

(Almost) Everything you wanted to know about Latin...

What will I learn?

The Latin course is based on three areas of study - ICT based activities, traditional language learning and the stories of myth, legend and facts in Roman history. Starting with basic techniques for understanding the language, its word order and endings, as well as an introduction to the most famous characters of Rome, such as Julius Caesar, Hannibal and Romulus and Remus and general studies about the buried city of Pompeii and Roman Britain, you will soon see the vast range of the subject opening up before you for discussion and understanding. By the end of Year 9 many of the main elements of the GCSE course will have been covered in both linguistic and historical terms.



Will there be lots of language work?

Yes, but with the aim of improving your English vocabulary, sentence structure and spelling. As with any language you will need to learn about how to put words together correctly so that they make sense and Latin is a very logical language which repays learning by better understanding of sentences, of how English words work and how much we owe to the Romans. Sometimes pupils who are good at Maths and Science prefer Latin as it works to the same patterned structures as Maths. Students of English, History and the Arts in general can easily appreciate the contribution of Latin to our understanding of literature and man's history. The language is a means to an end for us to read what the Romans had to say and why it is still relevant today. After two years you will have learned four tenses and three noun patterns and you will understand some important linguistic concepts, such as word order and the use of endings to change meanings.

Is it only language work?

No. The joy of studying the Classical World of the Greeks and Romans is the wealth of stories, archaeology, history, architecture, art, literature, warfare, characters (both good and bad!) which are available to you to read about in English and in Latin in order to understand our own complex world in terms of what has gone before.

Regular organised trips to Rome and Pompeii, to Greece and to sites around Britain can add to your studies and bring the incredibly rich heritage of these periods to life.

As a student of Classics/Latin you can have the opportunity think about, question and debate human behaviour and morals. Archaeologists in the making will also enjoy the chance to study the buried city of Pompeii in detail to answer questions about Roman society and how we know about it.



What will the lessons be like?

The lessons range from the formal teaching of the language, usually on the Interactive white boards, learning to manipulate and understanding the workings of the language in detail, to ICT lessons where pupils follow an e-learning resource especially aimed at this age group, containing videos, games, activities and tests of vocabulary and grammar. On the e-learning resource you can also look up words as you go along in a passage and you can work at your own pace, allowing personal support for pupils by the teacher, Mr Morton, Head of Classics.

Is Latin a dead language?

Absolutely not! Latin is not dead; it is immortal, being an excellent example of something that is necessary for nothing but useful for everything. All the languages of Europe and many beyond can be learnt quickly if a good grounding in Latin has been gained since linguistic patterns and words which derive from others has formed the development of languages throughout the ages. Hence, the techniques of Latin are applicable in most languages and the examples of Roman history help us to understand humans and our world today in a much deeper way. To misquote Julius Caesar - I came to Latin, I learnt it and then I started to understand the world.