



ABINGDON

From: Mr A Jenkins – Lower School Master

25 November 2011

Dear parents

GCSE Classics

As you may well be aware, one of the key elements of your son's GCSE Classical Civilisation course this year is his controlled assessment. I thought it would be useful to give you an outline of what this process involves and what your son should be doing at this stage.

Your son did a mock assessment in the first half of this term to help him understand the procedure. He is now working on the real title which is as follows:

'Participation in the Olympic games was more about religion than sport.'
How far do you agree with this statement?

Your son needs to build up a set of notes to help him answer this question and has been given a list of websites and books (which are all available in the school library) to help him do this. It is essential that he include lots of primary source material in his notes to help him provide evidence for his arguments. He also needs to keep a detailed bibliography to show where his research has come from. He is allowed to draw up a plan of how he is going to answer the question but not a detailed draft.

The write-up stage of the controlled assessment will be done in lessons just before half-term in the Lent Term under exam conditions on computers. During this stage your son will not be allowed access to the internet or books, but will be allowed to take his notes (which have to be checked in advance to ensure they are all his own work) into the exam room. The end result has to be an essay response of 2,000 words.

At the moment I am giving the boys some lesson time to research and discuss the topic and, although they have to come up with their own analysis, I can give them guidance and suggestions during this research stage. They are also supposed to be using 45 minutes of their allocated prep time every week to continue with their research.

Given that the controlled assessment is worth 25% of the total GCSE, it is very important that your son takes the preparation for it seriously – but I also hope that he is enjoying the opportunity to develop research skills that will be important to him for his A-levels and beyond.

Do please contact me (adam.jenkins@abingdon.org.uk) if you have any questions about this.

Yours sincerely

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