

GCSE Latin

OCR 1942

The Classics department believes that the education of all pupils at Bedford School can be further enhanced, supported and enriched by learning about the classical world, even in the most general sense. Classical languages are unique at GCSE in the fact that they offer boys the opportunity to study the literature of another culture in its original language. Roman literature at its best can be entertaining, vivid and exotic, and can provide invaluable insights into the customs and beliefs of the Romans.

This is a two-year course which equips candidates with expertise in two broad areas: the fluent translation and comprehension of unprepared Latin passages and the study and appreciation of Latin literature in its original language. Students will develop a number of vital transferable skills including problem-solving, logic and analysis, communicating ideas effectively, and setting targets to improve their own performance.

Skills in translation are achieved by linguistic study using the *Cambridge Latin Course* in addition to a wide variety of unique teaching resources, including the use of ICT where appropriate. After this, boys move to tackle short excerpts from a wide range of Roman authors to develop fluency and accuracy of understanding.

This study prepares candidates for **A401 Latin Language 1** (Latin passages based on mythology and Roman domestic life: 25% of GCSE course) in which passages are set for translation and comprehension. Candidates will also sit **A402 Latin Language 2** (Latin passages based on historical stories: 25% of GCSE course).

In the **A403 Prose Literature paper** (25% of GCSE course) pupils currently study Tacitus as a source on Roman history and Cicero as a source on Roman oratory. In the **A404 Verse Literature paper** (25% of GCSE course) pupils study a selection of short excerpts from a range of authors, currently based around the theme of 'love' in all its forms: obsession, connection, desire and destruction. Questions will test candidates' understanding of the set texts and their appreciation of what the authors are trying to achieve.

Classroom learning is supplemented by regular foreign and domestic trips and activities outside school which are designed to broaden pupils' understanding of the Classical world. GCSE pupils are also welcome to attend the weekly Latin Clinic and fortnightly Classical Society. The desire to offer pupils these opportunities stems from a deep-held view that the learning of pupils can be both fostered and stretched by bringing the classical world more sharply into context.