

At KS3, Classical Civilisations introduces students to the foundational cultures of Ancient Greece and Rome, fostering curiosity about the ancient world and its enduring influence on the modern world.

In Year 7, students complete a six-week carousel unit, *Life in Greek City-States*, which provides an engaging introduction to the subject. Through the study of daily life, society, religion, and culture in Ancient Greece, students begin to develop the core disciplinary skills of Classical Civilisation, including analysing literary and material sources, interpreting evidence, evaluating differing perspectives, and constructing evidence-based explanations. This introductory unit is designed to inspire interest in the subject while establishing the knowledge and analytical skills that underpin future study.

In Years 8 and 9, students study Classical Civilisation for one lesson per week. The curriculum builds chronological and thematic understanding through the study of both Greek and Roman civilisation. During the first half of the year, students explore key Greek topics such as the Peloponnesian War and Homer's *Odyssey*, examining themes of conflict, leadership, heroism, and identity through both historical and literary evidence. In the second half of the year, the focus shifts to Rome, with topics including Pompeii, Power and Authority in Rome, and Roman Britain. Throughout KS3, students deepen their understanding of the ancient world while developing increasingly sophisticated skills in source analysis, interpretation, comparison, evaluation, and extended written argument.

At KS4, students follow the OCR GCSE Classical Civilisation course, which offers a rich exploration of ancient societies through literature, archaeology, and material culture. In the Thematic Study, *Women in the Ancient World*, students investigate the roles, experiences, and representations of women in Greek and Roman society through a diverse range of literary, historical, and visual sources. They compare the lives of women across different city-states and periods, exploring themes including marriage, family, religion, education, and social status, while examining how women's experiences varied according to wealth, citizenship, and circumstance. Students evaluate contrasting portrayals of women in myth and history, developing the ability to analyse sources critically, consider differing interpretations, and construct balanced, evidence-based arguments about gender and society in the ancient world.

In the Literature and Culture component, *Roman City Life*, students explore everyday life in Roman cities including Rome, Pompeii, and Ostia. Alongside archaeological and material evidence, students study literary sources including Pliny the Younger's Letters on the eruption of Vesuvius and life in the Roman world, extracts from Petronius' *Satyricon*, and Juvenal's Satires, using these texts to investigate Roman housing, education, entertainment, social class, and the experiences of both free and enslaved people. Across both components, students refine their skills in analysing and evaluating sources, interpreting literary texts within

their historical context, constructing well-supported arguments, and making informed judgements. These skills equip students with critical thinking, cultural understanding, and analytical confidence that extend well beyond the study of the ancient world.