

The University of Oxford
Classics Outreach Programme

From the Outreach Officer, Cressida Ryan



Newsletter October 2011

A year since my last 'formal' newsletter and many things have happened. From Portsmouth to Fife, I've travelled far and wide meeting wonderful groups and generally being cheered by the strength of Classics. David Lammy put in a freedom of information request about our outreach activities over Easter, and I'm confident that Classics was able to give a good account of itself. Whether it is the 120+ individual school visits made this year, investment in long-term projects, or general liaison and fact-finding, a whole range of events and initiatives show what Classicists can achieve and how much people want to engage with us.

One announcement: I will be leaving Classics on 30th November 2011 to take up the post of Schools Liaison and Access Officer at Merton College. I will be replaced, eventually. In the short-term, I am not able to book in any new school visits, but there will be things happening in the future, so watch out for news from the Faculty. I would love to keep in touch with people, so please do contact me at cressida.ryan@merton.ox.ac.uk or cressida.ryan@gmail.com. If you happen to be in Wiltshire, Dorset or Merton then I am your linked college under the access and outreach regionalisation scheme, and I'd be very happy to remain in contact for work as well. I'm not giving up Classics entirely, and hope that I can continue to serve the community as, for example, secretary of JACT.



Ways to keep in touch:

Twitter: @oxfordclassics

Facebook: Classics Outreach

Email: outreach@classics.ox.ac.uk

Tel: 01865 288172 Mobile: 07775 110117

Cressida victrix, courtesy of Helen Lawrenson. Thank you to everyone who has made the past two years so brilliant.

UPDATES AND PROJECTS

PRIMARY WORK



I devised a primary Greek course for South Moreton school, which saw me visiting them once a week to teach a group of Y4-6 over lunch. I was extremely impressed at how well the children picked up Greek, and I developed a range of worksheets, activities and lesson plans which I was able to trial further with other primary groups during the year. 60 Y6 in Peterborough, in togas, for the day, stands out as a particularly memorable experience! We also worked with the Iris Project in sending undergraduates into local primary schools, giving enthusiastic undergraduates a taste of teaching, and children a much appreciated chance to learn some Latin.

LATIN TEACHING SCHEME

The 30 students who started learning Latin with the Faculty last year have made excellent progress and the Faculty continues to be very proud of the scheme, which is now following through its second cohort. Whether it's trying on reconstruction armour on Hadrian's wall (with the class mascot, as pictured) or gaining excellent results in their summer exams, they've been wonderful to work with.



In the last newsletter I asked for help assessing what use outreach could be. Thank you to everyone who responded. The panel at the CA, with Eugenie Fernandes and Ed Bragg, went very well, inspiring some excellent discussions and lots of plans for the future. With changing HE policies and the introduction of the EBacc of the rising popularity of

of the EPQ, it seems particularly important to keep abreast of educational developments and communicate with everyone involved. Whether it is meeting politicians or working with the media I have spent a lot of this year both learning about the developments and trying to keep Classics in the front of people's minds concerning them. Talking about my research on the Today programme, filming with the BBC, writing blurbs for the Independent and acting as a 'Classicist on call' for the local radio when they are interested in particular topics, this year has seen me out and about in all sorts of ways.

CLASSICS AT OXFORD

In February, amid all the doom and gloom from the media predicting the death of Humanities with the changes to Higher Education, I was busy setting up the Oxbridge Classics Open day. On 17th March, 840 students, parents and teachers descended on Oxford for an incredibly popular and successful day. Seeing the Sheldonian theatre full of people who wanted to study Classics, with what I think was record attendance, was not an experience I shall forget quickly. I apologise to the 200 people I had to turn down, but remain excited that Classics can be so popular.

This year it will be in Cambridge, on Friday 4th May 2012. Check the Cambridge website: www.classics.cam.ac.uk for updates and details about booking etc.

The Oxford Classics Prospectus is now available. There is a pdf online, or contact me for hard copies.

http://www.classics.ox.ac.uk/outreach/events/event_current.html

There has been a change in the admissions system for Oxford, regarding the taking of tests. From **this year**, the language tests will take place in schools. This year they will take place on 2nd November. Papers will be sent to schools triggered by the UCAS forms. Schools will need to arrange their own invigilation, in the same way as for other tests sat that day. More information can be found on the admissions website: http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate_courses/how_to_apply/tests/index.html

I have also had several enquiries about test levels. If a student is taking A2 Latin and / or Greek, then they will sit the test in one or both. If they have neither, they will sit the Language Aptitude Test. There are no intermediate level tests.

