

CLASSICS MATTERS

THE CLASSICS FOR ALL NEWSLETTER, SPRING 2019

A spring in our step

Welcome to this edition of Classics Matters. We're excited to update you on the latest news from our new nerve centre at King's College London.

Spring is the season of growth and renewal and Classics for All is embracing change. In light of our rapidly expanding programme, we have appointed three new staff. Kiera, Sacha and Gussie joined us early in the new year.

We said farewell to three Trustees – Jeannie Cohen, Sarah Jackson OBE and Professor Tom Harrison – all instrumental in setting up the charity and shaping its direction. In their place, we welcome three new faces – Dr Mai Musié, Marion Gibbs CBE and Professor Michael Scott – who will bring fresh perspectives to our work.

By March 2019, Classics for All had reached over 800 primary and secondary schools, introducing ancient languages and classical studies to over 45,000 pupils.

With your help, we are well on course to reach 1,000 schools by the end of 2020. In January, we published our first impact report which demonstrates the scale of our achievements.

In this edition, we celebrate the donors who helped us reach 200 schools and expand our regional classics networks in 2018. We also explore the case for classics in translation. The study of classics is often associated with ancient languages, yet classics is a varied, interdisciplinary subject which can include English literature, history, philosophy, art and archaeology. The case studies featured demonstrate how the study of classical civilisation and ancient history are developing pupils' cultural capital and analytical skills.

The Classics for All team

FEATURED ARTICLES



"Classics seems to touch something deeper than a normal lesson."

The cult of classics in Lionheart Academies Trust



"These ancient civilisations continue to influence and inspire every generation."

The rise of classical civilisation in North London

The big picture. **Thanks to you we have:**



Raised nearly £2m from donors, including £500k from 26 trusts and foundations since 2010.



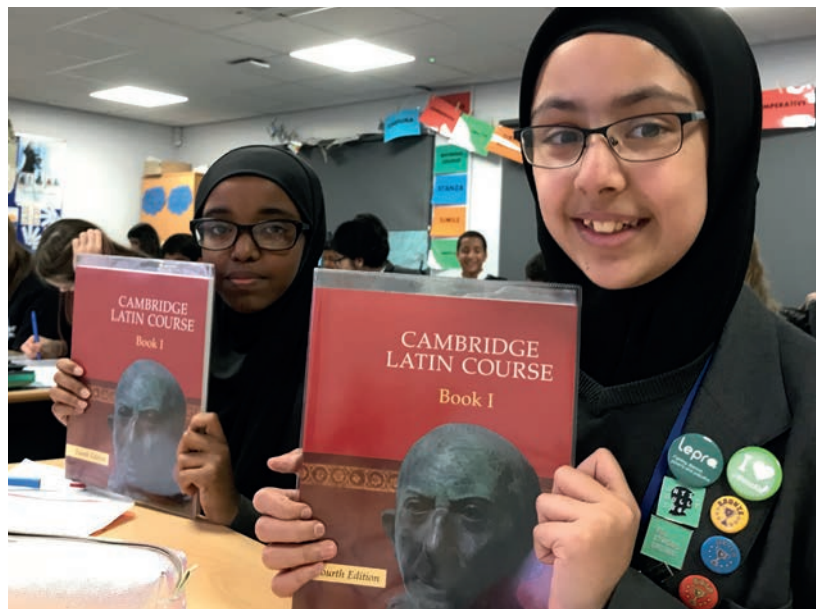
Reached over 800 schools by March 2019.



Developed 17 regional classics networks across the UK.

Persephone and Pomegranates: teacher **Lidia Kuhivchak** reflects on growing a classical cult in Lionheart Academies Trust

Over the past year, the Lionheart Trust has introduced classical civilisation stealthily as part of the curriculum for Key Stage 3 students. As the Trust grows to include more schools, it seems the perfect time to bring the opportunity to a wider group of students.



Classics students at a Lionheart Academies Trust school.

As a classicist, I wanted to use the knowledge I had from university to develop students' cultural capital; as an English teacher, I could see how references to Greek mythology in literature often went over students' heads.

We were blessed with a large and enthusiastic group of students; half of them have chosen to continue classical civilisation this year with the aim of getting a GCSE.

We now have three groups running across our schools, in tandem with Latin groups – some students even attend both!

