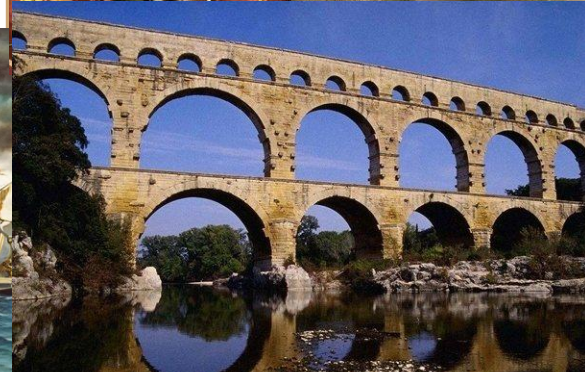




# Latin and Classics at Birkdale



What we offer:

## **OCR A Level Latin**

Requires GCSE Latin



## **OCR A Level Classical Civilisation**

No prerequisites - just curiosity about the ancient world!

All texts read in English



# Classics Department:

**Ms Fforde (Head of Classics)**



**Dr Greenhalgh**



We are a small and very friendly department! Both of us are passionate about the ancient world and exploring the past. We share all teaching in the Sixth Form so students can benefit from different areas of expertise and teaching styles.

# Classical Civilisation A Level

Classical Civilisation is the **study of the ancient mediterranean**, with a focus on ancient **Greece and Rome**.

You will study **three modules** over two years to develop a balanced understanding of **the past** and how it **still affects our world today**. The units may vary, but this is what we are currently teaching:

**World of the Hero** - Greek and Roman Epic

**Culture and the Arts** - Greek Art

**Beliefs and Ideas** - Politics of the Late Republic

# World of the Hero: Odyssey and Aeneid

The **Odyssey** is an **epic tale** which describes the challenges Odysseus faces as he tries to get home to his wife and son, sometimes helped by the gods and sometimes hopelessly at their mercy. He encounters **gods and heroes, men and monsters** - and when he does get home, more trouble lies ahead...

We read the text in English and explore its characters and main themes, developing skills in close textual analysis as well as broader discussion of the work.



# World of the Hero: Odyssey and Aeneid



In the second year, we look at the **Aeneid** - a Roman epic poem designed to be a continuation of the Greek epic tales, but this one tells the story of **Aeneas, mythical ancestor of the Romans**, as he flees from the burning ruins of Troy to found a new city in Italy. Along the way he has a doomed love affair with Dido, queen of Carthage, visits the underworld and has to fight for his very survival.

Among many other things we explore the way heroism and leadership is portrayed different by the Romans and the Greeks, and the Aeneid's (potential) role as propaganda for the start of Augustus' imperial regime after the collapse of the republic.

# Art and Culture: Greek Art



Over two thousand years ago the Greeks created artwork that still inspires us today, **from vases to statues to funeral stellai** of lost loved ones.

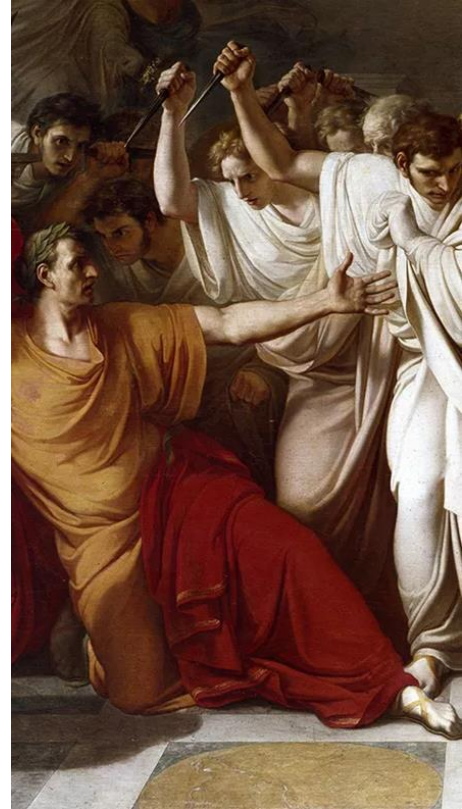
But how did such an incredible range of styles develop over a relatively short period of time? What was it that drove them to represent myths and gods, kings, king-slayers or the idealised human form?