FEES AND FINANCE

The changing university fees regime is also a concern, naturally. Oxford are offering both a fee waiver and a bursary where appropriate (the only university to do this) and are putting as much money and effort into student welfare as they can. Here is a statement from Oxford:

The cost of studying is an increasingly important consideration when applying to university. The UK government has not yet confirmed the funding arrangements for students entering higher education in 2013/14, but details for 2012/13 entry are available on the University website (www.ox.ac.uk/fundingupdate). This also includes information about the University's generous support package for students from lower income households in the form of tuition fee waivers and bursaries.

If students are worried about the financial impact, please do get in touch.

USEFUL RESOURCES

The Classics Library: <http://www.theclassicslibrary.com/wordpress/> is rapidly becoming an invaluable home for Classics teachers. It relaunched itself over the summer to deal with the increasing traffic, so old members need to sign up again. A calendar of events, resources for each exam course, notices and themed discussion groups... A whole host of useful things in one place; thank you to Stephen Jenkins for running it.

Classics for All: The campaign is up and the first grants have been awarded. To follow their progress and keep in touch about future rounds, see the website: <http://www.classicsforall.org.uk>.

Classics stuff: <http://classicsstuff.posterous.com> Emma Woolerton has put up an ever-increasing set of vocab and notes for texts she has taught, which people may find useful.

Classics teaching: <http://www.classicsteaching.com> is a website set up by Steve Hunt to support teachers, and includes lots of resources people might want to look at, including information about different ways of training as a Classics teacher and research papers.

In situ INSET


On Saturday 24th September I participated in the JACT 'New Look INSET Day', working with teachers at the Museum of London. I learned a lot from the day myself, and particularly enjoyed meeting a number of teachers with whom I had only previously had email contact.



Head of Serapis,
Museum of London

Taking this site-based INSET further, I have organised a week's INSET at the British School at Rome, 23rd – 28th October. With the help of Rowlie Darby and Steve Hunt, ten Classics teachers will join me in Rome for a week exploring sites including Ostia, the Pantheon, Colosseum, Ara Pacis, Circus Maximus, Villa Borghese, Capitoline museum and many others. This is a pilot course, generously sponsored by JACT, the Classical Association, the Roman Society and the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. A full report will be available before the end of November for anyone who wishes to read it, and hopefully it will mark the start of a regular fixture at the BSR.



 Faculty of Classics



OLYMPIC CELEBRATIONS

With the London Olympics happening this year, I was planning a range of events. These have been put on hold, but hopefully a series of study days and sports events will run. Keep in touch with the Faculty if you want to hear about what is decided.



There is already an exhibition on the Olympics Ancient and Modern up in the Faculty, which will be available to visit for parts of this year. As we move closer to the games, I want to offer two competitions to enrich the exhibition.

1.) Submit an essay of up to 1000 words researching an aspect of the Olympics. This is open to Y10-13 and two prizes will be awarded (Y10-11, Y12-13).

2.) Submit a piece of creative work, which can be in any format but might include: picture, poem, sculpture. This is open to Y3-13 and four prizes will be awarded (Y3-6, Y7-9, Y10-11, Y12-13).

Winning entries will be displayed in the exhibition, alongside runners up.

The closing date for submissions is Wednesday 30th November 2011.

Oxford Triennial Greek Play



This is a reminder for teachers to book tickets for The Oxford Greek Play 2011, showing 16-19 November at The Oxford Playhouse. This special event takes place once every three years and is part of a 130-year long tradition. This year's performance will be Aeschylus' *Libation Bearers* (re-branded as **Clytemnestra**), offering audiences a thought-provoking new interpretation of a classic Greek tragedy, with costumes inspired by Japanese Noh Theatre. This is a rare chance to encounter the play in the original language and hear classical Greek spoken and sung, with a digitally projected English translation. Combining fantastic costumes and set, a modern musical score played live, and a specially commissioned

translation, *Clytemnestra* promises to be a visual spectacle which will capture the imaginations of students and teachers alike. We are offering additional activities to accompany the play, including talks from Classics tutors and lunch in an Oxford college. Contact the Education and Outreach Officer, Miss Chiara Crean: chiara.crean@st-annes.ox.ac.uk, for details on student group discounts and other events.



Classics in Comprehensives Annual Conference

19th November, Wadham College, Oxford University



Agenda

10.00 Registration and Coffee

10.30 Steven Hunt (University of Cambridge, Faculty of Education)
Welcome. Classics in state schools: setting the agenda.

10.45 Session 1 (Steven Hunt)

Discussion: what messages can we send to SLT about the value of studying Classics?

11.45 Session 2 (Etta Martin Smith, Saffron Walden County High School)

Discussion: working on a limited timetable.

12.45 Lunch and networking.

13.30 Session 3 (Alison Caplan, Bishop Llandaff High School)

Discussion: SEN and Classics teaching.

