

Classics Department Curriculum Overview

Classics is the broadest subject studied at Bentley Wood; it encompasses language, literature, history, politics, drama, art, and philosophy. The Classics department intends to foster a deep love of learning in its students and to nurture a curious and proactive attitude towards gaining knowledge, reading and also learning about themselves. Students of Classics will become confident and independent learners, inquisitive listeners and able researchers.

Classics students at Bentley Wood will become well versed in diverse topics regarding the ancient world. They will become confident in analysing ancient sources and they will also become critical readers and thinkers.

There are three different subjects that come under 'Classics'; Greek, Latin and Classical Civilisation. We offer the latter two at Bentley Wood, with Greek being taught currently through the Year 8 enrichment Classics Club.

Students have the option of studying Latin, the language of the ancient Romans, at GCSE in year 9. This curriculum is sequenced so that while students are building on their grammatical knowledge throughout KS4, they revisit and strengthen skills in reading and translating; they eventually move onto studying significant literature from the Western canon including authors such as **Suetonius, Pliny and Virgil**. Students also engage with the ancient world through study of specified topics on Roman life, such as entertainment, everyday life and Roman Britain.

At KS5 we offer Classical Civilisation which is a study of ancient Rome and Greece looking at material culture that has survived, as well as sources translated into English. This is a broad and enriching inquiry into the literature and culture of the classical world which looks at Greek theatre, the world of the hero and ancient ideas of love and marriage. Students acquire an understanding of social, historical and cultural context and also learn how to respond critically and articulate discussions and arguments in a formal and coherent manner.

Career Progression:

Classics is such a multi-faceted subject that it prepares students for a variety of careers. The study of Classics covers disciplines such as: literature, language, linguistics, politics, history, art, architecture, anthropology, literary criticism, law, rhetoric and philosophy. The need for attention to detail in the study of the language and for critical and evaluative skills means that the student of Classics is well prepared for

entering a large variety of careers, such as: law, politics, journalism, teaching, academia (Mary Beard, Edith Hall), writing (C.S. Lewis, J.K. Rowling), broadcasting, curating and many more.

Classics enrichment:

Greek Club

Roman Baths Trip

Trip to Rome and Pompeii

Recommended Reading:

Ancient literature:

The Odyssey by Homer

The Iliad by Homer

The Aeneid by Virgil

Antigone by Sophocles

Metamorphoses by Ovid

Modern Literature:

Mythos by Stephen Fry

Troy by Stephen Fry

Women and Power by Mary Beard

SPQR by Mary Beard

Helen of Troy by Bettany Hughes

A Thousand Ships by Natalie Haynes

Circe by Madeliene Miller

Song of Achilles by Madeliene Miller

The Penelopiad by Margaret Atwood

Ariadne by Jennifer Sant