

An Inspector Calls Trip for Year 11

On April 29th 2009, Year 11 students attended a performance of *An Inspector Calls* in Milton Keynes. The students have been studying *An Inspector Calls* as part of their Literature exam work. The play has a very strong social message of looking out for each other, being part of one community. J. B Priestly wrote the play at the end of the Second World War to make the audience understand the importance of community and that every action has a consequence.

The play is set around one family, the Birlings, who are wealthy and think they can behave in terrible ways. The play opens with them celebrating the engagement of their daughter, Sheila to Gerald. This engagement means that the Birlings and Gerald's family can be brought together in business and continue to exploit their workers and make huge profits. The festivities come to an abrupt end when a police inspector comes to the house. He brings the terrible news that a girl has committed suicide. He questions each member of the family to reveal to the audience the events which lead to the death of this young woman, Eva Smith. Each member of the family has a shameful secret that impacted on Eva Smith's life and drove her to suicide. It is a play that has a very serious message which is still relevant today.

The performance enhanced the experience of the year 11's study of the play and gave life to the characters from the page. Overall, it was a great performance and a vital recourse for the upcoming literature exam. Special thanks go to Ms Harwood for organising the trip.