This unit offer a unique opportunity to look at the material culture of the past and what it can tell us about the people who created it.

# Beliefs and Ideas: Politics of the Late Republic

By the first century BC **Rome was in crisis and civil war was a near constant threat.** But how did men like Sulla and Julius Caesar take power? Why was slave labour a decisive factor in bringing down the most powerful nation in the world? Which political murder involved the most gruesome example of attempted fraud Ms Fforde has ever read about?

**In order for the emperors to rise, the republic first had to fall.** In this unit, find out about the final years of Republican Rome and the political structures that could no longer manage its bulk or contain the ambition of its people.





# So why study CC? What will I gain from it?

The best reason to choose this subject is because you think **you'll enjoy it**. Perhaps you loved Greek myths when you were younger, or are interested in ancient history (why is it we are doomed to repeat our mistakes?)

**Classes are small** and tailored to your needs and interests - there is lots of scope for creative work, individual feedback and humour in the CC course!

It is a very **varied** course, perfect if you have wide ranging interests or can't bear to choose between subjects. In what other subject do you get to look at literature, history, theatre, art, philosophy, politics and *more*?

We are both **experienced Classics specialists** who love our subject and want other people to enjoy it too.

# So why study CC? What will I gain from it?

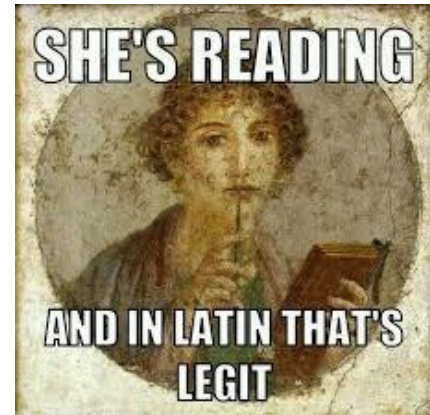
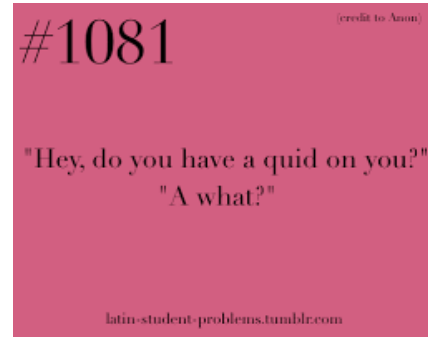
By studying CC, you will develop a **wide range of skills**, ideal if you want to pursue an arts subject at university:

- **Critical analysis** of texts and sources
- Confidence **developing your own ideas** and **challenging sources**
- Using **evidence** to support your work effectively
- A **broad understanding of myth and ancient history**, ideal for interpreting Shakespeare or confronting the past
- A range of **amusing, weird, and often disgusting facts, tales and anecdotes** from the ancient world

# Latin A Level

Latin A Level involves study of both **Latin Language and Literature**. You will already have covered much of the language at GCSE level - at A Level we refine your linguistic knowledge and give you the confidence to tackle a range of original texts.

For literature you will read a relatively small number of lines of original ancient texts (unlike English literature, for example!) but you will develop the skills and confidence to unpick the intricacies of each author's style and how they shape their work.