The students' written responses to my 'Why do you want to study classics this year' questionnaire were charmingly dutiful ('Because I get a GCSE early,' 'Because it helps me

in my other subjects') and I suspect that they were telling me what they think I want to hear. The real answer, which they regularly tell me, is 'classics is fun'.

Classics seems to touch something deeper than a normal lesson. I've seen two students nearly come to blows over who had the most correct version of an Olympian family tree. Their interest elicits something different from me, too: when they told me they didn't know what a pomegranate was, in a lesson on the Persephone myth, I naturally went out to buy them pomegranates.

Three new students joined the group this half term, because their friends said they should. Perhaps part of the attraction is the specialness of the after-school experience. Their daily curriculum doesn't include the chance to dress up in Roman armour ('Miss, it's so HEAVY!') or make Greek pots out of clay, or go round the British Museum on a treasure hunt. And unlike their usual lessons, we are not trying to make them examination experts – there's plenty of time for that later.

In short, we've created our own little cult of classics within the school, and like all good cults the influence has begun to spread across our Trust of schools, helped by enthusiastic staff at Leicester University, and a programme of trips, which are always a winner. Having said all this, of course we have challenges. As an extra-curricular option, classics isn't granted meeting and planning time, two things we desperately need. I battle the students' other extra-curricular commitments (drama and sport are my nemeses). I battle my own teaching timetable which takes precedence. I also battle my own academic inadequacy when they ask questions I can't answer.

My knowledge is growing but of course the training courses for classics are always prohibitively expensive (are there truly staff out there whose line managers sign off those eye watering fees for Continuing Professional Development? Goodness me, I envy you). Thank goodness for Classics for All, Google, and the innocence of Key Stage 3 students who still believe that teachers know everything. Let's see if that lasts two years.

My classical odyssey: how teacher **Kieran Gates'** own classical civilisation teachers inspired him to bring classics to his school

As a teenager, I had no idea what I wanted my future career to be. The turning point was when my small state secondary school in Wiltshire began to offer a new GCSE led by two incredibly passionate teachers.

This GCSE was classical civilisation and explored the history of ancient Greece and Rome. The mixture of mythology, sport, war, art, culture and gladiator fighting had me hooked! I went on to do my 'A' Levels at a local grammar school and pursued classics. I fell in love with classical art, architecture and the works of Homer and Virgil in particular. After studying ancient history and Latin at university, and focusing on the history of Greek and Roman education in my dissertation, I realised I wanted to become a teacher myself.

I chose Teach First, a fast route into teaching, as I fully support its commitment to equal opportunities in education. In September 2016, I began my teaching career, training as a computer science teacher in North London as there were no openings for classics teachers. Teaching computer science has been incredibly rewarding and has taught me a great deal. However, I've never forgotten my inspirational classical civilisation teachers and I have remained determined to start classics at my school.

In 2017, I approached my Senior Leadership Team and suggested introducing classics as an optional subject in Year 9. The Year 9 course combined Latin and ancient history enticing pupils to opt for classical civilisation GCSE in Years 10 and 11.

In September 2018, a small class of 10 students began their study of classical civilisation. Since then, we have launched an after school enrichment 'Club Classics'. We have also offered Year 8 students an educational visit to the British Museum giving them the chance to explore physical elements of the ancient world and build their cultural capital.



Year 8 students at the British Museum, standing in front of the Parthenon Marbles, from Athens.



I chose classics because it is fun, interesting and useful for the future. As well as this, I enjoy it because it gives me a creative input in my life.

Jasmine (Year 9)

In a recent leadership meeting, I was asked to explain the value of learning classics. The importance is clear to me. While the grammatical benefits of Latin are easy to defend, classical civilisation and ancient history have other advantages. Classics in translation develops students' cultural insight and analytical skills, which are relevant to many disciplines. Studying the history, art and literature of ancient civilisations fosters well-rounded, appreciative and intellectually curious pupils. In my eyes, you don't need Latin or Greek for that.

I will finish with this thought. In education we often talk about making a difference. I like to think that I am passing on my love of classics to my students. Classics is now part of the DNA of my school. For the students who study it, the impact is huge. Classics and ancient history are worthwhile, enjoyable subjects. They shouldn't be restricted to the few – classics should be for all!

Going for it! Teacher **Amy Quinn** on the rise of classical civilisation at JCoSS, North London

How did Classics for All help JCoSS introduce classical subjects to the curriculum?

