

4 Hour Latin Course

a) *Content/themes/*

The intention of this course is to consolidate the students' knowledge of Latin language and literature and also to enhance their interest in the Classical world: its society, political systems, art, architecture, engineering, science and medicine. At the same time it will deepen the students' knowledge of their own language and promote important study skills, like close textual analysis, translation technique and literary criticism.

The official syllabus is divided into two separate sections for sixth and seventh year.

6th Year Syllabus:

The 6th year course foresees the revision of any grammar necessary and an introduction to more poetic or archaic forms of grammatical expression. Translation technique will be practised. Students will also learn how to scan the more common poetical metres and an appreciation of rhetorical technique. They will normally read from one prose author and from one poet suitable to the level of the class, decided in common with the teacher so that, from the wealth of literature available, texts can be chosen which reflect the students' own interests and tie in with other courses like literature read in the mother tongue or themes dealt with in History or Philosophy.

7th Year Syllabus:

In the seventh year a common syllabus is set by Brussels for all the schools which changes annually and which foresees the reading of either a prose or a poetry selection to be read with reference to a theme. E.g. Cicero's speeches – Revolution and Riot in Ancient Rome; Roman Comedy - Terence with reference to later writers like Moliere and Shakespeare; Amor Omnia Vincit – Catullus, Ovid and love poetry through the ages. The Road to Hell – Virgil's Aeneid and other visions of the Underworld: Homer, Dante and Milton.

This course is for all students who wish to further their knowledge of the language and literature of Rome. It is particularly suitable for students who wish to go on to study literary courses at university, Linguistics, History and Law. Similarly Scientists often have a natural bent for Latin and it can provide a perfect foil to subjects like Mathematics and Physics.

b) *Approach and Methodology*

The intention is always to encourage students to form a personal relationship with Latin literature and culture. Obviously a smaller class size facilitates active participation in class and a less inhibited exchange of competences and ideas. It also encourages the use of self-correction and peer review but also dramatization, role-play etc.

Students are encouraged to take part in the advanced course in Latin at Durham University in the summer and trips can be arranged to classical sites – Rome, Sicily or Greece, if there is the demand.

c) *Homework, Tests, Exams and the BAC.*

A mark [6th and 7th year]: This is achieved on the basis of class participation, homework and class work.

B mark [6th year]: This is the average of the two semester examinations.

B mark [7th year]: This is formed from the 1st semester exam mark plus either the written exam in June or the oral exam. If neither is chosen, the January mark counts double. The January exam and the written Bac. consist of two parts a) an unseen translation [50 marks] and b) questions on the set text read in class which include comprehension, literary criticism and wider reflection [50 marks]. The oral exam requires translation of a short passage from the set text read in class and literary questions. Students may use a dictionary and a conspectus grammaticalis in all exams.

Entry level –preliminary written or oral tests.

Students must have completed the 4th and 5th year course in Latin successfully or have studied Latin to the same level in another school.