

Classical Civilisation GCSE arms our students with powerful knowledge and tools from the ancient world that help them succeed in our modern one.

At the heart of the curriculum is the understanding that the values of a culture are reflected in the art and literature that they produce. Students will develop analytical and critical skills, questioning the purpose and intent of the sources that they study. In the age of fake news, the ability to understand the undercurrent of cultural values and political purpose in both visual and textual sources is essential. Students will become citizens who actively question the things they see and read, rather than passively accepting them.

Our curriculum choices will encourage students to think about their place in the world, the obstacles they may face, and where those obstacles originated. By studying the 'Women in the Ancient World' thematic component, students will explore the origins of attitudes towards powerful women, the distrust of foreign cultures, and the expectations placed on young women in the Western world. By understanding the way such cultural values are constructed and disseminated, students will be able to challenge those same values when they encounter them in later life.

Finally, by studying the classical world, students access powerful knowledge that builds their cultural capital. In a society where some forms of knowledge are privileged, gaining access to that knowledge can be transformative to many of our students. This knowledge acts as a gateway to the worlds of art, literature, and politics, all of which often still use allusions to the classical world as part of their lexicon. This is particularly evident in the study of the Homeric World component, which introduces students to key visual, archaeological, and literary sources from Ancient Greece and provides them with a grounding in classical knowledge.