Latin (OCR)

"If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants." - Isaac Newton

Studying Latin at A Level delivers the world in a grain of sand, as you are introduced to Rome at the height of its glory: an unprecedented opportunity to dive into linguistic studies as well as luxuriate in a cornucopia of 2,000 year old masterpieces of literature, on topics as diverse as law, love and what it means to be a hero in an age where heroism is seemingly forgotten. Your studies are underpinned by a sharp understanding of the shifting sands of socio-political interests, set in the turbulent years at the end of the Republic and its metamorphosis into Imperial Rome.



Academic

The OCR syllabus offers a dual focus on language and literature. Students expand their knowledge of vocabulary and grammar to an advanced level, including an option of translating English prose into Latin. This understanding enables them to explore a range of original texts. Their study of Latin verse may include the poetry of Virgil and the Satires of Juvenal, as well as the diverse poems of Ovid, whose subjects include love, exile and mythology. In the prose elements of the course, students may delve into Roman society in the Republican and Imperial eras, through the lawcourt speeches of Cicero, the letters of Pliny the Younger and the works of the historians Livy and Tacitus. The course enables students to gain a deep appreciation of texts that were written two millennia ago yet still have relevance and emotional resonance for us today.

Co-Curricular

Topical lectures and guest speakers are arranged to enrich the curriculum alongside study days at universities. Trips to the theatre and to classical sites are usually available whenever possible. Our Sixth Form students have the opportunity to lead the Classics Club for younger students across the school.

We also encourage entries to national classical film, translation and essay competitions including the Linguistics Olympiad. Those who consider applying to university to study Classics benefit from weekly guidance and support, with Oxbridge preparation also offered. Year 12 students can apply for a bursary from the GDST Silver-Pearson Award to attend a summer school, enabling them to broaden their knowledge in advance of university applications.



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