

CLASSICS FOR ALL

Championing Classics in Schools

Letter from the Director

Jules Mann, Executive Director



A year 10 pupil who is studying Latin in a London school supported by Classics for All told us: 'Even just today, we've been in biology where lots of the vocabulary is easier to remember because we know where it's come from. It's not a dead language, it's alive everywhere!' What enjoyment this must bring, and a sense of achievement, to pupils who study Latin and other classical subjects.

We could not reach pupils like this without our supporters' donations to Classics for All. We celebrate our donors in this issue, listing all who donated during 2017 at Centurion level (£100+) or above. Hilary Hodgson provides an overview of recent school programme developments, illuminated with testimony from teachers, co-ordinators and teacher trainers at the forefront of bringing Classics into schools. We can report that Classics is booming in the North! You'll find stories from Bradford, Leeds and Scotland, along with a rallying cry to consider teaching Classics in retirement.

We are thrilled to announce that comedian and producer Jimmy Mulville is joining our Board of Trustees, and that Dr John Godwin takes up editorship of *Ad Familiares*, our online monthly journal which is located in the Reading Room on our website. We honour a previous colleague, Lorna Bower (1957-2017), who tirelessly promoted Classics for All in its early years.

2018 began with a glamorously successful fundraising dinner hosted by our Chairman Geoffrey de Jager at the Reform Club, raising over £100k in funds for our work this year. This has helped us to meet the demand from schools in the first half of 2018. We still face a funding gap of nearly £100k to cover anticipated school demand in the second

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half of the year, so please help spread the word to anyone you think may wish to be involved.

Finally, we look forward to our annual fundraising talk on Tuesday 17 April, **VIVAM! Ovid IS alive after 2,000 years**. This promises a lively and provocative discussion with Classics for All Patron Natalie Haynes and Professor Stephen Heyworth (Wadham College, Oxford), chaired by Dr Peter Jones MBE. This event is taking place at the splendid Royal Geographical Society in Kensington. Join us if you can!

New Editor for Ad Familiares

Our monthly 'Ad Familiares' articles are now back up and running, under the editorship of Dr John Godwin. John was Head of Classics at Shrewsbury School for 30 years and sat on the council of both the Classical Association and JACT for three years, as well as examining for OCR and AQA.

These days he spends most of his time writing reviews, articles and books, including many which have featured on our 'Reading Room' page.

New monthly articles have commenced from February 2018 on the Reading Room – Ad Familiares page <https://adfamiliaries.classicsforall.org.uk>

Jimmy Mulville joins Board of Classics for All

We are delighted to announce that Jimmy Mulville has joined our Board of Trustees. Jimmy is a comedian and co-founder and Managing Director of Hat Trick Productions, which produces *Have I Got News For You*. Since 1986, it has grown into one of the country's leading producers of comedy, drama and entertainment.

Jimmy came to Classics at university where he read French and Classics at Jesus College, Cambridge.

"In my case studying Classics at Cambridge changed my life for the better giving me many opportunities. It was an engine for social mobility."



Schools Programme News

Hilary Hodgson,
Programme Director



2017 was a bumper year for Classics for All. We supported over 200 new schools to introduce or develop Classics across the country from the south west of England to the east end of Glasgow.

In 2018, we are continuing to strengthen our presence across the UK. In January, we launched a new classics network in partnership with the University of Warwick and Dr Michael Scott. This will focus on promoting Classical Civilisation and Ancient History in schools. Following a period of research and consultation, Birmingham University will also be establishing a Classics network led by Dr Elena Theodorakopoulos. We are grateful to both universities for the time and resources that they are investing to secure a healthy future for Classics in the midlands.

The new Classics Network in Scotland chaired by Professor Tom Harrison and co-ordinated by Alex Imrie has made an immediate impact. In the east end of Glasgow, 10 schools will be piloting a new Classics course for young people in upper primary school and there are plans to roll the programme out in other local authority areas.

We remain keen to address demand in primary schools where there is a growing appetite for Latin and all

things classical. In 2017, the number of primary schools starting Latin with CfA support doubled and there is clear momentum. Feedback from primary school teachers suggests that Latin enhances pupils' literacy skills, giving them a secure understanding of grammatical concepts, as well as offering an excellent foundation for studying Modern Foreign Languages.