14.30 Session 4: (Tara Atkinson, Nower Hill High School)

Discussion: teaching and learning in the mixed-ability classroom.

15:30 Plenary session

16.00 Coffee and end.

The format of each session will be such that after an introductory presentation by the lead speaker, there will follow an opportunity to share experiences and work towards putting together exemplars and evidence to disseminate to a wider audience of teachers and other interested parties via the Journal of Classics Teaching and classicsteaching.com.



Faculty of Classics

Classics in Comprehensives Conference, 19th November 2011

Dear Classics Teacher

You are invited to attend the 2011 Classics in Comprehensives Conference which will be held at Wadham College, University of Oxford on 19th November 2011. This conference is focused on the requirements of teachers of Classics in comprehensive schools and will include presentations, workshops and activities which we hope will be of use to the specialist and non-specialist alike. This conference follows the success of the first conference which was held at St John's College, University of Cambridge, in July 2010. A brief report of that conference appeared in The Journal of Classics Teaching (Spring 2011) and a fuller one can be found in the research pages of classic-teaching.com. Teachers who attended the first conference found the information sharing and networking opportunities very useful.

The sessions will address such issues as:

- How do we convince Head Teachers, parents and pupils of the value of our subject?
- How do we teach Latin and Classical Civilisation on a short timetable?
- How do we accommodate the different needs of pupils with SEN?
- How do we teach Classical subjects across the ability range?

We also hope that Classics teachers will be able to share their practice in both formal and informal settings throughout the day. Please see the attached agenda for further details of the events.

The venue for the conference is:

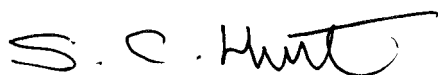
Wadham College, Oxford

The conference is **free** to teachers from comprehensive schools. The venue, coffee and lunch have been kindly provided by Wadham College and the Oxford Classics Outreach. The Roman Society is able to assist with travel bursaries. Further details are to follow. The numbers are restricted to 35 participants. Please return the application form below by 31st October 2011.

If you would like to attend the conference, please complete the attached form and send to:

Steven Hunt
Classics in Comprehensives Conference
Faculty of Education
University of Cambridge
184 Hills Road
Cambridge CB2 8PQ

Yours sincerely,



Steven Hunt
Lecturer in Classics Education, University of Cambridge

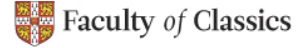


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Please return by 31st October 2011 to:

Steven Hunt,
Classics in Comprehensives Conference,
Faculty of Education,
University of Cambridge
184 Hills Road
Cambridge CB2 8PQ



The number of participants is limited to 35.

I would like to attend the above conference.

Name (Capitals):

School name: _____

School address: _____

_____ Postcode _____

Contact telephone:

Contact email: _____

Signed: _____

Which Latin course do you use?

None – I teach Classical Civilisation / general Classical background

Minimus

Cambridge Latin Course

Oxford Latin Course

Other – please indicate which.....

What information would be particularly useful for you to find out about at this conference?

Would you like your details to be kept on file for future conferences? YES / NO

Can we share your details with other Classics organisations (such as Oxford Outreach, JACT etc)?

YES / NO

SUPPORT FOR ROYAL HOLLOWAY

The Department of Classics and Philosophy at the University of Royal Holloway is under threat of merger / closure. An event to support the department was held at the Friends' Meeting House on 16th September, and a petition of 3864 signatures has been presented to the university. You can follow progress through the facebook group (Save Classics at RHUL), on Twitter (RHULClassics) and through their blog:

www.supportclassicsatrhul.wordpress.com . They are also promising a regular newsletter to help keep us up to date. Letters of support should be sent to the Head of Department in the first instance (Dr Anne Sheppard), who can pass them on. With Classics numbers growing in schools, it seems ludicrous to cut provision at an excellent university such as Royal Holloway. I hope that students and teachers alike will support them in their campaign.



COMMUNICATIONS

Most of the information I am sent or want to send out benefits from reasonably swift dissemination. With this in mind, I'm collecting electronic details for as many people as possible. If you would like to be kept up to date on a more regular basis, with relevant news, please let me know. In collaboration with JACT I am also assembling a better database of schools teaching Classics round the country. Whether it's letting schools know about what is happening, or being able to tell the politicians and journalists just what is the situation with Classics nationwide, it helps to have better data to hand than we presently hold. Before I leave, therefore, I'm chasing up everyone on my lists to ask for more systematic information about the state of Classics at your school. I would be very grateful if you could respond to this. Thank you to the people who have already got back to me.

The questionnaire is available on the website: http://www.classics.ox.ac.uk/outreach/events/event_current.html, or by emailing me.