



CLASSICAL CIVILISATION

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE SUBJECT

Classical Civilisation focuses on the civilisations of Greece and Rome, and is such a wide ranging subject that it never gets boring, involving the study of myths, plays, history, art, artefacts, and archaeological sites. Students don't need to know any Latin or Greek as all the texts are in translation, and students will not be studying any Latin or Greek. It provides the opportunity for the study of a wide variety of texts and material remains, including remarkable temples and works of art.

Lessons are relaxed, lively and fun with the benefits of small class teaching, using the latest technology. So much is taught without students realising that they actually enjoy analysing literary and material evidence, essay writing, and comparing different eras of history.

So why not study something of the past, in the present, for the future?

YEARS 8 – 9

There are two lessons a week for each year group.

Year 8: Myths and Legends including the creation of the world, Cronos and Zeus, gods and goddesses, land of the dead, Orpheus and Eurydice, Narcissus; **Sport in the Ancient World** with particular focus on the Olympic Games.

Year 9: Fall of Troy including the judgement of Paris, Hector and Achilles, the wooden horse; **Tales from the Odyssey** including the Cyclops, Circe, Scylla and Charybdis and the defeat of the Suitors.

GCSE

From September 2020, we will introduce Classical Civilisation at GCSE level. We will follow the OCR syllabus, which provides students with a broad, coherent and rewarding study of the culture of the classical world. There will be four lessons a week, and students will study elements of the literature and visual/material culture of Greece and Rome and develop an understanding of their social, historical and cultural contexts. There are two components:

Myth and Religion: Students study **myths** regarding the role of the gods and heroes and the importance of Hercules. It also explores the role of **religion** in the everyday lives of ancient Greeks and Romans: the study of temples, sacrifice, festivals, death and beliefs in the afterlife.

Roman City Life: In this unit, the everyday life in Roman cities is examined, with a particular focus on Pompeii, Ostia and Rome itself. Roman housing, the home and family, education, citizens and citizenship, slaves and freedmen, dinner-parties, baths, theatre, amphitheatre and chariot-racing are also some of the other topics that will be taught.

CO-CURRICULAR LEARNING

There are day trips for the lower school years to Roman buildings such as Fishbourne Palace, and a biannual residential visit for all years to destinations such as Rome, Pompeii and Athens.



Classical Civilisation sits well with English and other humanities subjects like History, Geography and Religious Studies. Subjects like this give students really good skills such as essay writing and source analysis, and teach them how to structure a good argument. They show that students are good at thinking and evaluating, and also that they have an interest in literature, drama, people and their cultures.

Choosing Classical Civilisation means that students have the best of both worlds: studying a fascinating and exciting subject, and coming out exceptionally well-qualified at the end.

A separate subject sheet for Classics in the Sixth Form is also available, including both Latin and Classical Civilisation at A Level.