



LATIN

“Because Latin is taught to be read, not spoken, as you learn it you gain an understanding of the mechanics and structure of language streets ahead of any you will gain from the study of a modern tongue. Any other language – not just Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, but German, Russian, Arabic – becomes easier for a student with a grounding in Latin. A student can use Latin to grasp the bones and sinews of any language.

Students learning it will quickly start to read the great classics of Latin literature. Virgil, Catullus, Pliny, Ovid, Cicero, Horace, Tacitus. This is tough, uncompromisingly difficult stuff – but also offers entry into an astonishing world, a lost world that paradoxically offers itself up vividly and excitingly through its literature. These great writers lie at the head of a western tradition in writing that enfolds Chaucer, Shakespeare and Milton. To be a good reader of English literature, the literature of the Romans offers an inestimable advantage.

Latin doesn't help to turn out factory-made mini-consumers fit for a globalised 21st-century society. It helps create curious, intellectually rigorous students with a rich interior world, people who have the tools to see our world as it really is because they have encountered and imaginatively experienced another that is so like, and so very unlike, our own.”

Extract from *The Guardian*

When studying Latin you are studying a language, a literature and a civilisation – all of which have a profound effect on the modern world.

Latin shares many of the virtues of History, English and Modern Languages and therefore combines well with these subjects. Recent Latinists, however, have also been scientists and mathematicians who enjoy the logical and

analytical approach to the language. Latin is regarded by admissions tutors of various subjects as ‘impressive’ and is highly valued by many employers.

Those who study Latin can go on to read for a Classical degree or can proceed to quite different courses such as English, History, Law, Languages, Medicine or Sciences. Classicists are also highly valued in the work place where they are seen to be bright, motivated and possessing excellent analytical skills. It is a challenging subject and respected as such by universities and employers.

A number of students choose to go on to Classical degrees at top universities – ask us for more details.

To embark on Latin you need:

- To have gained a good grade at GCSE – at least a 7 (or equivalent level)
- To enjoy reading and analysing literature in the original language
- To be prepared to grapple with the language
- To enjoy reading about the Classical World and setting the literature in context

The course

Language and literature are both assessed through examinations at the end of Year 13. There are four exams in total (two language and two literature). The total marks are split 50/50 between language and literature and so teaching will also be split evenly in order to ensure thorough preparation. The skills in translation and literary criticism learnt in Year 11 will be used and improved upon in Year 12 and then again in Year 13.

Latin language

A familiarity with Golden Latin (1st Century BC-1st Century AD) is acquired through exposure to a variety of texts. Students will be encouraged to interact with selected passages and explore authorial intention and execution.

In Year 12 the focus will be on unseen prose authors; translation and comprehension will be studied as well as English-Latin translation (prose composition). Learning grammar and vocabulary will be key and once this is learnt students will be able to make excellent progress throughout Year 12 and 13.

In Year 13 prose authors will still be studied but there will also be a move to the unseen translation of verse authors (from Latin to English only).

Latin verse and prose literature

This module develops an appreciation of original Latin texts, intertwining the social, literary and historical contexts to produce individual readings of seminal pieces of literature. Personal responses are encouraged; each student must evaluate evidence and demonstrate an understanding of the literature and its context.

The set texts currently being studied in Year 12 are:

- Virgil's *Aeneid IV* – The tragic love story of Dido and Aeneas; a brief extract from Rome's most famous author whose work has had a vast impact on western literature.
- Cicero's *Pro Roscio Amerino* – The first law trial of Rome's greatest orator, defending his client on charges of poisoning and murder.

Possible future set texts

Virgil – *Aeneid* (other books)

Ovid – *Heroides/Fasti*

Catullus – selected poems

Juvenal - *Satires*

Cicero – *Pro Caelio* (and other speeches)

Tacitus – *Annals* (other books)

Livy – *History of Rome*

Pliny – *Letters*