



It's alive. It's alive!

By Freddie and Isabel

On Friday, 3rd March, Caistor Grammar School went to see a live performance of the classic Mary Shelley novel 'Frankenstein'. The excursion, led by Head of English Mrs McNeilly, began with a somewhat restless bus journey consisting of sweets, sweat and Would-You-Rather's.

As the coach of schoolchildren approached the Leeds Theatre, a bubble of excitement was abruptly drowned and drenched by the unforgiving rain. The theatre's third floor, spacious and warm, was soon filled by the fifty CGS students and their teachers.

Perched on the top floor, the excitable schoolmates exchanged some final sweets, ice creams and selfies before the crash of a drum ran through the theatre.

The five actors, multitasking between acting and playing music to accompany the play, led the audience through the story exceedingly well. The crowd were in awe at their skill of learning so many lines for this two hour masterpiece, particularly with Victor Frankenstein, who appeared in almost every scene.

"It was a success in the way that all the students really enjoyed it and it was an interesting adaptation for the book, particularly with the puppetry used for the monster," observes English teacher and audience member Mr Harris. When asked about the relevance of Frankenstein and comparing it to other texts, Mr Harris noted, "Personally, Jekyll and Hyde is more relevant to individuals due to everyone's two faces, usually with one for school and one for home. The term 'Frankenstein' is often used in modern science in relation to stem cell research whereas, to me, Jekyll and Hyde is more enjoyable and has more of a connection to our lives."

The Monster (not called Frankenstein, contrary to popular beliefs) was an incredibly creepy puppet, brought to life extremely effectively by two of the actors. Despite his outward appearance, the tragedy of the Monster was felt by all watching, and would stay with the audience long after the curtains closed.

Trip organiser Mrs McNeilly believed that it was a great trip which helped "enhance the students knowledge of 19th century literature, to help aid the understanding of society and history, both politically and socially," she went on to say "it was a perfect opportunity to see a production of a novel in a dramatic form. Enriching the GCSE studies and wider reading, which will help with A levels."