



## Fettes College

### CLASSICS AT FETTES

Fettes has always been noted for its Classics and Old Fettesians are to be found in many universities. The Department achieves outstanding results, both for aspiring Oxbridge Classicists and for those who just want to reach GCSE.

#### THIRD FORM

In the Third Form the pupils in Set 1 do both Latin and Classical Greek (Classical Greek from scratch) and follow a more traditional approach to language. In this manner more able students can be stretched.

Pupils in Set 2 do just Latin but to a high standard by following the Cambridge Latin Course.

Some students choose to do Classical Civilisation and they follow a home-made course centred on life in ancient Greece and mythology.

#### GCSE LATIN and GREEK

There is less emphasis upon grammar and vocabulary than in the past and the languages are now more accessible. We usually have two sets in Latin in order to accommodate a wide range of ability.

##### **Content:**

The examinations in Latin and Greek follow more or less the same pattern: we follow the OCR syllabus. There is a good selection of interesting verse and prose authors that include Euripides and Homer in Greek, and Pliny, Horace and Ovid in Latin. The breakdown of the different elements is as follows: Language 1 - 25%, Verse set text - 25%, Language 2 - 25%, Prose set text - 25%. In Greek, the two language papers are combined. There is **no** compulsory coursework element but the choice is there if anyone really would like to attempt it. No translation from English into Latin or Greek is required.

Latin and Greek are stimulating subjects in themselves and they provide an invaluable background to other arts subjects. It is the only linguistic subject that offers reading and appreciating the original language at GCSE. What you read at GCSE is the Latin that was used 2,500 years ago. For scientists, they help to develop powers of analysis and reveal a breadth of academic achievement. The structured discipline of the Classical languages is valued highly by employers in a wide variety of fields.

**Opportunities:** The department offers a variety of trips to, for example, the Fifth Form conference in Newcastle, abroad to Italy or Greece or to places of Roman interest in the UK. We have speakers once or twice a term who come to Fettes and talk about interesting topics of their own expertise. If you join Classics you join a department where you will find not only academic fulfilment but also excitement and genuine enthusiasm. The department's results have been excellent and if you work hard you are guaranteed a good grade.

**Careers:** Many students worry about their future careers and wonder whether they are doing themselves justice by following the Classics route. The reality is exactly the opposite; in a world of deteriorating standards Classics is valued as a GCSE that shows excellence, rigour and perseverance. Many classicists follow careers in law and medicine, business and finance, journalism, creative writing, civil service and teaching.

## GCSE CLASSICAL CIVILISATION

### **Why study Classical Civilisation?**

The study of the Greeks and Romans is a very rewarding way of understanding the cultures the Western world has been based on, varying from literature to history and art.

This course will enable you to gain a sound knowledge and understanding of the classical world in an accessible and interesting way. You will be able to read in translation some of the most superb literature ever written (some of the authors studied are Homer, Virgil and Sophocles) and also explore cultural aspects of the Greco-Roman world like the remains at Pompeii and Herculaneum or Roman Britain.

You will be able to develop an awareness of the similarities and differences between the classical world and later times as well as read, understand and make a personal response to literature in translation in the context of the particular civilisation. You will explore Greek and Roman epic in translation, study ancient Sparta and its peculiar culture and institutions, and look in detail into the fascinating cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum. There are superb opportunities for you to take part in Classics trips to the Bay of Naples and field trips to Hadrian's Wall in Northumberland.

**Opportunities:** Classical Civilisation is a very diverse course, which encompasses literature, ancient history and even archaeology. It should be a rewarding and very interesting way of learning about the ancient world. The Classics department takes students abroad at least once a year. A few years ago 25 students visited Greece and conquered Mt Olympus; last year we visited the Roman remains in Provence and next year we are going to Turkey. We take students to the Newcastle Classics conference, to Hadrian's Wall and the Classics Society provides a very welcome focus with famous classicists and archaeologists giving entertaining lectures.

**No prior knowledge of Latin or Greek is required.** This course will, however, enable the students who have some knowledge of the languages to broaden and deepen their knowledge and understanding of classical culture. We encourage students who are high flyers in Latin and/or Greek to continue with these languages to GCSE whereas Classical Civilisation is designed to appeal to students who do not study Latin or Greek at the moment or find the study of these languages rather hard. Classical Civilisation candidates achieve nationally very good results and employers value classical civilisation qualifications.

### **The Classical Civilisation GCSE course**

We follow the OCR Syllabus:

**Paper 1 (25%):** Greek and Latin Literature in translation (Sophocles's *Oedipus Rex* and *Antigone*).

**Paper 2 (25%):** Homer's *Odyssey* (Books I, X, XXI, XXII, XXIII).

**Paper 3 (25%):** City life and culture: Sparta

Sparta and its peculiar culture, why was it such a closed society, why women had a very different position from that in Athens, its superb and brutal militarist system, the secrets of its unparalleled and undefeated army;.

**Coursework (25%): Roman Britain:** Roman Britain, the Roman conquest, Celtic society adapting to the Roman ways, the development of towns and trade, Boudicca's revolt, the enlightened policies of Agricola, the centuries of peace and prosperity and the final withdrawal of the legions in AD 400.

