



# ABINGDON

From Dr C Burnand: Head of Classics

16 September 2011

To parents of lower sixth boys studying Greek or Latin

I am writing to inform you about the course on which your son is embarking in the sixth-form, whether that is Greek or Latin or both. He will be taught by three separate teachers this year: one Latin set (S-block) is taught by Jenny Fishpool, David Franklin and Adam Jenkins, the other (P-block) by Stephen Ridd, Adam Jenkins and myself, the Greek set by Jenny Fishpool, David Franklin and myself. In each subject one teacher will concentrate on language (which makes up 50% of the exam), the other two on reading Latin or Greek texts, both prose and verse.

In the sixth-form there is a greater need for boys to organise their own time over the course of the week: on the language side they will be expected to hand in at least one translation a fortnight, as well as learning for a fortnightly grammar and vocabulary test. For the texts they read, they will be expected either to prepare them in advance of lessons or carefully to go over what they have read together in class. This will mean that they have work to do every evening of the week as well as some at the weekend: outside the classroom we expect them to do about four hours a week in total. We will obviously be trying to help them organise their time at our end, but any assistance that you are able to give them in doing so at home is extremely beneficial, as there will be necessarily less structure than they have previously been used to with a set daily prep timetable.

We have asked them to get a large lever-arch file to contain their work. We have already bought grammars and dictionaries for them (unless they already owned them), for which – I am afraid - they will be billed. We expect them to have their own copies of these as they are essential throughout the two-year course, and at this level they require a good quality dictionary, showing the actual usage of the different words. The cost for the two books in each language is £23: I know that this is not a negligible sum, but this is with a discount that we can get through buying them as a school. All the other books are provided by the department, which we obviously expect to be returned 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](mailto:chris.burnand@abingdon.org.uk)) or by telephone (home: 01865 341590).

Yours sincerely

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