solar panels on the roof? I think we should do it. Show Prof Charlton-Perez that we are a practically minded group of academics.”

“I know how solar panels work,” said Prof Illingworth. “I make extensive use of them in the design of my new satellite. Wyvern Two: This Time It’s Geostationary.”

“I can deal with the radiation side of things,” said Prof Shine. “I can calculate the optimal position to maximise sunlight.”

“I can connect the panels and feed the energy into the Land’s electrical system,” said Prof Harrison.

“The lifting machine is outside already,” said Prof Tailleux. “And the panels have all been delivered.”

“And I know all about driving lifting machines,” said Prof Ambaum. “You could say, I’ve written the book on it. Well, I’ve written a book.”

“So, what do you say?” said Prof Clark. “I think after this, Prof Charlton-Perez will be very happy with us. What could possibly go wrong?”

### **SCENE 3: the croquet lawn**

So, the Happy Met Landers set to work. Prof Ambaum fetched the lifting machine from the car park. The only route to the roof, however, was across the croquet lawn, much to Prof Woolnough’s annoyance.

All Prof Ambaum had to do was raise the arm up to the roof. “Which lever is it?” he asked.

The Happy Met Landers shrugged their shoulders, so Prof Ambaum tried the red lever. It was the wrong one.

Next, Prof Illingworth had a go. If he could operate the world’s largest, steerable, pointable meteorological radar, surely he could handle a medium-sized, hydraulic JCMM lifter? “Which lever is it?” he asked.

The Happy Met Landers shrugged their shoulders again, so Prof Illingworth tried the blue lever. It was the right one, but he pulled it too hard.

“Oops!” said Prof Shine.

“Do we know whose window that was?” said Dr Inness.

“It’ll be fine,” said Prof Clark.

Next, Prof Tailleux had a try. If he could operate something as complicated as a Mac, surely a JCMM lifter would be easy? He had learned from the mistakes of his colleagues and pulled the blue lever slowly, suspecting that nothing would go wrong this time.

“That’s not funny,” shouted Prof Tailleux.

“That’s another window,” said Prof Shine.

“Do we know whose window *that* was?” said Dr Inness.

“It’ll be fine,” said Prof Clark.

### **SCENE 4: on the scaffolding**

After several hours of trying, they eventually managed to get some of the solar panels on to the roof. They assembled on the scaffolding.

“So let’s count our success,” said Prof Clark. “How many solar panels were delivered originally?”

"Forty," said Dr Inness.

"And how many have we managed to get to the roof without breaking?"

"Two," said Dr Inness. "Can't you count them?"

"No – my hat's too big. I can't see!"

"With so few panels," said Prof Shine, "we will need to do something special if we want to power Happy Met Land by solar power alone. Even I couldn't shine that bright."

"How about we use this?" said Prof Inness. "The sunshine recorder! If we hold it up in the sun, it will magnify the sunlight onto the solar panels!" Prof Inness held it aloft proudly.

"...Actually, let's try moving it around."

"...One," said Dr Inness. "We have one panel left."

Suddenly, they heard applause from nearby. "Prof Charlton-Perez's lecture in Not-So-Happy Ag Land is over!" cried Prof Shine. "We still don't have any working solar panels!"

"He won't like it when he hears we have broken 39 of them," said Dr Inness.

"Quite the contrary," said Prof Harrison, appearing on the scaffolding. "While you have been up here messing around, I have wired everything up and it should be efficient enough to work off one panel. Follow me and I will show you."

#### **SCENE 5: back in the coffee room**

Prof Harrison led the others back to the solar power switch in the coffee room.

"It's quite simple," he said. "I have wired up the switch so that it can take any amount of solar power – be that one panel or 40 – and turn it into a single stream of energy that can be sent anywhere in the Land."

"It doesn't look very safe," said Prof Shine.

"Are you sure the switch can handle that much power?" said Prof Inness.

"Can it really power everything in the Land?" said Prof Clark.

"It's perfectly safe," said Prof Harrison, "although you are right. With so few panels left, there is no way it could power the whole Land. So I have optimised it to channel the entirety of the power directly into one single office."

"Prof Charlton-Perez's office?" said Prof Clark.

"Exactly. Prof Charlton-Perez will be very pleased with this. Prof Plant, could you turn it on for us?"

Prof Plant grumbled to himself and turned the solar power on.

"If I've timed this perfectly, the power should turn on just as Prof Charlton-Perez gets back to his office..."