

# Latin at OLA

*'To be ignorant of what occurred before you were born is to remain always a child'.*  
(Marcus Tullius Cicero, 1<sup>st</sup> century BC barrister, politician and philosopher)

**Awarding body: OCR**

**Specification: H443**

The course is a two year A Level leading to four final examination papers, two on language (50%) and two on literature (50%).

- **Unseen Translation of both prose and poetry** – practised throughout the course by reading a selection of different authors and genres, which can be chosen to suit the interests and tastes of the group, then concentrating on two specified authors – the historian, Livy and the poet, Ovid – for the final examination.
- **Prose Composition** – translating not just sentences but whole paragraphs of English into convincing, stylish Latin which could have been written by Cicero himself! Although this may seem rather daunting, most students are surprised to find how much fun it becomes, how much it improves their command of the language and how satisfying it is to get it right! If not, you can tackle a comprehension instead.
- **Prose Literature** – one longer or two shorter extracts of prose literature: part of the defence speech from a murder trial, written by Cicero, Rome's most brilliant barrister, or an extract of historical writing from Tacitus or Livy.
- **Verse Literature** – one longer or two shorter extracts of poetry: the final book of Virgil's epic poem, 'The Aeneid', bringing the story to its dramatic conclusion, a selection of shorter, more personal poems by Catullus, or what Ovid imagined Penelope might have wanted to say to Odysseus, Briseis to Achilles and Dido to Aeneas.

**Results in the last five years**

88% A\* - B grades

## Who is suitable for this course?

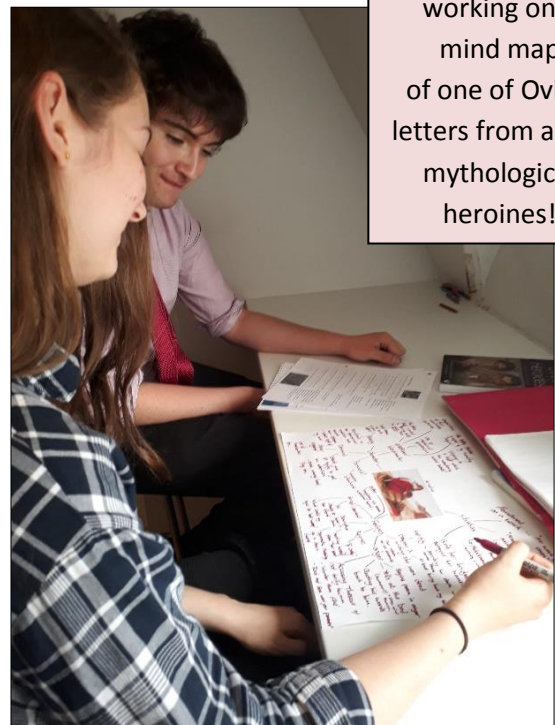
Anyone who has enjoyed Latin GCSE, has a sound knowledge of the grammar, is prepared to work hard at mastering vocabulary and is excited by the thought of tackling longer, more challenging and sophisticated texts.

## Where can Latin lead?

Latin can take you ANYWHERE and offers proof of impressive intellectual ability.

Past students have gone on to study:

Classics  
Latin and French  
English  
History  
Law  
Philosophy  
Psychology  
Mathematics  
Medicine  
Veterinary Science  
Business  
Music  
(including 6 students to Oxford and Cambridge)



Emily and Tom working on a mind map of one of Ovid's letters from angry mythological heroines!