



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:

Virgil and the world of the hero

This unit requires students to read the *Aeneid* and four designated books from Homer's *Iliad*. Students must be prepared to answer essay and context questions on the following themes: plot and characterisation; narrative and descriptive techniques; the oral composition of the *Iliad*; themes including heroism, honour and reputation; the political and historical background including the regime of Augustus; Virgil's relationship to the regime and the *Aeneid* as propaganda; religion and morality; Augustus' attitude to empire; attitudes to war and peace in Augustan Rome; the role of the family in Augustan Rome

Greek and Roman Comedy

This unit requires students to read Aristophanes' *Lysistrata* and *Frogs* and Plautus' *The Swaggering Soldier* and *Pseudolus*. Students must be prepared to answer essay and context questions on the following: plot structure and characterisation; humour, comic techniques and effects; the role of the Chorus in Aristophanes and the use of actors; fantasy, escapism and reality; comparisons between Greek Old, New and Roman Comedy; theatre buildings, machinery, costumes, props and masks; social strata and the household in Athens and Rome; religious belief; the place of drama in Athenian and Roman 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 13, as well as an internal mock module in April.

Both modules are assessed by terminal examination at the end of year 13

Homework expectations/key deadlines:

Homework is set regularly. Initially in Year 13 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 Greek and Roman 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