Thanks to a generous grant from CfA in 2015, we introduced Latin at JCoSS (with great success!). Due to its popularity, we now teach Latin as a language option from Year 8 to GCSE, with 'A' Level Latin starting in September this year!

We were keen to build on the success of our Latin course lower down the school and expand the humanities subjects on offer in our sixth form. With further support from CfA, we introduced classical civilisation 'A' level in 2017.



Classics has surprised me by being so distant and yet so relevant – I constantly find parallels with the modern world!

Robyn Mydat

Aside from the fun and fascination, what does the study of classical civilisation offer students that other areas of the curriculum do not?

Classics is the study of societies that are no longer around and yet these ancient civilisations continue to influence and inspire every generation.

As Year 12 pupil Robyn Mydat says: "Classics has surprised me by being so distant and yet so relevant – I constantly find parallels with the modern world!"

Classical civilisation offers a unique blend of the humanities – language, literacy, religion, philosophy, history, oratory, art, archaeology, myth, poetry and so much more. It offers young people of all backgrounds and ability levels an opportunity to improve their grammar skills, broaden their perspectives and to gain an understanding of classical references.

For example, the English department have been impressed by the links that students have made between their classical and English texts, particularly when studying Shakespeare.

What would you say to a school that is thinking about introducing classical civilisation?

I would say go for it! Classical civilisation has been a real asset to JCoSS and we are so impressed with the impact it has made in only 18 months.

From our first cohort, four students are applying to study classical civilisation at university, with a further three using classics to support applications for law and theology, and two applying to Oxbridge.



Amy Quinn (left) and Robyn Mydat (right) discuss the talk by the Rt. Hon. Lord Justice Singh (centre) on Antigone's Law, at the Classics for All Lawyers Group event at Middle Temple in March.

Following her retirement as a Trustee, **Sarah Jackson OBE**, former Chair of CfA, reflects on the charity's history and achievements

I remember an evening when two fellow classicists, Jeannie Cohen and Graham Shaw, and I were trying to work out what success would look like for Classics for All; in particular, what we really meant by sustainability.

A school which took students all the way through, from Year 7 to 'A' Level, and then on to study classics at university, was, we agreed, an incredibly ambitious vision. So we did not seek support for 'A' Level classics in our pitch to funders, fearing that sceptical donors would be less likely to part with their cash if our aspirations seemed unrealistic.

It is wonderful that here we are almost ten years later – and testament to the incredible work which Hilary Hodgson has been building with our schools. I'm thrilled that as my time on the Board nears its end, we are seeing the original vision beginning to be realised.

Meet our new Trustees **Marion Gibbs CBE**, **Dr Mai Musié** and **Professor Michael Scott**



Marion Gibbs CBE was captivated by the classics at her state school and went on to read classics at Bristol University. She taught classics for 38 years, with a brief excursus to become one of Her Majesty's Inspectors before Ofsted changed everything.

A Head for 21 years in London, she carried on teaching throughout. She also co-founded and led for 12 years a ground-breaking state-independent school partnership, involving secondary schools in Southwark and neighbouring boroughs – classics was of course part of this. She is currently a Trustee of Charleston in Sussex and an independent member of an Academy Trust.



Dr Mai Musié read classical civilisation at Swansea University. She came to classics through a rather unconventional route; a chance encounter with Anne Rice's *Vampire Chronicles* and Tom Stoppard's *Arcadia*. A sixth form summer excursion to Greece solidified her interest in the ancient world, which led her to study the subject at university. She is passionate about increasing access to classics for marginalised groups.

Mai is a Knowledge Exchange Officer at the University of Oxford and co-founder of the Classics in Communities project. She has worked in Higher Education for the last ten years in access and outreach projects including running the Classics Outreach Programme for the Faculty of Classics, Oxford. Her research areas include race and ethnicity in the ancient world, classics education and outreach, and medieval Ge'ez manuscripts.



Professor Michael Scott is a professor in the Department of Classics at the University of Warwick. He realised he wanted to be a classicist having spent his 17th birthday at the archaeological site of Olympia. Alongside his academic work, Michael has long been passionate about communicating the ancient world to national and international audiences through articles, books and talks, as well as TV and radio documentaries.