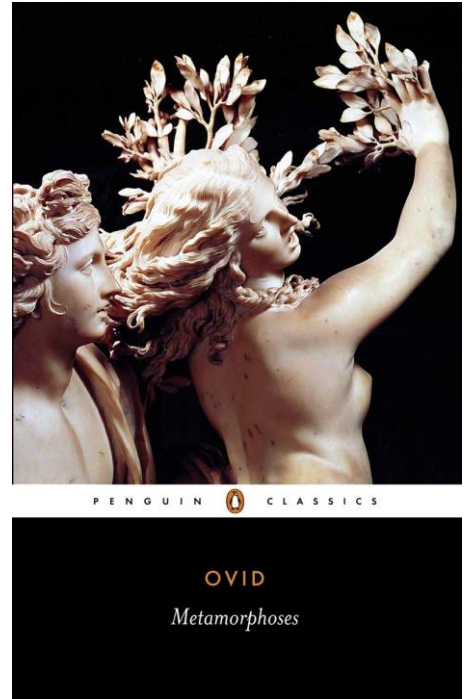


# Language Work

You consolidate and extend grammar learned at GCSE level and develop an extensive vocabulary over two years, reading a range of original texts such as selections from Ovid's *Metamorphoses* (featuring strange transformations into animals and trees), Livy's *History of Rome*, Caesar invading Gaul and Roman emperors being generally terrible.

You have two final language exams:

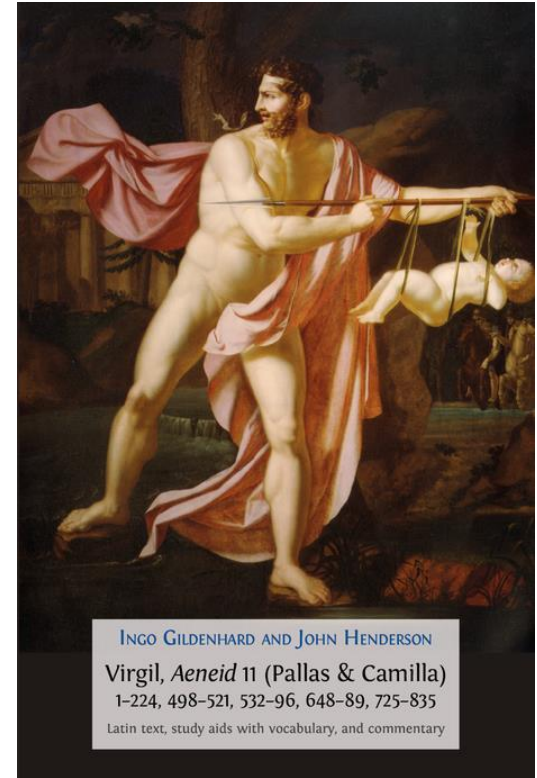
1. Two (fairly) short passages to translate into English: one verse, one prose.
2. Either prose comp (writing in Latin) OR a comprehension task.





# Literature

Each year you will study a prose text and a verse text. These change from year to year, but in the past we have studied authors such as **Cicero** (e.g. extracts from the speech that would eventually lead to his murder), **Tacitus** (e.g. the violence of the year of four emperors), **Horace** (e.g. why no one is ever happy) and **Virgil** (e.g. the rise and fall of original warrior woman Camilla).



# So why study Latin? What will I gain from it?

The best reason to choose this subject is because you think **you'll enjoy it**. Perhaps you're fascinated by the way that we can **decrypt original texts composed by people thousands of years ago** (and the striking similarities and differences we can see between modern and ancient societies), or the effect Latin has had on Romance languages

**Classes are small** and tailored to your needs and interests - even if you don't feel 100% confident in your Latin ability now, you will get lots of individual support and feedback.

It is an unusual choice which will make your university application stand out!

# So why study Latin? What will I gain from it?

By studying Latin, you will develop a **wide range of skills**:

- **Close critical analysis** of texts and sources
- Problem solving and pattern identification
- Confidence **developing your own ideas and expressing them**
- An intimate understanding of many scientific words and concepts as well as a better appreciation of linguistics.
- A **broad understanding of Roman ideas and ancient history**
- A range of **amusing, weird, and often disgusting facts, tales and anecdotes** from the ancient world.

# Trips and opportunities

At the moment we are a bit more limited in what we know we can offer!

