



SHREWSBURY
HOUSE SCHOOL

CLASSICS



At Shrewsbury House, we teach Classics with a constant awareness of the value it can bring to an education. For us, the world of ancient history and mythology is a treasure-trove of stories and personalities, providing new ways of interpreting our reality today. We learn strength from Hercules, political genius from Augustus, a spirit of iron from Odysseus. We learn how inflation and psychotic emperors can wreak more havoc on an empire than any barbarian invasion and how brilliant leadership can restore it. Here we do not ask what we can learn from the Classics, we ask rather what we cannot!

Among the legacy of the Romans is their language. In the cool, analytical study of Latin, students gain an understanding of the mechanics of language in general, improving their use of English as well as their ability to learn other languages. The toolset required for Latin can also sharpen their coding, logic and pattern identification skills – skills which are so transferable in the study of music theory and mathematics, among others. Latin may well be from the distant past, but it nevertheless sets firm foundations for logical and analytical thinking. In Year 8, boys also have the opportunity to learn Ancient Greek.

Classics as an independent subject is introduced in Year 5. In the early years students study aspects of Roman society and the Trojan War and in later years they examine the Roman Army and the Odyssey in detail. Outside the classroom, we collaborate with other departments for day and residential trips, both nationally (Fishbourne Palace) and internationally (Rome/Greece). These trips allow us to explore the vestiges of Greece and Rome close at hand and far afield.

The Department prides itself on the excellent standards which the pupils reach in all areas of the subject. Through traditional and more modern methods of learning, we feel that the boys value the subject beyond examinations and leave Shrewsbury House not only with an appreciation of how language works, but also a curiosity to learn more about our cultural ancestry.

Mr A Greenwood MA
Head of Classics

Please note that the above subject information has been produced in good faith and is correct as of September 2020. We reserve the right to make changes to the curriculum and whilst we will endeavour to offer any trips and competitions mentioned above, we cannot guarantee that they will always take place every year.