Blackpool is a good example of one place Latin has taken root with support from Classics for All. Led by Peter Wright, Head of Classics at Blackpool Sixth Form College, there are plans to introduce Latin on the curriculum in 20 primary schools following a successful pilot programme in 2017. CfA has produced a short film documenting the work which is can be viewed on our website at <https://classicsforall.org.uk/case-studies/classics-blackpool-sixth-form>.

In the secondary sector, budgetary constraints continue to put pressure on small Classics departments. As one response to this, we are working with schools to offer all pupils aged 11-14 (Key Stage 3) an introduction to Classics across the curriculum through literature, humanities and languages. There is already some evidence that this approach is beginning to generate demand for classical subjects at GCSE.

We launched the A. G. Leventis funded Greek 'Electra Programme' in late April 2017. To date we have supported the introduction of Greek in 18 schools both on the curriculum and as an after school enrichment activity.

Seizing the Opportunity to learn Latin and Classics in Bradford

Lucy Hall, Teacher

Dixons Trinity is the first school in our Multi Academy Trust (MAT) of nine schools to champion classics on the curriculum. Following support from Classics for All in 2015, we were able to offer a Latin course to 75 pupils at Key Stage 3 and had 5 students opt for Classical Civilisation GCSE. Numbers are increasing, and we have 11 students studying the GCSE course in Year 9 out of a year group of 112.

In 2016 we expanded Classics to include Dixons Music Primary School and Year 4 began the Minimus Latin course with Classics for All support and a grant from the Minimus project towards textbooks. Our students have seized the opportunity to study a subject that no other state school in the city can offer, showing a real desire to learn more about the Romans and the Greeks; they particularly enjoy exploring and analysing the visual and material artefacts we study as part of the new OCR Classical Civilisation course.



We are now in our third year of CfA support, teaching Latin to two Year 4 classes, and the previous cohort has continued to study Latin in Year 5. Students have reported a better understanding of challenging vocabulary and enjoy using words derived from Latin in their writing. Recently a student included the word "pulchritudinous" in a written piece about a duck, which some may argue is taking it too far! However, it does show students have a hunger to expand their vocabulary, and they take a real joy in learning new and interesting words to improve the precision and level of vocabulary of their written work.

Following the success of Classics at Dixons Trinity, we are now working to introduce Latin GCSE at our school, and also to introduce Latin and Classical Civilisation in more schools across the MAT.

Classics North of Hadrian's Wall

Alex Imrie, Scottish Classics Network Co-ordinator

We have been working hard over the past months to revive Classics 'north of the wall', and to re-introduce our subject into Scottish state schools. While only setting out on a long road, we are seeing considerable enthusiasm across the board.

I've been running all over the country (arctic weather conditions permitting!) to discuss introducing Latin as a language option for primary schools, and we have commenced formal consultations with a number of local authorities. In Aberdeen, we have even been featured in the local media! Local councillor Martin Greig is optimistic, and has predicted 'great interest' among teachers, parents and pupils alike.

Progress has been made with Glasgow City Council, where we are in the process of training teachers to deliver a ten-week unit in Latin in ten different primary schools, all of them in areas of high social deprivation. This programme will introduce Latin to c.450 pupils simultaneously. Elizabeth Norton, Languages Development Officer for Glasgow, says: "Our endeavours to embed Latin learning within in our Glasgow Primary Schools have been welcomed with open arms by the Latin and Classics community in Scotland. We are receiving generous support from Classics for All and we look forward to a rich and fruitful ongoing relationship."

More generally, CfA and the Classical Association of Scotland have enjoyed success working alongside teachers to create a national network of Classics teachers. This aims to facilitate contact between experienced educators, and to spearhead the development of materials for schools across the country. Lee Baker, teacher at St Aloysius College, is excited about this venture:



Hadrian's Wall



The neoclassical National Monument in Edinburgh

"It has been great getting to know Alex through his role with Classics for All and we are starting to see the positive effects of having a dedicated person fighting the corner for Classics in Scotland. We are looking forward to developing new resources, based on materials produced by the continuous graft of experienced Classics teachers, to help support new centres deliver Classical Studies qualifications. Most importantly, the prospect of teaching training programmes for Latin and Classical Studies coming back online is very exciting and we will all be delighted to welcome new people into the profession."

