### Latin and Greek A Levels

### Awarding Body: OCR

Students wanting to study Latin at A Level should have at least an A grade in GCSE Latin in order to take this subject in the Sixth Form.

### Course Outline

Latin A Level builds on the skills and linguistic knowledge acquired at GCSE. Students are examined on their ability to translate from Latin into English and their understanding and appreciation of selected works of literature read in the original language.  Popular authors studied include Cicero, Caesar, Livy, Ovid and Virgil. Reading is designed to develop linguistic understanding, a knowledge of myth, history and culture and an appreciation of literary style. There is an option of translation from English into Latin.

### Assessment

Candidates sit the four units of the course at the end of Year 13. Assessment is by written examination. The language papers examine linguistic ability through unseen translation (Language 01 – 100 marks) and comprehension or prose composition (Language 02 – 50 marks). The literature papers tests critical and essay writing skills. One 2 hr paper focuses on a prose literature (03 – 75 marks) and the other on verse literature (04 – 75 marks).

**The texts for examination in 2019 are:**  
  
**Prose texts (03):**

**Cicero, Pro Milone**

Cicero, Rome’s most famous master of rhetoric, was embroiled in the complex struggles for power in the late republic. On one occasion he found himself defending Milo, a thug who had been responsible for much of the recent violence in Rome. He did so because Milo had killed Clodius, Cicero’s deadliest foe during a brawl on the Via Appia. For background to this turbulent period, Robert Harris’ ‘Dictator’ makes a perfect introduction.

**Tacitus Annals 1**

Tacitus records the reigns of the notorious Julio-Claudian emperors from the perspective of a senator who resents the reduction in power the senate experienced under the new emperors. *Annals* 1 introduces us to the emperor Tiberius, an awkward recluse who, according to some, became emperor through his mother Livia’s intrigues. The BBC drama ‘I Claudius’ based on the novels by Robert Graves is a powerful and dramatic introduction to both Livia and Tiberius.

**Verse texts (04):**

**Latin Love Elegy**

A selection of great poems on the subject of love by Ovid, Propertius and Tibullus. These three authors, all of whom wrote during the reign of Augustus, give an idea of the wit and brilliance of golden Latin literature at its height.

**Virgil, Aeneid X**  
We will study the whole of Book 10 of this epic poem, partly in translation, partly in Latin. This is a book of fierce fighting between great heroes: on one side the Trojan leader Aeneas leads a group of allies that includes Pallas, a youth whose magnificent debut on the battle field is short lived. Leading his enemies are Turnus, a handsome prince, and Mezentius, an evil dictator who has been exiled by his own people. Virgil’s beautifully crafted and brilliant narrative is fully experienced through the original Latin.

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### Greek

Enrichment Greek can lead to a GCSE, AS or A2 qualification, depending on previous experience. Those who might be interested in making an Oxbridge application to study Classics are strongly advised to take Greek.

The texts for 2019 include Plato’s Apology, extracts from Sophocles’ Antigone, Thucydides’ account of the Pylos campaign and Homer’s story of the Cyclops and Circe, all studied in the original Greek.

Please ask Miss Affleck for further details.