LATIN

Exam Board: OCR
Entry Requirements: Grade 7 in Latin

COURSE SUMMARY

Students will continue to learn and master Latin, the language of the Ancient Romans, read and analyse ancient Roman texts in the original and learn about Roman culture and politics. A Level Latin has a much greater focus on reading Roman literature than GCSE and offers the opportunity to engage with some of the most influential and exciting works of literature ever. You will also learn the skill of prose composition, the translation of English into Latin.

COURSE STRUCTURE

Literature: 50% of A level– 2 written examinations; 1 poetry, 1 prose; 2 hours each
Students will study two prose texts and two poetry texts over the course of their studies, which they will read in the original Latin. The texts studied are carefully chosen in order to allow students to develop an interest in the historical and cultural features of the ancient world, as well as an appreciation for literature itself. Through their studies, students will learn to engage analytically with literary texts and to construct convincing arguments in writing. In Year 12, students will study Book 2 of Virgil's Aeneid, which details Aeneas' retelling of the story of his journey to Dido, the queen of Carthage, who has taken him and his men in. They will also study extracts from Book 12 of Tacitus' Annals, which details the marriage of the Emperor Claudius to Agrippina, who then plots his murder in order to enable the accession of her son Nero.

Translation: 50% of A level– 2 written examinations:
Unseen Translation (Prose and Poetry) - 1 hour 45 mins;
Unseen Comprehension—1 hour 15 mins
Students will learn to understand and translate passages of Latin literature which they have not studied beforehand. Students will fully develop and complete their knowledge of Latin grammar and vocabulary, as well as read more ancient literature, including selections from Ovid's Metamorphoses—the most influential poem ever—and the great Roman historian and mythologist, Livy. Students will also be introduced to prose composition – translation from English to Latin – for the first time and will build the skills and grammar knowledge needed to approach translating whole passages into Latin, demonstrating an understanding of the quirks and idioms of the language.

CAREER CHOICES

Latin A Level is a well respected and demanding qualification. It will be a great asset to any career which values skills such as high attention to detail, articulacy, and the ability to use examples to draw conclusions. Such careers regularly include law, politics, business, journalism and media. There is a strong precedent of students who want to become medical professionals choosing Latin as a fourth A Level; it not only helps with learning technical vocabulary but shows a high level of attention to detail and an interest in the humanities.