



ABINGDON

From Dr C Burnand:Head of Classics

16 September 2011

To parents of lower sixth boys studying Ancient History

I am writing to inform you about the Ancient History course on which your son is embarking in the sixth-form. Two teachers will teach him this year, Hugh Price (with whom he will be studying Augustan Rome) and Adam Jenkins (with whom he will be studying Athenian democracy).

In the sixth-form there is a much greater need for boys to organise their own time over the course of the week. They will be expected to hand in a substantial piece of written work every week, set alternately by their two teachers. They will usually be set this work two weeks before it is due, so that they have plenty of time to plan and produce it. But this organisation of time is not easy for those accustomed to more piecemeal assignments. Initially they will be given more structured tasks before they develop into full essays, and we will be giving them advice at our end, particularly stressing the need to do some work on the topic every evening and over the weekends (whether that is reading and note-taking, or writing), rather than leaving it too close to the deadline to make a start. However, any assistance that you are able to give them in organising their time at home is extremely beneficial, precisely because of this step up. As a rough guide, we expect them to do about four hours a week in total outside the classroom.

We have already asked them to get a large lever-arch file to contain all their ancient history work. All the necessary books are provided by the department, which we obviously expect to be returned in good condition at the end of the course.

If you have any questions about the course at any stage, please do not hesitate to get in touch with one of your son's teachers or me directly, whether by email (chris.burnand@abingdon.org.uk) or by telephone (home: 01865 341590).

Yours sincerely

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