Indeed, one of our most exciting developments has been a breakthrough with Moray House School of Education, which has committed to the reintroduction of teaching qualifications in Latin & Classics from the 2019/20 session (in all Masters and PGDE programmes). This is clearly a crucial development for ensuring that Classics in Scotland flourishes, and we are thrilled to work alongside our colleagues at Moray House to ensure that this is a success.

These advances are only the beginning of a wide reaching and ambitious national agenda, but with the assistance of CfA alongside colleagues from all manner of backgrounds, I see every reason to be optimistic about Classics in Scotland!

The Scottish Classics Network is supported by Classics for All thanks to the Hugh Fraser Foundation, Robin Angus (in memory of Alexander Nicol MA, Head of Classics, Forres Academy 1929-1966) and several other individual donations.

Donor Recognition List 2017

All of us at Classics for All would like to thank every single one of you who supports our cause. We devised a number of recognition categories, naming them from the Classical world, and now follow a tradition of publishing Centurions to Olympians each year in our newsletter and on our website.

Whatever your level of support, you are changing the landscape of Classics in state schools; we could not do it without you!

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© Alex Brenner

Leeds Secondary School Enhances Pupils' Knowledge with Classics



Students from Allerton Grange

Before receiving support from Classics for All, classical subjects had never been taught at Allerton Grange School. It is now the only state school in Leeds to teach Classical Civilisation at GCSE and one of three sixth-forms to offer it at A-level.

Here you can read what those involved have to say:

Gemma Williams (teacher) "I was lucky enough to attend a state school in Halifax where we were taught Classics and Latin throughout Key Stage 3 as well as at GCSE and A-level. It's so sad that Classics has become restricted to the privileged few who can afford a private education or attend a school in an affluent area. I strongly believe that classical subjects should be accessible to students from all backgrounds and this was what led me to propose to our school leadership team that we introduce Classics at Allerton Grange School. I'm absolutely overjoyed that we will be able to offer students the opportunity to study Classics from September!"

Mike Roper (Headteacher) "The study of Classics provides students with a truly aspirational opportunity to learn

a rare subject which allows them to understand a fascinating era of history, as well as gaining a developed understanding of culture and society. We are really excited to be one of the only schools in Leeds to offer Classics."

Ibrahim Islam (Student) "Classics is an important aspect of my school life. It's something I have always wanted to study but did not think I would have the chance. Since starting weekly sessions before school my interest in Classics has peaked. I am really glad that it has become available at school and I hope to further my education in Classics by studying it at A-level."

Arghya Chakrabarty (Student) "Classics provides me with an invaluable opportunity to learn about events that have, and will, influence human history. Classics is a rich subject, concerning two of the greatest civilisations to have ever existed. Understanding even the fundamentals of the subject will open doors to understanding more about culture, media, language, science and even modern history and attitudes in society. Offering it at Allerton Grange will not only spark interest in the subject but make for more genuinely knowledgeable students."

Lily Baxter (Student) "Classics is incredibly interesting: we learn about an entire era of culture and language that is bypassed in the modern day history curriculum. It enhances my knowledge and understanding of history and the modern world as much of our society draws parallels to the ancient world."

Allerton Grange in Leeds is a thriving, all ability, multi-cultural school with 1,500 students aged 11-18. The Leeds Classics Network is supported by Classics for All thanks to a grant from Didymus.

Classics and retirement go very well together!

Robert Tatum explains...

What might a Classics teacher do in his/her retirement? To my very pleasant surprise I find myself, having retired just over 3 years ago, training non-specialist teachers to teach Classics more confidently and competently, currently working in three N.E. London schools.

I started in Autumn 2014, giving assistance with language work (using the Cambridge Latin Course) to a P.E. teacher who, on the strength of her 'O' Level Latin, has been preparing students for WJEC Level 1 Certificate in Latin Language, then Level 2. From a Lunchtime Club in September 2008 to a current Year 10 GCSE class (of 18 pupils) on the timetable

this P.E. teacher has used her "athletic skills to stay one step ahead of the students". Latterly, I have helped her to translate the more difficult Unseens, elucidating tricky grammatical points and offered her suitable supplementary material for the new Eduqas Roman Civilisation topic ('Entertainment and Leisure'). We are just about to embark upon the enterprising selection of Literature on the theme of 'A Day at the Races'.



