



AMPLEFORTH
COLLEGE

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Dear Parents & Guardians,

I am the Head of Classics and I'm writing to explain the arrangements for learning classical subjects in Year 9. The Classics department at Ampleforth offers Latin, Greek and Classical Civilisation. Every student in Year 9 learns either Latin or Classical Civilisation. In addition, some learn Greek.

Latin and Classical Civilisation

This year there are two sets for Latin. Students who have studied Latin for longer and/or have demonstrated (through Common Entrance or Ampleforth's internal exams) that they are ready for a faster pace are placed in set 1. Students who have done less Latin, or are beginners who have shown ability or interest in languages, are placed in set 2, which will start with the basics. Students whose profile suggests they might be better suited to a course taught entirely in English will study Classical Civilisation (Greek and Roman culture) instead of Latin. This class is capped at 20 students.

After Year 9, any pupil will be able to choose Classical Civilisation for GCSE if they wish, but only those who have taken Latin in Y9 (from either set 1 or 2) will be able to take Latin.

Greek

In addition, Classical Greek is taught to a small selection of students (just over 20% of the year), whose profile suggests that they would flourish with further academic enrichment. This is a wonderful opportunity for able linguists to sample an exciting classical language in a new alphabet. The course is designed to be academically stretching but not daunting. This could lead to further studies in Greek at GCSE and beyond, but even as a stand-alone course, a knowledge of some Classical Greek is a valuable asset to broader learning.

Set changes

We have selected students for the Latin, Classical Civilisation and Greek sets on the basis of information we have about the students from the Admissions department or from their time in Year 8 at Ampleforth. As we do not yet know most of the students, it is possible that we (or they) will want to change their set. It is certainly not too late to make changes. Indeed, as we get to know the students in the first few weeks of term, we will be open to making moves between the sets, while ensuring that the set sizes are not too imbalanced.

Please do let me know if you would particularly like your child to join the Greek set. Similarly, if they have been selected for Greek and feel uncertain about it, please let me know. We hope that with your encouragement they will embrace the opportunity, but if Greek really is not for them, we can remove them from the set. However, in the interests of stability and to encourage perseverance, we ask that any set changes are settled by the October half term.

If you have any questions about the teaching of Classics in Year 9, please do not hesitate to contact me on charlotte.goddard@ampleforth.org.uk.

Best wishes,

Dr Charlotte Goddard
Head of Classics