

## The Course

These three modules have been chosen to encompass as much of the Classical World as possible through looking at the literature, philosophy and thought, material culture, society and people of the Classical World.

## What is Classical Civilisation?

- The world of Classics is all around us: in our literature, our theatre, our art, our philosophy and still there to be seen at Hadrian's Wall, Bath and Lunt Fort outside Coventry (to name but a few sites in this country). Classics is thriving in schools and universities. Indeed, television and film are showing an increasing interest in the Ancient world, on topics such as gladiators, Pompeii, the Trojan War, Boudicca, Alexander the Great, and the society and culture of Greece and Rome, and more and more theatres are putting on productions of not only Ancient Drama, but also drama inspired by the Ancient World and the people who were part of that world.
- The modules have been chosen to encompass as much of the Classical World as humanly possible looking at the literature, society and people of the Classical World.



## The World of the Hero:

In this module students will study both Homer's Iliad and Virgil's Aeneid, epics which are the foundation of Western, if not World, literature. Students will develop an increasingly sophisticated knowledge and understanding of the epics themselves, the way in which they were composed and the religious, cultural and social values and beliefs of its society. The idea of heroism will be discussed, allowing students to consider what makes a hero, as well as the similarities and differences between an ancient and a modern hero. The history and politics of these epics will be explored, as well as how they influenced both Homer and Virgil, and how we can use these epics as a prism through which we can analyse and understand our own history and politics.

## Culture and the Arts:

In this module, students will either study the Greek Art of the 6th-4th centuries BC, or the Greek Theatre of the same time period. This was a period of great change in the Greek world and this is reflected in the art and theatre that was produced. This module will allow students not only to gain a thorough knowledge of Greek Art or the Greek Theatre, but also to develop their understanding of, and insight into, the context in which the art, both in term of pottery and sculpture, and the plays produced, were created, particularly the areas of religion, society, values, history, war and politics. This study will hone students' visual, analytical and literary skills, develop their ability to offer critical analyses, and enable them to articulate an informed personal response to a variety of different works.



### **Beliefs and Ideas - Love and Relationships:**

Ideas about love and relationships are key aspects of the literature, thoughts, and ethics of any society. In this module students will be given the opportunity to recognise and relate to the passions, frustrations and delights of love in the ancient world, and explore the ethical questions raised by these ideas – questions that are still wrestled over today. A study of both philosophy and poetry will underpin this module, as students grapple with both ancient and modern ideas about men, women and marriage, as well as exploring the nature of the 'right' and 'wrong' ways to love and be loved. Whenever possible, trips will be made to see performances of Greek Drama and relevant sites and exhibitions, and visits will be arranged to a variety of museums including the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, and the British Museum. Trips will also be made to different universities to hear talks by leading scholars, and every two years the department travels to a Classical site, such as Greece or Rome and Pompeii.

### **What do I need to study Classical Civilisation?**

A minimum Grade 6 in GCSE English Literature, Language or Classical Civilisation is required and a Grade 7 is strongly recommended. It is not necessary to have studied GCSE Classical Civilisation or Latin to pursue the A Level course.

A Level subject video available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uFZcJO5bPV8>