

The PGS French Play

Antigone

by Jean Anouilh

For the second PGS French play I have chosen one of the best known adaptations of Sophocles's tragedy *Antigone*. Written by Jean Anouilh while Paris was still under Nazi occupation, it is a play which explores the collision between a young idealist and an implacable dictator. The body of Polynices has been left to rot on the battlefield to remind the people of Thebes of the penalty for rebellion. His sister Antigone is determined to give her brother the funeral rites that will allow his spirit to be released. But her uncle, the king, knows that to show any mercy will weaken his authority. His son, Hemon, may be engaged to Antigone but that is not enough to protect her. Unlike the Greek original, the play also explores the lives of the guards whose job it is to protect the body from any interference and who catch Antigone in the act of burying her brother.

The cast, ranging from Year 12 to Year 7, have been rehearsing for three months in order to master the language of the play and to bring it to life. The production will take place in the studio theatre in the Gatehouse on Thursday 5 May at 18.00. Tickets, for which there is no charge, can be reserved by e-mail to mark.smith@pgs.org.uk.

The performance is in French, with surtitles in English.