



Ripon Grammar School

Dear Student,

I look forward to welcoming you in September, to help you with the transition from Y11 to sixth form and ensure that you are well prepared for the A level Classical Civilisation course I have included some guidance below.

Please email me, Mr Weston (Head of Classics), at westonm@ripongrammar.com to introduce yourself, tell me which school you have studied at, what your prior experience in Classics is and what elements of the course are you most looking forward to or are most interested in.

The most useful preparation for this course is to read works from the general and background [reading list](#). This way you will get a grounding in Greek mythology which is essential throughout the course and an understanding of Roman and Greek daily life and culture giving you useful contextual understanding. All of these things are covered throughout the course anyway but you will probably feel more confident at the start of the course if you have done some preparatory reading. The works which are asterisked on the list are of particular use, accessibly written and readily available.

Course texts, textbooks and modern scholarly articles are provided on the course but you may wish to purchase your own copies. Some students like to annotate their texts and textbooks. So, I have included details of these as well on the lists.

A level Classics is a literary course. Many of your lessons will involve reading the texts and discussion. You will need to make notes during these parts of the lessons and therefore looking into methods of efficient note taking would be a useful task prior to starting the course in September. [How To Take Study Notes: 5 Effective Note Taking Methods](#)

Other lessons will be focused on particular themes or focused on examination techniques. The vast majority of submitted work will be based on the way the examination is assessed and will be written in class. There will be lessons where students are required to prepare and present presentations on themes and topics. Other lessons will be based on reading modern scholarship relevant to topics and sources studied or selected to develop broader understanding of the ancient world.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,
Mr Weston
Head of Classics

Founded in Saxon Times, re-founded in 1555

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