Taverham Sixth Form
One vision. Our passion. Your future.

A-Level Classical Civilisation (OCR)

I would recommend that you have an interest in the ancient world, its people, life and culture before you embark on this course. Interest and a willingness to read and investigate are the most important requirements for this course; studying is so much easier if you enjoy what you are doing!

The aims of the course are for students to:

- develop an interest in, and enthusiasm for, the classical world;
- acquire, through studying a range of appropriate sources, knowledge and understanding of selected aspects of Classical Civilisation;
- develop awareness of the continuing influence of the classical world on later times and of the similarities and differences between the classical world and later times;
- develop and apply analytical and evaluative skills at an appropriate level;
- make an informed, personal response to the material studied

The specifications build on the knowledge, understanding and skills specified for GCSE. However, **prior attainment of a GCSE qualification in a classical subject is not required**. The minimum entry requirements are six GCSEs at Grade 4 or above, including Maths and English Language, and Grade 5 in Classics *or* English Language *or* English Literature.

We shall study these 3 units:

- The World of the Hero: *The Odyssey* by Homer and *The Aeneid* by Virgil
- Greek Theatre in its Context: Sophocles' *Oedipus*, Euripides' *Bacchae* and Aristophanes' *Frogs*
- Greek Religion: Gods, Worship and Philosophy

Assessment

Three written exams at the end of the course:

Component 1: World of the Hero	40%	2 hr 30 mins
Component 2: Culture and the Arts - Greek Theatre in its Context	30%	1 hr 45 mins
Component 3: Beliefs and Ideas - Greek Religion	30%	1 hr 45 mins

Please be aware that if you are eligible for post 16 bursary funding the cost of relevant books and resources may be covered depending on family circumstances – please ask in the sixth form office for an application/claim form.

Preparation for September

I would like you to undertake the following work:

Investigate the Greek Olympian gods and goddesses. Use Encyclopedias of Mythology and/or the following website: http://www.theoi.com/

The Greeks and Romans were very religious and religion dominated their lives; knowledge of the Olympian gods is crucial if you are to have an understanding of Classical culture.

Please compile some notes on each of the gods and goddesses which include details about their powers, myths associated with them and an image from vase painting or sculpture. Please don't cut and paste; the purpose of this exercise is for you to become familiar with Greek religion which means reading, understanding and selecting material. Please compile your notes and bring them along to our first lesson as this can form the basis of discussion. I wouldn't expect you to have more than one page of A4 about each of the gods and goddesses and don't worry if you have less! A powerpoint which you could share with the rest of the class would be fun too - add your own selection of pictures and sounds!

Several museums, including the fantastic British Museum, are doing virtual tours so have a look. There's also a lot about the classical world on the TV and radio at the moment and anything you can watch, listen to or read will help to give you a context for your study of Greece and Rome. If you can get to the British Museum, the Museum of London or Colchester Museum, they are all wonderful and inspiring.

In addition, these sites are also useful:

Ancient Drama and Context of Tragedy
Ancient Greek Theatre
The Chorus
An Introduction to Greek Comedy and Satyr Drama
An Introduction to Greek Tragedy
Edith Hall on Euripidean Tragedy
The Greatest Show on Earth: Michael Scott

You also have access to the Massolit lectures which is a resource we subscribe to in school.

- Select Student in 'create free account' box: https://www.massolit.io/users/sign_up
- Select Taverham High School in drop down box
- Enter your details including your chosen password, using your @schoolemail.net email address
- A confirmation will be emailed to you and you'll have access right away
- You can use this to login at school, at home and on smartphone or tablets.

Email me at any time on any matter. I would love to hear how your research and preparation are going: s_barker@taverhamhigh.org

I am always happy to discuss or explain anything you would like to do in preparation for the course.

I am looking forward to meeting up with you in September.