In Memoriam

We mourn the passing of Sir Gerald Elliot, Lady Belinda Morse and Sir Henry Brookes earlier this year. Sir Gerald was a tremendously supportive donor from the very beginning of Classics for All, as was Lady Morse (with Sir Jeremy Morse and their family). Sir Henry hatched up the idea of the Lawyers Group in support of Classics for All four years ago, an initiative which is growing each year.

We are also very sorry to have lost a staunch volunteer for Classics for All, Lorna Birchley (known to us by her married name Lorna Bower), who died earlier this year. Lorna played a vital role in promotion and communications in the early days of our charity. She produced two films about our work, in 2012 and 2013, which still present a compelling story about our support for schools; they can be viewed on YouTube. We wanted to share with our supporters Lorna's obituary from *The Guardian* (below); Classics was just one part (albeit a passionately important part) of her extraordinary life.

From *The Guardian* obituaries

Patrick Kelly, Thu 15 Feb 2018

My friend Lorna Birchley, who has died aged 60, was an award-winning journalist with BBC news and current affairs programmes. Lorna worked with investigative programmes such as Face the Facts, where she helped to uncover the BSE scandal, and as a producer for Panorama and Newsnight, but she will be remembered for her early spirit in defending the rights of people with disabilities at work.

In 1982, Lorna, a trainee with the Westminster Press group, was sacked from her post at the Middlesex Advertiser when the company claimed she had failed to fill in her application form correctly by not disclosing her type 1 diabetes. Lorna refused to accept this and her colleagues

mounted a successful strike to reinstate her. Lorna's resilience and determination in that dispute were an inspiration to many trade union activists and it was concerted action like this that paved the way for employment laws banning such discrimination. On the picket line, she met a fellow journalist, Dick Bower, and they married in 1988. They had a daughter, Lizzie, born in 1993.



After Westminster Press, she worked in BBC local radio, and moved to Radio 4's In Touch programme, where she campaigned for the rights of blind and partially sighted people at work. Next she joined Radio 4's investigation programme Face the Facts, where she worked on the story of BSE, a scoop which opened the doors to the BBC's television current affairs programmes. She went on to work for Panorama, interviewing the defecting KGB colonel and British secret agent Oleg Gordievsky, and covering the withdrawal of Soviet troops from eastern Europe.

But as her health deteriorated, she had to give up her career. While she could, she continued to work as head of communications for the charity Classics for All, which campaigns for Latin and Greek to be taught in state schools.

Lorna will be remembered in many newsrooms as a journalist of impeccable integrity. She is survived by her husband and daughter, and by a brother, Philip, and sister, Flicka. Source: <https://www.theguardian.com/media/2018/feb/15/lorna-birchley-obituary>

Classics in Retirement continued

Last academic year (2016-2017) I took on another school, as a Classics for All trainer. This school decided to introduce Latin about five years ago. At first the school held a lunchtime club; then, one by one teachers were initiated into the teaching of Latin. They now teach the subject to GCSE, using John Taylor's course books.

Recently, my main focus recently has been to ensure that the teacher of the GCSE group and two other members of staff, who took the GCSE themselves only last summer, have the knowledge and confidence to teach the literature. We have had some enthralling and enriching discussions on the selection of Catullus poems in particular. This term we are exploring Tacitus on the decline of education (Dialogus), Pliny on Arria (the elder) and Minicia Marcella, and a short extract from Cicero's Pro Milone on the 'bitter

hatred' between Milo and Clodius as the Prose Set Text to be examined in 2018 and 2019. After monthly sessions on beginners' Greek, led by myself and attended by up to eight members of staff, this term the school, enterprising as ever has set up a lunchtime Greek Club for students.

I have now started training non-specialist staff in a third school to teach AS Latin from September 2018 (GCSE Latin is already well established). This seems to be the most challenging 'assignment', as we tackle the historical, prosopographical and literary complexities of the opening chapters of Tacitus' Histories Book 1 (the other set text is Vergil's Aeneid Book XI lines 1-224) and go beyond the GCSE range of accident and syntax. In short, a very satisfying way to spend some of one's time in retirement.

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