



Classics for All

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

JANUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER

WELCOME TO THE CLASSICS FOR ALL SECONDARY SCHOOL JANUARY NEWSLETTER!

I hope you have had a good start to the term and you all had an enjoyable holiday! If you would like to be featured in the Newsletter this year at any point, please do get in touch via cfaschoolsupport@classicsforall.org.uk and let me know what you would like me to share with others! We love to hear quotes from children too!

SCHOOL OF THE MONTH! UPTON HALL FCJ, WIRRAL



45 pupils in Year 9 completed the Olympus Challenge this year (30 last year)!!!

Huge congratulations to Faye and her pupils for their fantastic, beautiful work!

I hope you all enjoying it! We look forward to seeing what your students do in future years.

Upton Hall, in Wirral in the North West of the country, is a Roman Catholic selective Girls Grammar School. It serves a large catchment area, with a diverse range of pupils with various backgrounds.

As part of the Ada Lovelace scheme at Upton Hall, which focuses on enabling the highest achieving pupils to embark on activities which will enhance their applications for university, they decided to complete the Olympus Challenge. The three options they chose were:

- Study of Latin, two completed translations or grammar exercises from the Cambridge Latin Course.
- A creative response to Greek Mythology.
- A visit to 'Roman' Chester, and/or Return of the Gods exhibition at the National Museum of Liverpool

It is fantastic to see a school completing the Olympus Challenge, even with no other Classics teaching, and shows the different ways pupils can enjoy and benefit from learning about the ancient world.



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WORD ROOT OF THE MONTH: Why is a Peninsula Called a Peninsula?

“pen” comes
from the Latin
paene =
almost



“insula” is
a Latin
word =
island

So, a Peninsula is a body of land surrounded on three sides by water, and therefore
“almost an island”!

CLASSICS FOR ALL UPCOMING CPD

KEY STAGE 2/3 ANCIENT HISTORY CPD

5th March 2025, 4-5pm, Online



A CPD Session to explore resources that can be used to incorporate Ancient History into your History teaching at KS2 and KS3. The session will be presented by three experienced teachers and practitioners: Gem Adams, on a 10 part course called “Why was ‘rex’ such a dirty word in Ancient Rome?”; Jane Ainsworth, on Life in the Roman World, resources to teach about local Roman History; Caroline Bristow, on Amarantus, a course based on a character in Pompeii.

For more information, and for the form to register for the CPD session, please see [this poster](#).

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NOTICES FROM THE CLASSICAL ASSOCIATION

REMINDER:

MYTHOLOGY COMPETITION FOR KEY STAGE 3

We are delighted to announce a Mythology Competition for school students, or those being home-educated, both in the UK and across the world, who are in Key Stages 2 and 3 (or equivalent) i.e. aged 7-14. This was previously the Minimus Mythology Competition run by the Primary Latin Project, and has now been brought under the aegis of the Classical Association.

Students are invited to submit a piece of Creative Writing, Art or an animation in response to all or a part of:

Key Stage 2: The Wooden Horse

Key Stage 3: Romulus and Remus



All details about the competition, and how to enter can be found [here](#).

WHY IS CLASSICS IMPORTANT?

Write, Speak, Design Competition - DEADLINE 31st JAN 2025!

As part of our [Celebrating Classics Campaign](#), we're launching a brand new competition which is open to everybody, across the world, and celebrates how and why we study the ancient past. We want you to share your innovative ideas with us as well as your experiences of studying Classics.

For all details and how to enter, click [here](#).

Teachers and pupils can enter!



If you are a teacher OVER 25, and would like to enter, please click [here](#).

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CLASSICAL LANGUAGES CPD DAY

Friday 21st March 2025, Marriott Hotel, Liverpool

This event will be in-person at the Marriott Hotel, Liverpool on Friday 21st March 2025.

The Roman Society and Classics For All are kindly supporting us with offering travel bursaries for state school teachers. These are available on a first come, first served basis. Please contact Gráinne for more information: education@classicalassociation.org.

Please use [this form](#) to register for this event, and to indicate which workshop you are most likely to attend through the day. This is not a binding commitment, but will help us arrange appropriate rooms.

THE CLASSICS PODCAST DOES...

Ancient History A Level

Welcome to The Classics Podcast Does...Ancient History A Level, a series designed for students, teachers and anyone interested in learning more about the ancient world! Ancient History teacher and author James Renshaw chats to experts about some of the key events, themes, sources and debates in the OCR Ancient History A Level.

Click on [this link](#) for further details and all the episodes.





EXHIBITIONS AND OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

Gladiators of Britain: A new British Museum touring exhibition

From January 2025, a new British Museum touring exhibition will explore the history of gladiators in Britain.

The events of the amphitheatre, with its wild beasts and enslaved fighters, are one of the most fascinating aspects of Roman culture that still capture the public imagination today. Visiting Dorchester, Northampton, Chester and Carlisle, Gladiators of Britain will bring together some of the country's most important objects to tell the story of Roman entertainment venues in Britain. Highlights will include the Colchester Vase loaned by Colchester Museums, which records an actual battle between two real gladiators, and the Hawkedon Helmet, the only confirmed piece of gladiatorial armour from Roman Britain. These iconic loans will be supported by a selection of other items that reveal the popularity of gladiators throughout Roman society.

A partnership with Colchester and Ipswich Museums, this family-friendly exhibition will explore Roman spectacle in the local region of each venue, following in the footsteps of gladiators around the UK.

