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WHAT'S INSIDE  
OUR LATEST ISSUE:

*Spotlight on our  
Scholars' Programme*

# Discovering Ancient Worlds: Latin and Classical Civilisation

*by Ian Mooney, Northern Schools Trust Executive*

We are incredibly excited to welcome your children to Gateacre School this September! They are about to embark on a unique and ambitious educational journey, exploring the captivating subjects of Latin and Classical Civilisation. Since its introduction to the Northern Schools Trust in 2021, Latin has become a cornerstone of our Scholars' Programme – a bespoke initiative designed to challenge our more-able pupils.

This programme broadens academic horizons and deepens understanding of the ancient world, providing invaluable knowledge as students prepare for higher education. Our students engage with the highly respected Cambridge Latin Course, developed with insights from Dr. Stephen Hunt of Cambridge University, ensuring a high-quality learning experience.

The course begins with a captivating narrative about a family in Pompeii before AD 79, and students have the thrilling opportunity to further enrich their learning through trips to historical sites like Pompeii and Herculaneum.

## **WHY STUDY LATIN TODAY?**

In today's world, Latin is more relevant than ever. The profound influence of Roman culture permeates modern literature, art, architecture, philosophy, history, and language. Approximately 50% of English vocabulary is derived from Latin and French, making Latin study a powerful tool.

By studying Latin, students significantly enhance their English vocabulary and grammar, leading to greater confidence in their reading, writing, and speaking skills. Additionally, the foundational knowledge gained will seamlessly facilitate the learning of Romance languages such as French, Spanish, and Italian.

Beyond language, studying Latin cultivates critical thinking and analytical skills that are applicable across various subjects and in everyday life. The inherent challenges in Latin studies enhance problem-solving abilities, empowering students to tackle complex tasks with confidence. Plus, Latin literature offers a fun and engaging way to connect directly with the past.

## **EXPANDING HORIZONS WITH CLASSICAL CIVILISATION**

In 2022, we expanded our curriculum to include Classical Civilisation, a direct response to our students' growing enthusiasm for Greek mythology and the Roman world. Like Latin, this subject nurtures essential transferable skills such as critical thinking, communication, and analytical reasoning, providing a rich context for understanding the origins of Western thought and culture.

## **EXCITING FUTURE PATHWAYS**

Given the surging interest in these subjects, we are thrilled to announce that both Latin and Classical Civilisation will be a core part of our Key Stage 3 curriculum starting in September 2025! Our first Northern Schools Trust cohort of scholars has already demonstrated remarkable achievement by taking the Classical Civilisation GCSE a year early, and we anticipate strong participation from all students moving into Year 10 next year. Furthermore, we are excited to introduce Classical Civilisation into our A Level options by September 2026.

The opportunities that come with qualifications in Classics are incredibly diverse and rewarding. Careers in teaching, museum curation, archaeology, librarianship, and archiving are just a few examples. The robust skills developed through these subjects also provide exceptional pathways into fields like law, journalism, the civil service, and various commercial sectors.

We eagerly look forward to an exciting year ahead, where your children will embark on a journey through the fascinating and influential worlds of Latin and Classical Civilisation!

# A spotlight on our Scholars' Programme

by Kelly Johnston, Assistant Principal for Key Stage 3 (Northern Schools Trust)

A fantastic opportunity awaits our academically ambitious students: the chance to participate in our prestigious Scholars' Programme. This unique initiative is specifically designed to challenge, inspire, and equip them with the skills and confidence needed to excel at top universities and beyond.

## WHY CHOOSE THE SCHOLARS' PROGRAMME?

The Scholars' Programme is all about stretching and challenging our most capable learners. Through a powerful combination of academic rigour and unique, enriching opportunities, we aim to empower students to truly excel, both in their education and in life.

To join this selective programme, students will submit a written application, showcasing their suitability and what they can contribute to our vibrant scholarly community.

## BENEFITS FOR OUR SCHOLARS

Our Scholars enjoy a wealth of exceptional opportunities, including:

- **Tailored Mentoring:** Benefit from personalised academic and professional mentoring, guiding them towards their individual aspirations.
- **Cultural Immersion:** Embark on enriching educational trips and visits that expand their cultural horizons and deepen their understanding of the world.
- **Enhanced Resources:** Gain access to home devices and advanced resources, such as Raspberry Pi computers, laptops, and iPads, to facilitate their extra-curricular learning and exploration.
- **Competitive Edge:** Prepare for and participate in regional and national competitions, building confidence, gaining invaluable experience, and connecting with like-minded peers.
- **Professional Skill Development:** Attend events led by professional mentors, designed to enhance both subject-specific knowledge and general communication skills, fostering unwavering confidence.
- **Diverse Learning Avenues:** Engage in a wide variety of research projects, delve into the study of Latin and Classical Civilisation, and explore the fascinating world of Statistics.
- **Active Engagement:** Participate in dynamic activities like fencing, rowing, and an array of stimulating science experiments, promoting both physical and intellectual development.

## EMPOWERING FUTURE LEADERS

By offering these pivotal experiences and a truly high-quality education, we empower our students to compete successfully on a national and international level for placements at the finest universities and for rewarding careers.

Our Scholars develop a strong sense of ambition and become part of a supportive community that shares similar goals and values. Every student receives dedicated mentorship and support, ensuring they are continually challenged and inspired throughout their entire journey at Gateacre.

# A spotlight on our Scholars' Programme cont..

by Kelly Johnston, Assistant Principal for Key Stage 3 (Northern Schools Trust)

## EXCITING EXPERIENCES

In the past year alone, our Scholars have engaged in remarkable activities, including:

- Inspiring visits to major universities.
- Active participation in realistic mock trials.
- Triumphant wins in regional chess tournaments.
- Opportunities to work at prestigious summer schools.
- Hosting distinguished speakers, such as renowned historian Michael Wood.
- Organising special events like a lively screening of BBC's Question Time.

Additionally, we offer heavily subsidised Classics trips to historically significant locations such as Pompeii, Herculaneum, Greece, and Rome, providing truly unforgettable learning experiences.

## CHARACTERISTICS OF OUR SCHOLARS

Our Scholars are characterised by a genuine passion for learning, sharp analytical thinking, and a willingness to embrace new challenges. They are innately curious about the world, ask thoughtful questions, and thrive equally well independently and as collaborative members of a team.

## A BROADER IMPACT

The Scholars' Programme has been a resounding success since its inception three years ago. We are thrilled that it has recently expanded to include Years 5 and 6 in primary schools across the city. This initiative introduces younger students to stimulating subjects like Latin, Shakespeare, robotics, performing arts, and scientific inquiry, instilling confidence that will benefit them in any secondary school they attend.

By breaking down barriers and providing access to opportunities that many families might otherwise miss, the programme significantly enhances learning while offering truly transformative experiences.

We are so excited to support your children on this incredible journey and look forward to seeing them thrive as part of the Scholars' Programme at Gateacre!