

Lower 6 classical civilisation dance the dithyramb



As we approach the school production of *Chicago*, Lower 6 have been trying out the Classical Greek version of a fully staged musical. We have been exploring the democratic nature of the City Dionysia, the great theatrical festival celebrated annually in 5th century BC Athens, in which citizens had a wealth of opportunities to be involved: taking part in processions, producing plays, being drawn by lot as judges in the competitions and performing as a member of the chorus. The dithyramb was a choral dance sung in honour of the god Dionysus and Ruby and Sophie wanted to try it out. Here they are, featured on one of the fabulous red-figure vases we study as evidence of what these early theatrical performances looked like.

As well as tragedies by the three great 5th century Athenian tragedians, Aeschylus, Sophocles and Euripides, can you guess which play by the comic playwright Aristophanes (named after the animals who make up the chorus of singers and dancers) they are very excited about studying?

Mrs Alexandra Nightingale