A British Museum Partnership Exhibition Gladiators of Britain will be on display at Dorset Museum & Art Gallery, Dorchester (25 January – 11 May 2025); Northampton Museum & Art Gallery (24 May – 7 September 2025); Grosvenor Museum, Chester (20 September 2025 – 25 January 2026); and Tullie House Museum & Art Gallery, Carlisle (7 February – 19 April 2026).



Glass sports cup © Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service - Colchester Collection



Colchester Vase © Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service - Colchester Collection

EXHIBITIONS AND OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

People, Pots and Poetry Taster Day 4th March 2025, Girton College, Cambridge



Girton College is hosting People, Pots & Poetry - a Taster Day for students to experience the study of Classics, Archaeology and ASNaC (Anglo-Saxon, Norse & Celtic). It is open to students in Year 11 and Year 12; Year 11 students are welcome to apply, but Year 12 students will be given priority.

In allocating places, we will consider the teacher's recommendation as well as contextual data including the school background and regional representation at Cambridge.

Students must make their own way to and from Girton College. We regret we do not have space for parents, teachers, or supporters to remain during the day. Refreshments and lunch will be provided.

Year 12 students must be studying a Humanities subject and be on track to receive A*AA or equivalent.

All details and booking information can be found [here](#).

JACT Greek Summer School - Courses in Ancient Greek for Teachers 27th July to 9th August 2025, Bryanston School

The Teacher courses held at the JACT Greek Summer School (27th July to 9th August 2025) are designed to assist prospective or existing teachers of Ancient Greek both with their own language skills, and with teaching the subject at different levels.

Please see the JACT Greek Summer School website ([Teacher Courses - Greek Summer School](#)) for further details of the courses and how to apply. The main features of the courses are:-

- 15 hours of Greek tuition (with significant amounts of independent study in between sessions).
- integrated discussion about delivering the material in schools, as well as extra CPD sessions (e.g. Greek on limited time, textbook options, how to exploit links with Latin, online tools, etc.).
- lesson observations of other classes at the summer school.
- afternoon seminars and evening lectures, covering a wide range of linguistic, literary, historical, philosophical and artistic topics.

The course fee for 2025 is £565. The fee includes all tuition and full-board accommodation (mature students are usually housed together). It also includes an optional £40 donation towards our Bursary Fund. We would expect that most teachers applying for the course would be funded by their school. If this is not possible, [bursaries are available; thanks to generous support from Classics For All, the Classical Association and individual donors, we have funds specifically to support teachers.](#)

EXHIBITIONS AND OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

Hellenic and Roman Library Event

Greek Tragedy in Performance, 26th February - 26th March 2025

Online Course, 6-7:30pm, plus recordings will be available

Course Description

This course studies how Greek tragedy was performed in ancient Athens and beyond, and how studying performance can deepen our understanding of the texts that survive. In many ways ancient theatrical conventions were very different from modern Western drama. Studying them helps us not only to understand the plays better but also the society which produced them.

Session Topics

Session 1: Wednesday 26 February: Theatre Spaces

Session 2: Wednesday 5 March: Theatre People

Session 3: Wednesday 12 March: Aeschylus, Agamemnon

Session 4: Wednesday 19 March: Sophocles, Philoctetes

Session 5: Wednesday 26 March: Euripides, Bacchae

All details, including registration can be found [here](#).



St John's College Oxford Competition

The St. John's College, Oxford Classics and Ancient History Essay Competition will be running for the fifteenth time during the academic year 2024/25. The competition is open to all UK students currently studying in Year 12 (Lower Sixth) or equivalent, whether or not they are currently studying a Classical or Ancient subject. All entrants are invited to apply for our Classics and Ancient History Subject Exploration Day at St John's College, Oxford on Wednesday 23rd April 2025; see [here](#) for details.

Each student may submit one essay (only) of up to 2,000 words on any of the following four questions:

1. Does ancient literature equate might with right?
2. Why did monarchies succeed in Greek and/or Roman history?
3. Was Plato right that the best rulers are reluctant ones?
4. How important was the visual representation of women for expressing royal and/or imperial power in the ancient world?

All details, including how to apply can be found [here](#).





The Gilbert Murray Trust - Bursaries and other school support

THE CLASSICAL COMMITTEE of the Gilbert Murray Trust seeks to promote the study of ancient Greek civilisation, culture and language. It provides recurring support to a number of initiatives, including vacation schools at the British School at Athens and courses on Classical Civilisation and the ancient Greek language.

The Trust contributes each year, along with the British Academy's Cromer Fund and the Joint Association of Classical Teachers, to bursaries for students attending the Summer School organised by JACT at Bryanston or one of the similar summer schools held in several different centres. It also makes a small number of occasional awards in support of other activities which promote its aims, such as productions of ancient Greek drama, and conferences. In the past, for example, it helped to bring a scholar from Russia to speak at a conference on Ancient Slavery and Abolition held in London.

THE OLYMPUS CHALLENGE

Having shown you the lovely work submitted by Upton Hall School, I thought I would remind you all about Classics for All's "Olympus Challenge":

Are you running an extra-curricular classics club? Would you like to recognise your students' achievements in classics?

The Olympus Challenge recognises the work of students studying Classics on an extra-curricular basis. To complete the challenge, students must choose three modules from a choice of five options. This flexibility enables groups to tailor the challenge according to their own interests.

All details, including how to sign up and submit your students' work can be found [here](#). If you have any questions, please contact us at cfaschoolsupport@classicsforall.org.uk.

FINALLY...

Don't forget, if you would like top-up training and any other support, please get in touch with your local Network Coordinator and us, via cfaschoolsupport@classicsforall.org.uk.

Thank you for all your enthusiastic work in bringing Classics to your schools!