

Classics

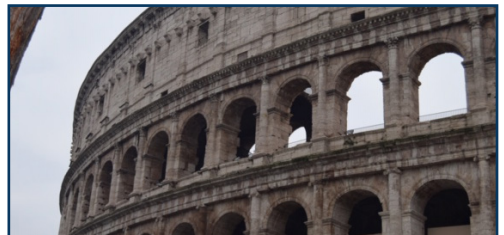
“Salvete!” (That’s the Latin for ‘hi there, everyone!’) Studying Classics means studying the world of ancient Greece and Rome, including the languages of Latin and Greek and their impact on English, as well as the civilisation of both cultures, with forays into Ancient Egypt and the Bronze-age Mediterranean too. Topics of study are infinite, ranging from daily life, food, politics, houses, town planning and urban engineering, architecture, art, philosophy, religion, to the Roman invasions of Britain, life in the Roman Army, ancient medicine, the sacred site of Aquae Sulis, entertainment et al.

Key Stage 3

Pupils study a broad course of language and culture throughout KS3, with the emphasis on learning through fun.

We follow the Cambridge Latin course, which is online with plenty of interactive exercises and games; we look at a Roman family living in Pompeii when the volcano blows its top, and follow the survivors to Ancient Greece, Egypt and finally Roman Britain. The departmental time-machine will transport you to those far-distant times, meeting a real Roman soldier on a day trip to Roman Bath, and all kinds of cookery, drama (using our wardrobe of Roman costumes) and creative projects are encouraged.

We have the Classics Club, an Ancient Greek Club, national translation and video competitions, the GDST Languages Festival and Language Leaders, where older students buddy the younger pupils.



“I have learnt a lot of analytical skills which have really helped me with my other GCSEs.” - Year 11 pupil



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Key Stage 4

Latin is an exciting option at GCSE, and gives a broad insight into the world of Rome: language, literature, and culture. Latin is an academically rigorous subject, but teaching and learning still maintains the emphasis on fun and gaining insights into the world around us.

Activities range from vocabulary-learning 'Blockbusters' style, to 3D character creation and mini-golf in literature; drama, movie-making and group presentations (especially involving the creative use of cake) are all regular features of lessons. We use Units 4 and 5 of the Cambridge Latin course, including themed literature, with authors like Ovid, Virgil and Martial in the original language! We also study primary sources – mosaics, jewellery, potsherds, etc. to develop critical thinking and reasoning.

We travel to Oxford in Year 10 to visit the University and the Ashmolean Museum, and go to the British Museum to help with primary source research.

“A Level Latin was so interesting and fantastic, studying the texts in greater depth.” - Year 13 pupil

Key Stage 5

Latin at A Level is richly rewarding, appealing both to linguists and lovers of literature. We study a cornucopia of prose and verse authors from the 'Golden Age' at the end of the Republic through to the rise of Augustus, such as Virgil, Cicero, Ovid, Livy and Horace, as well as 'Silver Latin' authors writing in the imperial period, such as Seneca, Petronius, Pliny and Tacitus. Politics, geography, the history of rhetoric and socio-economics, all play their part too in bringing these texts to life.

Classical Civilisation

The new Classical Civilisation specification is truly innovative in that it marries up the study of poetry, drama, epic, philosophy and visual sources from both ancient Greece and Rome, facilitating comparison and evaluation of changes over time. Attitudes towards love, desire, politics, the gods, propaganda and war are all explored, and we arrange topic lectures and guest speakers to enrich the curriculum, as well as arrange study days at university, trips to the theatre and residential.



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