He is committed to ensuring everyone has access to the ancient world, and has most recently founded the Warwick Classics Network in conjunction with Classics for All to support the teaching of classics and ancient history in schools across the West Midlands. An Honorary Citizen of Delphi, Michael is also President of the Lytham St Annes Classical Association branch, the largest branch in the UK.

Get involved: how you can help more schools to introduce or improve their classics provision

The Grand Classics Quiz

Saturday 28 September, 9.30am, King's College London

In response to popular demand, we are delighted that Latin and Ancient Greek teacher and classicist **Isabel Raphael** will host an entertaining and informal classics-themed quiz at King's College. Come alone or with friends to test your Greek and Roman knowledge and meet other scholars and enthusiasts.

Who was the Emperor who retired to plant cabbages? The answer will be provided on the day!



There was a wonderful team spirit and we managed a surprising number of answers. What fun!

Previous quiz attendee

Tickets £15 each, including light refreshments.

Book online at classicsforall.org.uk/events or contact Kiera on events@classicsforall.org.uk or 0207 848 4741.

What was Roman marriage like?

Wednesday 2 October, 6.30pm, King's College London

This year's Friends of Classics memorial lecture will be delivered by **Gregory Hutchinson**, Regius Professor of Greek at the University of Oxford.

Our ideas of what marriage is like in our own society are much less fixed than was once the case. It's interesting to see how people in the Roman world presented their own marriages.

Looking at some of the evidence will draw us into the fascination of complex relationships and a complex culture, which speak to our own experience.

Professor Hutchinson has written numerous chapters on various authors, periods, and subjects in Greek and Latin literature. His books include *Greek to Latin* (2013) and *Plutarch's Rhythmic Prose* (2018). He is currently finishing a book on motion in ancient literature.

He will give us a lively and intriguing insight into this ancient tradition, followed by a Q&A session and refreshments.

Tickets £16 each, including light refreshments.

Book online at classicsforall.org.uk/events or contact Kiera on events@classicsforall.org.uk or 0207 848 4741.



Professor Gregory Hutchinson

Dining with the Romans

Thursday 28 November, 7pm, Stationers' Hall, London

We're very excited to bring together a distinguished panel to discuss food in the ancient world in the stunning Stationers' Hall. **Dr Paul Roberts**, **Prue Leith CBE** and **Dr Sally Grainger** will discuss this fascinating topic, facilitated by **Peter Jones MBE**.

The audience will be invited to participate in a brief Q&A before repairing to the reception room for some wine and Roman canapés.

Tickets £40 - £100 each, including light refreshments.
Book online at classicsforall.org.uk/events or contact Kiera on events@classicsforall.org.uk or 0207 848 4741.



Above: Terracotta food © Parco Archeologico di Paestum

Our 'Dining with the Romans' event coincides with the Ashmolean Museum's 'Last Supper in Pompeii' exhibition, curated by Dr Paul Roberts, which is running from 25 July 2019 – 12 January 2020.

The Big Give Christmas Challenge

Tuesday 3 – 10 December, online

For the past two years we have been encouraged by your tremendous support during The Big Give Christmas Challenge, our annual opportunity to have online donations generously matched for one week.

Work is currently underway in the Midlands and North East using donations from the 2018 challenge. Turn to page nine to see how we've used your donations from the 2017 challenge to support classics in London and South East schools. This year we're focusing on schools in areas of social and economic deprivation across the country, and will ask everyone to consider contributing £5 or more on the Big Give website during the wonderfully hectic Christmas Challenge week.

Make a donation

We are grateful for gifts of all sizes at any time of year.

A donation of £125 could provide an inspiring talk in schools to galvanise students and teachers to study classics.

- Donate online by visiting classicsforall.org.uk/donate
- Donate over the phone by calling Kiera, Sacha or Jules on 0207 848 4741
- Donate by post by writing to us at Classics for All, Room C14, King's College, Strand, London WC2R 2LS



Coming to university has shown how incredible it is that I had the opportunity to study Greek at a state school.

Esther, former Camden School for Girls student now studying at Oxford

Classics for All at the **Reform Club**: a wonderful £144,000 raised to support our work and help meet an increasing demand for classics

On 24 January 2019, our Chairman Geoffrey de Jager hosted a very special fundraising event at the Reform Club, London.

Joined by 100 guests, whose donations Geoffrey pledged to match pound for pound, the evening raised an extremely generous £144,000 to support our work.

