



Faculty Introduction:

Classics is the study of the language, literature and culture of Classical Greece and Rome. This subject is offered to students in Key Stages 4 and 5, with enrichment opportunities available at Key Stage 3. The study of Classics gives students the opportunity to learn about completely different cultures, with different values and ideas. At the same time students have the opportunity to reflect on where they come from and how the Classical world has shaped modern culture and thought.



Topics/Modules to be covered in the year:

Homer: *Odyssey* and Society

This unit requires students to read the *Odyssey* in full. Students must be prepared to answer essay and context questions on the following themes: tradition, transmission of texts and pre-literate form; structure of the epic, narrative techniques and language; characterisation; supernatural elements, realism and fantasy; disguise and recognition; *nostos* and *xenia*; Greek concepts of heroism, honour, reputation; life and society as portrayed by Homer, including the role of women; the role of the gods and the power of fate; moral concepts such as justice (*time*) and revenge (*nemesis*); the stories of the heroes; historical and archaeological background.

Greek Tragedy in Context

This unit requires students to read Aeschylus' *Agamemnon*, Sophocles' *Antigone* and Euripides' *Electra* and *Medea*. Students must be prepared to answer essay and context questions on the following: the theatre building, machinery and special effects; use of actors and the Chorus; dramatic conventions including the representation of violence and death; presentation of character; use of language and dramatic irony; the nature of tragedy including *hamartia*, *peripeteia* and *catharsis*; the distinctive characteristics of each playwright; Athenian beliefs about the gods and fate, as well as prophecy; ideas about death and burial; moral concepts such as justice and revenge; men, women and the family in society.

Assessment:

Students are assessed through regular marking of books. Homework and class work regularly include practice examination questions, which are always marked according to A Level assessment objectives. Peer and self assessment plays a large part in lessons, in order to support students to understand how to improve their work.

Students sit a PPE in February of year 12, as well as an internal mock module in April.

Both modules are assessed by terminal examination at the end of year 12

Homework expectations/key deadlines:

Homework is set regularly. Initially in Year 12 most private study will be focused around the reading of the set texts and written work set will support that knowledge. It is expected that students will complete an additional 5 hours per week of independent study, in addition to timetabled lessons. Other examples of homework that may be set include: essay planning; writing essays; completion of gobbet questions; secondary reading and notes on Athenian culture and society.

Enrichment activities/revision sessions:

It is anticipated that all students studying Classics will have the opportunity to go on a residential trip abroad during their studies, the most recent example of which was Rome in February 2015. Students also get the opportunity to go to the theatre to watch a performance of ancient tragedy or comedy.

Useful websites for revision/revision guides/exam boards:

www.ocr.org.uk