



## Latin

The study of Latin is an enriching and exciting experience in its own right, but also has immense cross-curricular value. Latin forms the basis of several modern languages, and our own history and culture has been profoundly influenced by the Romans. Students enjoy the challenge of the language and are gripped by the stories of Roman life, meaning many choose to continue their study at a higher level, with considerable success. The Classics Department is extremely proud of its high uptake at GCSE and A Level. We are also happy to help keep the subject alive within the state education system.

Students begin Latin in Year 8 then continue until the end of Year 9, when they may choose to continue with the subject at GCSE level. We use the *Ecce Romani* text books as a basis for language learning, which allows time for many additional activities and projects, including investigating the Roman House, studying Pliny's letters on the eruption of Mount Vesuvius, and reading some Greek Mythology.

In Year 10 we continue to follow the *Ecce Romani* language course, supported by our own Essential Grammar booklet and supplemented with additional exercises and passages for translation, to improve language skills. In Year 11, focus is on preparation of the prescribed literature selections from the OCR Anthology, with continued language practice. Students study a wide selection of Roman authors, both prose and poetry, giving them an excellent taste of Latin literature.

The OCR GCSE course provides an excellent foundation for the rigours of further study at A Level, where we also follow OCR's course of study. We revise grammar and syntax, using John Taylor's *Latin Beyond GCSE* among other textbooks. Translation practice is undertaken by reading a wide range of authors in Year 12, and focusing on specific unseen authors, Ovid and Livy, in Year 13. Prescribed texts are prepared in lesson time. These currently include Ovid, Cicero and Virgil. Work is undertaken individually, in pairs or in groups.

The Classics Department undertakes a wide range of extra-curricular activities in the school, ranging from Ancient Greek club to Latin support clinics. The Sixth Form students have introduced a weekly Classics Club in which they research and deliver presentations on a variety of topics which interest them – past discussions have centred on horses of the Classical world, the relationship between Achilles & Patroclus, the impact of the Classical world on modern society, and much more! We have been very pleased to collaborate with the Philosophy of History Society in welcoming Classical Speakers to the school. In addition, Y8 students enjoy a Roman Enrichment Day each February. This popular day allows the students to interact with the highly respected *Roman Tours* group, exploring the society of Roman Britain in two different workshops, as well as designing and creating their own authentic Roman mosaics from ceramic tesserae.

We also embark on a variety of trips, Sixth Form students enjoy a biennial visit to an important site within the Ancient World: previous trips have been to Rome and Sorrento (taking in the Colosseum, Roman Forum, Pompeii, Herculaneum and the treasures from these towns at the Naples Archaeological Museum) and, most recently, to Sicily, in collaboration with the Geography department (visiting the beautiful sites of Agrigentum, scaling a snow-capped Mount Etna, and exploring the volcanic islands of Vulcano and Lipari). We also offer the opportunity for a number of academic lectures and theatre visits, including the historic Cambridge Greek Play, which has run every three years since 1882, delivered in Greek with English surtitles!

By undertaking all of these activities, we hope to give students an enriched understanding of the Classical World and to fuel their enthusiasm for the study of Classical Language.