In the past we have run trips to Rome and the Bay of Naples, as well as theatre trips, lecture trips and trips to the British Museum.

Sixth Form Classicists have in the past taken on roles to inspire and engage younger students and this is something we hope to continue!



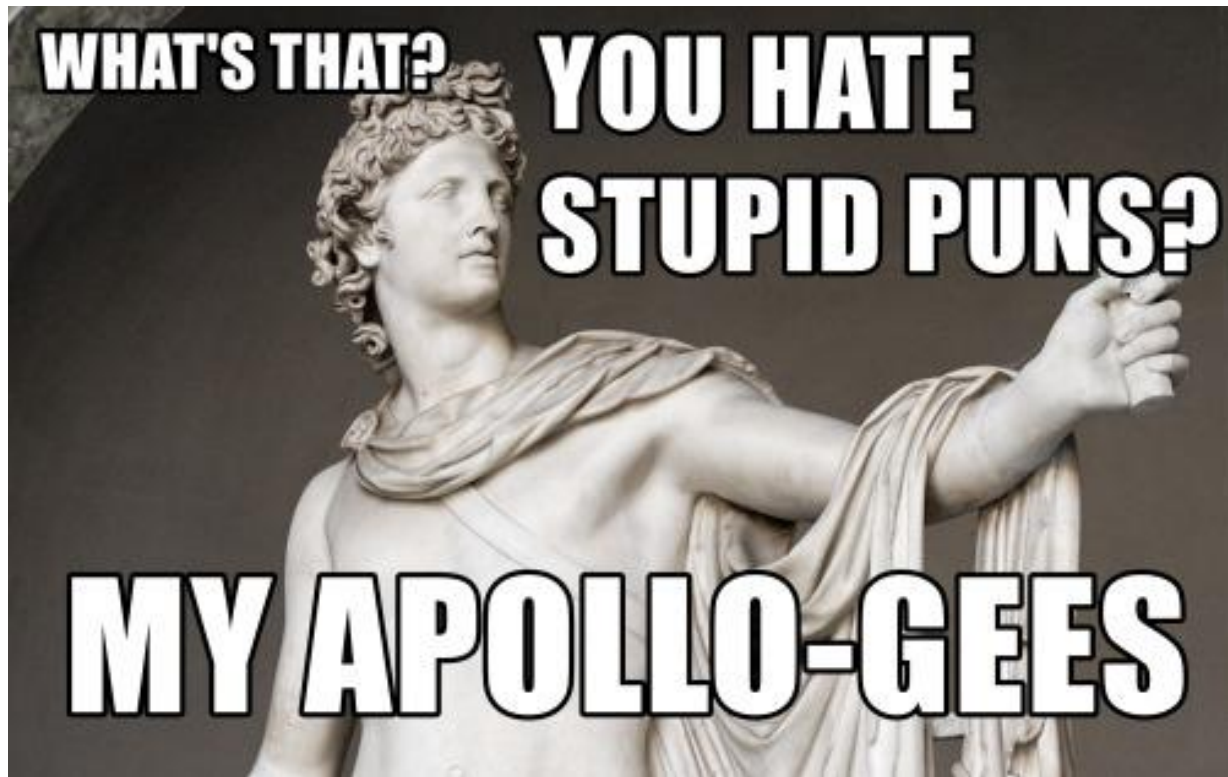


# What else?

If you have additional requests or enquiries, please feel free to ask about the possibility of AS Classical Civilisation or Latin, standalone GCSE courses or even studying Ancient Greek, regardless of whether you have studied it before.

We cannot guarantee that these courses will run (or we may be limited to offering support with independent study rather than teaching full courses), but if you want to study Classics in a different format to what we offer 'as standard', please do ask!

[mbfforde@birkdaleschool.org.uk](mailto:mbfforde@birkdaleschool.org.uk)



We also like bad jokes in the Classics Department.

Not really sorry about it though.