

# CLASSICAL LANGUAGES

## LATIN

While Latin is considered by some to be a 'dead' language, the words used every day by the Romans are alive and well. They are found in their original form in the specialised language of law, medicine and the sciences (astronomy, biology, chemistry, geology and physics) as well as in many common English expressions and abbreviations and found in a modified form in about 70% of the words in an English dictionary. Nor is it to be forgotten that Latin has evolved into 5 modern languages: French, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese and Romanian.

**The historical and linguistic links between Latin and Italian make this course the perfect introduction to the study of Italian in Years 11 and 12 for the HSC.**

It follows that the study of Latin leads to a much greater understanding of English words, developing a sharpened awareness of their precise meanings and their spelling. The study of Latin grammar also leads students to a greater appreciation of how their own language works and how it can be used to convey meaning.

The ultimate aim of the Junior Course is the comprehension and appreciation of literature in the original Latin, through reading and translation. While the text books are modern and interesting, there is no doubt that the study of Latin requires a considerable amount of memorisation and constant revision and practice. It is a challenging course well suited to gifted and talented students, and the rewards are many for those who apply themselves.

A language can only be fully understood in the context of the people who spoke it, hence ample time is given to the study of Roman civilisation: mythology, history, social mores and customs, laws, architecture, art and literature, Roman Britain, Alexandria and so on. As this civilisation has greatly influenced European history and culture to this very day, students will acquire a cultural literacy that will be invaluable to them and enhance their appreciation of many things in the modern world.

**NOTE:** 2 Unit and Extension HSC courses are a continuation of the Junior Course. Therefore, students wishing to present these subjects at the HSC must have studied them as a Junior Elective. **There is no HSC Latin Beginners Course.**

## CLASSICAL GREEK

Students will first learn the Greek alphabet. The language of this course is the Greek spoken and written by the people of the area around Athens in the fifth century BC, the language of their literature, and the language of their Greek-speaking

contemporaries throughout the eastern Mediterranean. It is the language of some of Europe's earliest written stories, and the language of its first drama and philosophy.

### Why learn Classical Greek?

- *knowledge of classical languages increases English vocabulary*
- *classical languages aid in the understanding of English grammar*
- *develop problem solving skills*

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