

A Level Latin

This course focuses on developing the ability to read and appreciate Latin literature. Prose authors might include Cicero, the most talented defence lawyer of his day, or Tacitus, who paints a vivid picture of the intrigue and scandal surrounding the imperial court. Verse authors are likely to include Virgil and Ovid. Virgil wrote the great narrative poem, the Aeneid, in which he tells of Aeneas' journey from Troy to Italy. Ovid specialised in witty love poetry and provides a unique insight into the social lives of clever educated Romans of his day. He also wrote the amazing Metamorphoses, an epic journey through myths about people who are transformed into a different shape or being, beginning with creation and weaving its way through history.

Knowledge of grammar, vocabulary and syntax will be reinforced, with regular practice on unseen translation and comprehension. Students will develop a critical approach to Latin literature and the civilisation that produced it. A successful student will make informed comparisons with later literature but, above all, will base clear judgements on a close reading of textual evidence. Latin combines with almost any subject. The skills of deduction, logic, analysis and interpretation it teaches are shared with Maths, other languages, Science, English, History and other humanities, Philosophy, and almost anything else. Successful Latinists are almost always successful in all their other subjects.

Examinations are taken at the end of the course; it is possible to take the AS rather than the full A level at the end of Year 13.

Content

Unit 1 – Unseen Translation

This unit offers the opportunity to build on linguistic skills learnt in Years 9-11. It is examined by an unseen translation paper; currently the prose translation will be from Livy and the verse from Ovid.

Unit 2 – Comprehension

This is of the same linguistic standard as Unit 1 but in this paper you answer questions on an unseen text. A wide range of prose authors will be studied.

Unit 3 - Latin Prose

You will study selections from one or two Latin prose authors, along with additional literature in translation, to understand the context of the works you study in Latin.

Unit 4 - Latin Prose

You will study selections from one or two Latin poets along with additional literature in translation to understand the context of the works you study in Latin.

General

Small teaching groups enable us to run friendly and effective discussions. The nature of the course means that these discussions almost certainly cover a wider range of topics and ideas than any other subject. Students get a great deal of individual attention. We also like to take students to plays, lectures and classical sites.

