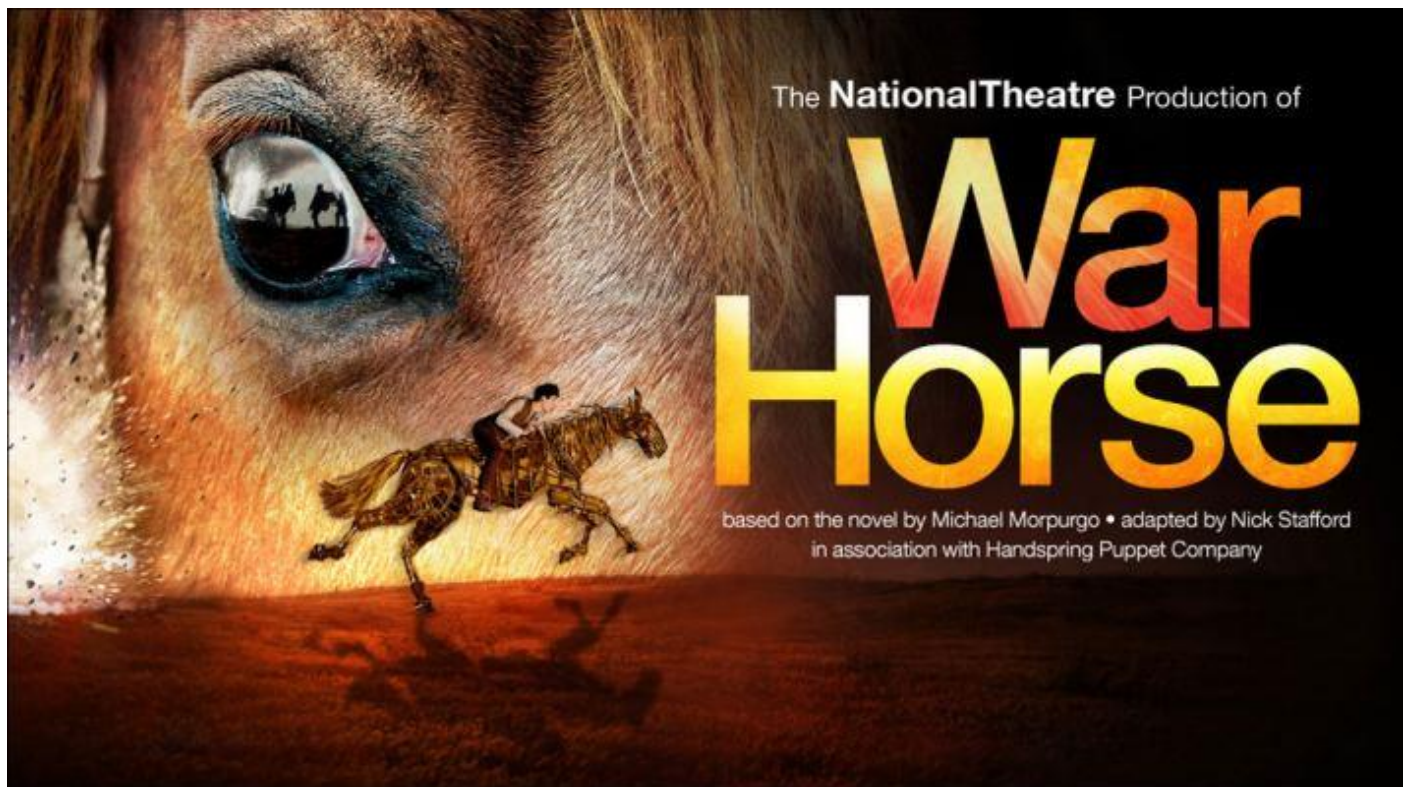


Year 7 English Curriculum Visit



“The National Theatre's epic production is based on the celebrated novel by the Children's Laureate (2003-05) Michael Morpurgo. Actors working with magnificent, life-sized puppets by the internationally renowned Handspring Puppet Company lead us on a gripping journey through history.”

– www.nationaltheatre.org.uk

During the last term Year 7 Cloughwood Academy students have been reading War Horse, a story about Joey a young horse and his owner Albert. The story follows Joey, who at the outbreak of World War I is sold to the cavalry and shipped to France. The horse is soon caught up in the war; watching death, disease and fate, taking him on an extraordinary journey, serving on both sides before finding himself alone in no man's land. Albert cannot forget Joey and still not old enough to enlist in the British Army, he embarks on a dangerous mission to find the horse and bring him home.

On Thursday 6th February Year 7 went on an English Curriculum visit to see War Horse at The National Theatre in London. Here's what a few of the students had to say about the visit...



We went to see War Horse in London on Thursday 6th of February. The War Horse production is one of the best theatre productions I have ever seen. I would recommend this to everyone I know. If I ever have the chance to see it again I would definitely. Ben Murray was the song man/sentry Shaw and Sino Daniel Young played Albert Narracot. The way they did the horses was outstanding you can barely see the two people inside the horse.



I had a top notch view from the top row. As the stage lights burst on you can feel what is going to happen. The emotion fills the room the sound effects are the best sound effects I have ever heard. **BANG POW KABOOM**. Everything is going on in one place. There were no bad bits throughout the whole play. The way the actors project the voices and the use of the body. You start to tear up when Joey and Albert get split up and some parts are just so fearful. The whole play is just so moving the boy's dad gets a horse and the boy is just emotionally attached to this horse. But now just feel if you were Albert and you got a horse then the most horrifying thing happens, your dad sells that horse, that horse that you are emotionally attached he sells it to the army.



"5 stars there is nothing better than the War Horse production."

- **By Oliver Chapman**



On Thursday 6th February we went to London. We went to see the war horse production in the national theatre. When we went in to the theatre it was outstandingly gigantic. We sat on the right side; the seats we booked were brilliant. I had a dazzling view of the stage, when the production was about to start and the lights went out I could feel the anxiety in my tummy, I was so excited and thrilled to be there and watch it.



At the start Joey as a foal runs in, the moment I saw him I was amazed the puppet horses look so realistic and exquisite. On the horse there's a man controlling the head and in the body there's two men controlling the legs, tail and neck. The production lasted two hours at the end I said its 5 stars.

My favourite part was when Joey met Albert at the end (#spoiler alert). The part that made me sad was when top thorn died. As we walked outside of the theatre I realised that it was getting dark. So I said "can we walk around the shops before it gets dark?" Miss said "yes".

So we went to the markets and there was this really cool and appealing magic shop that had these amazing lights that you could hold in your hand and all you could see was a round dot of light on your hand, you don't have to use a torch or anything it's just a light. And there was this plastic clear box that the man put a coin in without us seeing and then asked me and Ollie to try and get the coin out but we couldn't figure it out. The next stall was a really cool it had these things that were like balls but they were in shapes of: tomatoes, fish, eyeballs, lizards and tongs and when you threw them on the floor they expanded out on the floor. It was about 7 o'clock by then so we got a burger king, and set off on our long journey home...tired but happy!



- By Gabriel Nemeth