**Careers:** Although your choice of GCSE should be based more on broadening your education rather than training for later life here are some careers that people who have done Classics have followed: law, medicine, newspaper editing, foreign correspondence, translating, library related work, teaching in universities and schools, financial planning, computer programming, archaeology, linguistics.

## **A LEVEL LATIN and GREEK**

Latin and Greek are both extremely academic and very respectable subjects. They are highly regarded by employers and university admissions tutors. Latin and Greek attract very well motivated and able candidates who may decide to apply to Oxford or Cambridge; the department has had a long career of successfully sending candidates to both universities to study Classics or other degrees.

They are not narrow subjects and have been attracting, apart from the traditional linguists, high numbers of very able scientists who view Classics as something extra they can offer to the university of their choice. If you are a talented and academic young person you should seriously consider taking Latin for the sheer challenge and enjoyment the study of Classics can offer.

The Classics A Levels are designed to provide a measure of linguistic achievement as well as study and enjoyment of very influential literature. Studying Ovid, Tacitus or Virgil sets you on very sound footing for studying English or History, for example. The Classics are the origins of our literature and culture. Anybody who achieved a good GCSE result is welcome to enter these courses.

The department has strong links with the universities of Edinburgh and Glasgow and this helps with getting in speakers with great expertise to talk about particular aspects of the Classics.

## Content

### Latin: Course Content – AS Level –OCR

#### Unit L1 Latin Language 1 hour 30 minutes (100 marks)

You will be required to translate into English two short passages of Latin. A title and translation of the previous few lines of the text help you understand content and context. There is a set vocabulary for you to learn for AS Level and the meaning is given of any words not on this list.

#### Unit L2 Latin Verse and Prose Literature 1 hour 30 minutes (100 marks)

You will study two set texts at AS level. For 2010 the set texts are:

- Part of Ovid's *Metamorphoses* Book VIII, a highly entertaining account of some of the most famous myths including Daedalus and Icarus, whose flight from King Minos ended in tragedy.
- Part of Cicero's first speech against Catiline: a daring and passionate speech in which Cicero tries to frighten Catiline and expose his plots against Rome.

The exam will give you passages from the set text and ask you to translate short sections, to answer questions on content and style and to write two very short essays.

### Course Content – A2 Level – OCR

#### Unit L3 Latin Verse 2 hours (100 marks)

This paper comes in two equally weighted parts:

A. **Prescribed Verse Literature:** passages will be given from your set book for you to comment in detail on content, style and ideas in the text. For students starting A Level Latin in September 2010 the set text will be Virgil *Aeneid* I.

B. **Unseen Verse Translation** from Ovid's elegiac poetry.

#### Unit L4 Latin Prose 2 hours (100 marks)

This paper follows the same pattern as L3:

A. **Prescribed Prose Literature:** passages will be given from your set book for you to comment in detail on content, style and ideas in the text. For students starting A Level Latin in September 2010 the set text will be Tacitus' *Annals* XIV

B. **Unseen Prose Translation** from Caesar's writings.

### Key Features Of The Syllabus:

- Language work tested by translation from Latin into English and by comprehension questions.
- Two short set texts each year, one verse and one prose. Knowledge and understanding of language, style, content and ideas are tested by translation, context questions and short essays.
- No coursework.

Prose composition is available for strong linguists in both languages.

## **Greek is set-up in exactly the same manner as Latin**

### ***AS Level Greek***

For June 2011, the AS set texts will be:

- Homer, Iliad 16. 632-861
- Lysias, 'Against Eratosthenes' 1-36 ed M Edwards Lysias Five Speeches (BCP) ISBN 1853994472.

### ***A2 Level Greek***

- Candidates are expected to prepare one verse set text. Approximately 300 lines will be set from each set text. The set text will be Euripides, Hippolytus 266-361, 601-668, 1038-1101, 1173-1254. The rest of the play should be read in English translation. The prose author will Thucydides Book 7.

The A2 unseen verse author will be: Sophocles and the A2 unseen prose author will be Xenophon.

We strongly encourage our candidates to become fully immersed in Classics and thus we attend Sixth Form conferences at Newcastle, Oxford and Cambridge and visit productions of classical drama. There is always a trip abroad every year. The department has also had the good fortune of securing good speakers who expand the students' academic scope (e.g. Paul Cartledge on the Spartans). We pursue particular topics at academic priority and informal meetings. We encourage applications to Oxford and Cambridge and we find that strong candidates usually have no problem getting into the college of their choice; if anything Oxbridge is slightly more accessible for Classicists.

