

Classical Civilisation (OCR)

“Although only breath, words which I speak are immortal.” - Sappho, Fragments

Studying Classical Civilisation at A Level offers up the foundations of Western European civilisation, delving into the art, architecture, philosophy and literature of Rome and Greece, with a sound insight into society, morals, customs and the factors that led to their change over time. Attitudes towards love, desire, politics, the gods, humour, propaganda and war (and war crimes) through primary sources and texts in translation are explored as part of the course.



Academic

The syllabus offers an innovative mix of visual culture and arts, philosophy and beliefs, and the study of epic literature. The World of the Hero allows a glimpse into the world of the Bronze Age and Troy, before encompassing the role of oral storytelling, narrative and Roman propaganda.

The Greek Theatre module allows our students to marry the study of famous and infamous comedy and tragedy texts with an understanding of the archaeological evidence, evaluating their impact by comparison to Greek vases. The Love and Relationships unit allows girls to compare attitudes to men and women in each society, as expressed in the beautiful, passionate poems of Sappho and Ovid as compared to the ‘ideal’ espoused by the philosophers, Plato and Seneca.

Co-Curricular

Topical lectures and guest speakers are arranged to enrich the curriculum, and we offer study days at universities, trips to the theatre and biennial residential trips to Rome and the Bay of Naples.

Our Sixth Form students have the opportunity to lead the KS3 Classics Club, and Classics Clubs in the Junior School too; we also encourage entries to national video and essay competitions.

All students considering applying to university to study a Classical subject may benefit from weekly guidance and study support sessions.