



BEECHEN CLIFF

# Welcome to Classical Civilisation



Aspiration

Compassion

Independence

Respect



"This is the subject which makes all the other subjects make sense."  
- Tom, Year 13

## What is Classical Civilisation?

In Classical Civilisation, we give students a broad understanding of the Classical World, delving into great literature, visual and material culture and profound philosophy.

It's a fantastic course which aims to enrich students' understanding of the intellectual and artistic roots of our culture and immerse them in fascinating, rich ancient societies, each with their own distinct – and often profoundly eccentric – values and traditions.

All the works are studied in translation, so it's perfect for students who have not had the chance to study Latin or Greek at GCSE but want to develop their understanding of the ancient world.





What you're in for:

3 units of study:

- World of the Hero
- Imperial Image
- Love and Relationships



All these units are assessed in a series of formal exams in year 13. There is no coursework.



## World of the Hero

The core unit of the course, this covers two great epics – Homer's *Odyssey* and Virgil's *Aeneid*.

Studying these epics is essential for any student of the Classical world. These timeless stories have it all: epic battles, raging tempests, horrifying monsters, love, sex, death, trickery, remorse and redemption.

We study these texts as literary constructs, exploring how and why they were composed, as well as the details of plot, theme and character. This unit will give you a grounding not just in two epic pieces of literature, but in the very foundations of our artistic and cultural world.





## Imperial Image

How did the adopted teenage son of Rome's greatest general transform himself from blood-soaked dictator to Rome's first citizen, elder statesman and cherished guardian of the Republic?

In this unit we study how Augustus manipulated and adapted his image over his long, eventful rule. It's a masterclass in reputation management from the greatest politician who ever lived.

We study a huge range of ancient historical documents, visual/material sources and literature to discover how Augustus invented... Augustus, and laid the template for every Emperor who came after him.







## Love and Relationships

How did people in ancient cultures form relationships, love, and have sex? What did they consider normal and healthy, and what was deviant, abhorrent or dangerous?

A consistent favourite with students, this unit considers love in the ancient world through the prism of four great writers and thinkers: Plato, Sappho, Seneca and Ovid. We explore the literature and contexts of these wonderful figures and uncover moments of bliss, connection, condemnation and uproarious humour.





## How can I prepare for Classical Civ?

- ✓ Read! Reading the Odyssey in particular, and familiarising yourself with the plot and characters, will give you a massive head start.
- ✓ Brushing up on your knowledge of popular myths and the Greco-Roman pantheon will also help enormously.
- ✓ Visiting museums like the Ashmolean in Oxford (or the Roman Baths down the hill!) will help immerse you in the art and culture of the Ancient World.





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# **Oxford Trip: Magdalene College The Ashmolean Museum**



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# The Newt Trip: Villa Ventorum, Somerset



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## What past students have said about studying Classics...

"I knew almost nothing about Classics before Year 12 – now I have such a passion for it I'm off to study it at university!"  
- Josh, Year 13

"In every lesson, I learned something strange, weird or interesting. And every lesson was fun."  
- Felix, Year 13

"The strange thing wasn't how different the Ancient World was – it was often how similar to ours it was."  
- Noah, Year 13

"It meshes very well with all my other subjects. And it has my favourite class vibe."  
- Maia, Year 12

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