### **Careers**

Some careers certainly demand a particular set of A Levels and, if so, that avenue should be followed. The great majority of professions though does not require a set type of A Level and this is where Classics (pursued in its own right or as an extra at AS) can sometimes give an edge to a candidate at, for example, a job interview. The reason for this is that Classics is very much respected by many employers since it denotes precision, rigour and persistence. Classics can be used as:

- a. A solid basis for training in law and medicine.
- b. Preparation for occupations in and connected with Classical Archaeology which include field work, materials conservation, museum work, and the travel and tourist industry (planning and conducting tours through classical countries like Italy, Greece, and Turkey).
- c. A basis for work in various government positions where there has been a long tradition of people with a classical education, including occupations in the Foreign Service and the Security Agencies.
- d. Preparation for occupations connected with education which include teaching in state and private schools as well as at college and university levels.
- e. Journalism.
- f. Business and finance.

Classics is not a subject that should be studied by an elite. It is a subject that is open to academic and talented young people who want an opportunity to be seriously challenged.

## IB LATIN and GREEK

The two year Standard and Higher Level Latin and Greek courses highly complement each other as students are allowed to explore many other authors before they actually settle down to study the prescribed ones. This is very much in the nature of the IB course since its philosophy actively encourages breadth.

You may take Latin as **one** of your foreign languages or even **instead** of them. You can take Latin and Greek together if this is something that suits your profile. The IB is offered at both Standard (5 periods per cycle) and Higher Level (7 periods per cycle). The course involves Part 1, an unseen element, and Part 2, the set text element. Standard Level students will be expected to handle less sophisticated unseens and fewer set texts than the Higher Level ones. Both Standard and Higher Level students will also need to tackle some coursework element which accounts for 20% of the total mark. The route most students take is the one of making an annotated set of notes on primary sources. Titles in the past have included Augustus' propaganda and the Athenian Empire.

Dictionaries are allowed for the unseen part of the exam for both levels.

### Content

**Latin:** The set texts are Virgil, Catullus and Horace. The emphasis will be on developing the language but also covering as many different areas of Roman literature as possible. The late Republican orator Cicero will be also be read as the author from whom Paper I unseen passages are taken from.

**Greek:** The set texts are Homer Iliad Book 6 and Sophocles' masterpiece *Oedipus Rex*. The prescribed unseen author is the Greek historian Xenophon.

The IB's philosophy and classical languages at Fettes promote:

- an ability to understand the language in the original and translate it with vigour and appropriate style.
- an ability to construct a clear argument supported by clear examples.
- an awareness of relationships between the classical and modern worlds.
- an ability to appreciate and analyse the techniques and styles of a variety of ancient texts in the original language.

**Oxbridge:** Oxford and Cambridge are becoming increasingly aware of the IB and they are very keen to consider candidates that have gone through the IB training.

## A LEVEL CLASSICAL CIVILISATION

This is an exciting subject that involves not only looking at literature but also history and archaeology. Classical Civilisation is a highly respected subject by employers who appreciate the versatility, breadth and insight that the course inspires in its student. **No knowledge of Latin and Greek is required nor do you need to have studied Classical Civilisation at GCSE.** You may need a little extra reading in the beginning to become aware e.g. of the Greek gods etc. but we find that students take that in their stride.

### Content

**CIV1 Athenian Democracy:** This module looks at the development of democracy in Athens in the 6<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> centuries' BC. In addition to the fascinating story of how the people gradually gained more power for themselves, we look at democracy in action through Aristophanes' satirical comedy *The Wasps*.

**CIV2 Homer's *Odyssey*:** One of the earliest texts in European literature, the *Odyssey* is also one of its most exciting stories. Follow Odysseus home from the Trojan War through a monster-strewn Mediterranean and see his brutal revenge on those who tried to take his kingdom for themselves.

**CIV3 Augustus and the Foundation of the Principate:** How did a republic become an empire? How did one man create a regime which would unite the Mediterranean world after nearly a hundred years of civil war and political instability?

**CIV4 Roman Epic:** Virgil's *Aeneid* – The founding myth of Rome? An imitation of Homer? Or a propaganda vehicle for the Emperor Augustus. This module looks at this extraordinary poem in its contemporary context and shows that it still has much to tell us today.

The Department offers a visit to London where we get a tour of the Parthenon marbles in the British Museum and an annual tour to a place of classical interest.

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### Careers

Some careers certainly demand a particular set of A Levels and, if so, that avenue should be followed. The great majority of professions though does not require a set type of A Level and this is where Classical Civilisation sometimes give an edge to a candidate at, for example, a job interview. Students worry that the study of classical civilisation may be seen by employers as irrelevant or even a dead end. Statistics show the opposite. Students who have studied some Classics or Classical Civilisation at university have the

lowest levels of unemployment afterwards. You will be highly employable! The reason for this is that Classics is very much respected by many employers since it denotes precision, rigour and persistence and the desire to be open to different cultures:

- a. Classical Civilisation is a superb background for those who want to be involved in creative writing, journalism or publishing.
- b. Preparation for occupations in and connected with Classical Archaeology which include field work, materials conservation, museum work, and the travel and tourist industry (planning and conducting tours through classical countries like Italy, Greece, and Turkey).
- c. A basis for work in various government positions where there has been a long tradition of people with a classical education, including occupations in the Foreign Service and the Security Agencies.
- d. Preparation for occupations connected with education which includes teaching in state and private schools as well as at college and university levels.
- e. Business and finance.