This sum has had a huge impact on our work, helping us to strengthen our cost-effective regional classics networks and spread our influence to new areas across the country.

It enabled us to start the year as we mean to go on, generating several multi-year pledges which allow us to plan our outreach work effectively and meet demand from schools.

So far this year, 80 schools have been in touch asking about financial support to introduce or develop classics in their school, and we have already supported 70 schools.



The Reform Club on London's Pall Mall [photo: Antoinette Eugster]



Professor Peter Frankopan [photo: Jonny Ring]

Guests at the event were enthralled by **Professor Peter Frankopan's** talk which proposed that classics should not be confined to Rome, Athens and Sparta, the Mediterranean and Roman Britain.

North Africa, the Middle East, links with China, the Slavic world, the Byzantine Empire, Ottoman Turks (the Crusades were written up in Latin and Greek), the rise of Christianity and Islam all came within the subject's purview.

They also had the opportunity to learn about the work we've done in Leicestershire, where the University of Leicester has been reaching out to local schools to introduce classics with great success.

We feature Leicestershire's Lionheart Academies Trust in this newsletter, on page two.

Next year marks our 10th anniversary and we hope to build on the success of previous fundraising gala evenings with an even bigger event next summer.

A film of our Leicester Classics Network is available to watch on our website's home page at classicsforall.org.uk

Londinium Magnificum in action: how the 2017 Big Give Christmas Challenge has taken us from strength to strength

When Classics for All announced its first Big Give Christmas Challenge at the end of 2017, little did we envision we would raise £73,000!

The funding provided by the generosity of the Big Give donors enabled us to introduce classics to 36 schools, including nine primary schools and 27 secondary schools in London and the South East during 2018, and we have enough funding to continue in 2019. Examples of the great work supported include:

- The teaching of Maximum Classics, an online hybrid Latin and classical civilisation course, to 125 pupils in Year 5 (9-10 year-olds) and the training of five teachers at Coleridge Primary School in Haringey, North London.
- The introduction of classics across Key Stage 1 and 2 (6-11 year-olds), reaching over 500 pupils at Whitchurch Primary School & Nursery in Harrow, North London.
- The introduction of Latin on the Key Stage 3 curriculum, starting off with 130 pupils in Year 8 (12-13 year-olds) at The Winston Churchill School in Woking, Surrey.
- The integration of classical civilisation on the curriculum at Key Stage 3 (11-14 year-olds) benefitting 400 pupils, the introduction of GCSE classical civilisation with 25 pupils, and the development of Latin for 12 pupils in Year 9 (13-14 year-olds) at Heartlands High School in Haringey, North London.

'I learned that a lot of the English language comes from Latin, including my name.'

'My favourite thing about Latin is the word "euge" [meaning Hooray!].'

It is wonderful to see how enthusiastic teachers and pupils are about teaching and studying classics. This work wouldn't be possible without the generous donations we received during our Big Give Christmas Challenge. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

The Classics for All **Lawyers Group**: forthcoming events in 2019

'We think that Classics for All will be of special interest to lawyers – and we include in that term judges, academics, practitioners, and not least law firms. As well as the close historical connections between Rome, Latin and the law, we are confident that an education in classics will not only improve the quality of education generally, but will also improve the quality of written English, and indeed the quality of reasoning and argument – obvious values for lawyers.'

Rt Hon Lord Dyson and Rt Hon Sir Francis Jacobs KCMG QC

To join the Lawyers Group in support of Classics for All please email Kiera on contact@classicsforall.org.uk or call on 0207 848 4741. You can also visit our website, classicsforall.org.uk/lawyers, for more information including a list of current members and a subscription form. Benefits include three member events per annum.

Forthcoming events in 2019 include:

- A talk on 'Democracy and the Rule of Law' by **Professor Paul Cartledge**, Emeritus A.G. Leventis Professor of Greek Culture, with a brief response by **Professor Jeffrey Jowell QC**, at the River Room in King's College London on **24 June**.
- A moot trial of Lysistrata, presided over by **Lady Arden**, at the Supreme Court on **24 October**.

Classics for All **donor recognition list 2018**

This page celebrates our donors from Centurions to Olympians. Together you are changing the landscape of classics in state schools. Thank you: we could not do it without you!

Olympians (giving £100,000+) Geoffrey and Caroline de Jager

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