



**THEATRICAL PROPS:** hiding behind the Greek masks are Teesside High School students Vicky Peacock, Lucy Smith, Pippa Barker, Sophie Herring and Ellie Skippings

## Masks bring ancient Greek drama to life

CLASSICAL studies students have been finding out how the actors of ancient Greece portrayed their roles.

The year ten GCSE students at Teesside High School, in Eaglescliffe, are studying Greek drama as part of the exam syllabus, and worked with papier mache and paint to recreate props.

The school's head of classical studies, Vicky Sherwood, said: "In ancient Greece, the actors always wore masks during the performance of plays, so they had to use voices and body language to show emotion.

"We made our own masks so

the students could experience what it would have been like to wear them."

The students chose to model their masks on characters from Homer's *Odyssey* and then wore them to perform extracts from the work.

The class had mixed opinions about the comfort of using the masks.

Ellie Skippings said: "It felt normal to act in", while Sophie Herring found it "hot and stuffy" and Pippa Barker said: "My voice echoed inside it."

"It's all part of making classical studies come alive for teenagers," said Mrs Sherwood.