

# A LEVEL CLASSICAL CIVILISATION



## Course description

**Awarding Body:** OCR

### Examinations:

H408/11: The World of the Hero

H408/21: Greek Theatre

H408/31: Love and Relationships

**Non Examined Assessment:** all units are assessed by examination.

## Course content

### The World of the Hero

You study two of the founding texts of western civilization, *The Odyssey* and *The Aeneid*. Journey with Odysseus on his ten-year voyage home as he blinds the drunken Cyclops, is thwarted by angry gods and even pops down to the underworld. Then, as Troy burns, Aeneas sails for Italy, there to found the Roman Empire. You study oral composition and narrative techniques; also explored are the role of fate and the gods, the heroic code, the importance of family, concepts of honour and revenge, the use of literature as political propaganda.

### Greek Theatre

We look at the mother of all tragedies, and arguably the most influential play of all time, *Oedipus the King*. Then we study the cruellest of all plays, Euripides' *The Bacchae*. As light relief, we read the Greek Comedy *Frogs*. The plays are considered as both works of literature and historical sources revealing the beliefs of the culture which produced them. Theatre is something you watch, so we look at vase paintings showing the myths behind, and performances of, these plays.

### Love and Relationships

This module embraces both philosophy and literature. We examine love, desire and friendship, their manifestations and symptoms; if needed, their cures. We look at men and women, homoerotic and heterosexual relationships. We dwell awhile on the isle of Lesbos with the poet Sappho, before hitting the road with Ovid, cast into exile for his scandalous lovers' guide *Ars Amatoria*. Of course, the brain is the great organ of love, so we also consider the philosophy of Plato and Seneca.

## Entry requirements

Grade 7, 8 or 9 in English, or English Literature, or History, or RS.

## Future opportunities

'You have to tell them – everything I needed to survive an Oxford law degree, I learnt on your Classical Civilisation A Level' – Safia, ex-Newstead Student.

A Level Classical Civilisation is highly regarded by universities and employers. It provides excellent training in critical thought and the ability to write logically and analytically. Our students go on to read degrees in: Classics; Classical Civilisation; Ancient History; History; Law; PPE; English; Architecture; Psychology; Medicine and so on. An established pattern, year in year out, is that the majority of Newstead Wood students achieving places at Oxford or Cambridge have Classical Civilisation as one of their A Levels.

Students in Year 12 are invited to apply for positions as Student Subject Leaders. They promote the subject across the school, run Classics Club, mentor students, design display boards, organise theatre trips, speak at Open Evening.

## **Further information**

Last summer's A level results: students achieved many more A and A\* grades than the national average, and examination board data shows our students consistently scored higher than - sometimes double - the national average on all 10-, 20- and 30-mark tasks!