



Solihull School

19 March 2010

Dear Parents

GCSE Classical Civilisation

As some of you may be aware from speaking to your son/daughter, we would like to offer the pupils who currently study Latin in the Fourth Form, the opportunity to take a GCSE in Classical Civilisation.

Classical Civilisation is the study of the history, literature and society of the classical world. It is a broad and varied subject which we are sure your son/daughter will enjoy and which will also help to develop his/her abilities in areas such as analysis and evaluation, research, essay writing and discussion. No prior knowledge of the subject is required and there is no foreign language element. Miss Dickinson and Miss Guy will both teach the GCSE, taking responsibility for specific units.

Although we do offer A Level Classical Civilisation on-timetable, the GCSE is not currently offered on-timetable and so will be taught off-timetable during one lunchtime and one after-school session per week. As such, it is important that anyone wishing to take advantage of this opportunity is self-motivated and committed!

We propose to begin teaching in the Summer Term of *this* school year, meeting on Monday lunchtimes to study Unit A353 – Pompeii (see overleaf for more information on the Units). In September, the teaching of this Unit will continue and work will also begin on Unit A354, the Controlled Assessment on the Olympic Games. The lessons for Unit A354 will take place on Friday afternoons from 4.15 - 5.30pm.

This is a really fantastic opportunity for your son/daughter to gain an extra Short Course or Full Course GCSE in a well-respected and interesting subject. If your son/daughter does wish to do so, please complete the reply slip overleaf and return it to Miss Dickinson by Wednesday 24 March.

Should you have any questions, please email Miss Dickinson at dickinsonl@solsch.org.uk or by telephone on 0121 705 0958.

Yours sincerely

Miss L Dickinson
Classics Department

Warwick Road, Solihull, West Midlands B91 3DJ
Tel: 0121 705 0958 Fax: 0121 711 4439 Email: admin@solsch.org.uk



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The Units

Below is a brief outline of the wide variety of topics studied in each unit:

A351 – City Life – City Life in Athens (topics include: the gods, temples & sacrifice; education; Greek tragedy & comedy drama; life in the home).

A352 – Epic & Myth – Homer's *Odyssey* (a literature unit focusing on 6 chapters of Homer's well-known tale chronicling the return from the Trojan War of the Greek hero Odysseus).

A353 – Community Life – Community Life in Pompeii (topics include: the eruption of Mount Vesuvius, Roman theatres, amphitheatres, baths & houses).

A354 – Controlled Assessment – the Olympic Games (an opportunity to research this fascinating topic & produce a written piece of work evaluating & analysing the information you have uncovered).

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Name: Form:

My son/daughter would like to take advantage of the opportunity to study GCSE Classical Civilisation.

I understand that the lessons will take place on Monday lunchtime and Friday after school and confirm that he/she will be able to attend these lessons.

Signed: Date:

Please return to Miss Dickinson by Wednesday 24 March

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