

## ■ IB Latin HL and SL

### **Introduction**

The IB Latin course focuses on developing the ability to read and appreciate Latin literature. The student's knowledge of grammar, vocabulary and syntax will be reinforced, with regular practice on unseen translation and comprehension. Above all, the student will develop a critical approach to Latin literature and the civilisation which produced it. A successful student will make informed comparisons with later literature but, above all, will base clear judgements on a close reading of the text. These skills are readily transferred to work in English, history, philosophy, politics or modern languages. Classicists go into marketing, retail, personnel, hospital management, the wine trade, prison service, computing, banking, city head-hunting, opera, insurance, accountancy, the law, publishing, journalism, bookbinding, advertising, auctioneering, the Church and teaching. Small teaching groups enable us to run friendly and effective discussions. Students get a great deal of individual attention. We also like to take students to plays, lectures and classical sites.

### **Content**

#### ***Study of the language***

The study of the language is designed to develop basic language skills. At Standard Level this will be examined by a passage from an author such as Ovid, who specialised in witty love poetry and provides a unique insight into the social lives of clever educated Romans of his day. At Higher Level this will be examined by a passage from an author such as Livy, who paints a vivid picture of the early legends and history of Rome.

#### ***Topics***

At both levels students study two topics chosen from a list of five in Latin and in translation. These include such titles as: Roman epic, Tacitus' presentation of imperial policy, Cicero's political speeches, Love poetry and Roman satire.

#### ***Individual study (Higher Level only)***

At Higher Level pupils research a topic from a wide choice to include classical history, literature, language, religion, mythology, art, archaeology or influence. This may be an extension of something already studied or a new area. Latin composition may also be studied in this area.

### **Assessment**

The external assessment comprises two written papers. The first paper is a translation of a passage from the prescribed Latin text into English. The second paper is questions and an essay on the chosen topics. These two papers make up 80% of the total marks for Higher Level and all the marks for Standard Level. The individual study makes up the remaining 20% of the marks at Higher Level.