



THE LATIN PROGRAMME: VIA FACILIS

IMPACT REPORT

2021/22

REGISTERED CHARITY 1126564

OUR MISSION

The Latin Programme delivers high-quality, creative, and fun Latin lessons to KS2-4 pupils in London state schools and beyond. Across seven primary schools, one secondary school, and a large free online offering, our team of four expert Latin teachers brings our transformative programme to over 1500 pupils every year, providing them with the tools they need to unlock a rich and fascinating ancient language.

But our lessons are about more than just Latin.

The programme is also designed to measurably improve literacy skills (including grammar and vocabulary), provide a strong basis for learning Romance languages, and encourage the use of critical thinking and problem solving strategies. We know that not every pupil will have the opportunity or inclination to continue learning Latin in secondary school, and so we build topic-based lessons into the curriculum which explore the sciences, mathematics, rhetoric, art and more.



WHAT SETS OUR PROGRAMME APART?

CREATIVE LESSONS RUN BY CREATIVE TEACHERS

In 2009, the National Literacy Trust reported that the teaching of literacy was not engaging students ‘in a way which is relevant to the twenty-first century lived experience’, and urged teachers to ‘tap into the interests and passions of their pupils’. This is something we have been heavily invested in since the birth of The Latin Programme, and which we believe bears real fruit. We encourage our teachers to bring their own creativity to their lessons; our current team includes a rapper, songwriter, arts journalist, and horticulturalist.

A KINAESTHETIC METHOD

Learning Latin from scratch is not easy. Some believe that Latin should be taught piecemeal, hoping pupils pick up bits of grammar as they go. Our method is more grammatically challenging than a piecemeal approach, but over the last

decade we have found that even the youngest pupils respond well to our grammar-focused model of Latin learning when we teach through music, performance, games, and other kinaesthetic methods.

“Pupils generally enjoy learning Latin very much and talked enthusiastically about the games, songs and activities they complete in lessons.” - **Ofsted Subject Inspection letter, St Peter's Eaton Square, 2019**

“We make the deep links between multiple cultures - African, Balkan, Ottoman, Asian - because the stories we tell originate from wherever the Greeks and Romans travelled. The pride and pleasure on the faces of children who find that their inheritance is being shared with the class is a joy to see.” - **Alys Torrance, Latin Programme Storyteller**

CULTURAL CONTEXT

Latin may not be spoken widely any more, but the impact of the language and the culture still reverberates today. Our lessons explore the extraordinary geographical, social and philosophical reach of the Ancient Greek and Roman world from then to now.

WHY LATIN?

'Why Latin?' is a question Latin teachers hear often. We've spent over ten years answering that question for prospective schools and pupils alike. Here are the points we find most compelling...



LEARNING LATIN IMPROVES ENGLISH LITERACY

The evidence: In 2013, The Shine Foundation undertook a data analysis of our work. That year, we aimed to bring at least 50-60% of classes up to a pass in literacy based on the English National Curriculum for KS2 and to bring the class average up to or beyond the national average in literacy after two years of Latin.

The results far surpassed our targets: by the end of 2013/14, 92% of students (who had studied for three years) were at the expected level for reading, and 83% were at the expected level for writing.

In order to learn Latin, pupils must have a solid understanding of English grammatical terms, accident, and syntax. From the very first lesson, we work to ensure that our pupils have the strongest possible foundation of English grammar, beginning with nouns and verbs.

Latin, unlike English, is an inflected language. Since the endings of verbs and nouns change their meaning, Latin sentence construction and translation requires logic and accuracy, which in turn leads to greater accuracy when speaking and writing in English.

Since over 65% of English words have Latin roots, our lessons also measurably improve English vocabulary.



LATIN LESSONS PROVIDE A *TABULA RASA* FOR EAL PUPILS

Latin acts as a healthy leveller for pupils learning English as an additional language. Where those pupils might be marked out as 'behind' in English lessons, they are able to gain confidence in Latin lessons where everybody is learning as a beginner. Additionally, because Latin is a root language of English, all pupils are able to make connections between Latin and English vocabulary, giving them the tools to work out the meanings of difficult English words.

The evidence: "Pupils like using previous knowledge to decode new words in Latin and English. For example, pupils in Year 6 easily worked out the meaning of words such as 'pugnacious' and 'necromancy' in a text and could explain their origin. [...] They also told me how much it helps them with their work in other subjects, particularly English." - **Ofsted Subject Inspection letter, St Peter's Eaton Square, 2019**



LATIN IS A GATEWAY TO OTHER ROMANCE LANGUAGES

Latin forms the basis of 75–80% of all Spanish, French, Italian, Portuguese and Romanian words, so speakers of Romance languages have an edge in studying Latin and vice versa. Latin students also have a huge advantage in learning other inflected languages such as Russian or German.

Many primary schools find that the modern foreign language provision can be inconsistent at Key Stage 2. Additionally, a KS2 pupil learning French, for example, might only be offered Spanish at KS3. By learning Latin with The Latin Programme, pupils receive consistent teaching for all four years, and leave primary school with a solid foundation on which to build many other languages.



OUR IMPACT: IN THE CLASSROOM

“ Thank you ever so much for continuing to provide Latin lessons for the children at St Mary's. They enjoy them immensely! Mr Goddard, who has taught many of my classes over the years, is a fantastic teacher that really engages and sparks interest and curiosity in the children.
- teacher at St Mary's, Brent

“ Many thanks for the videos made available on the portal. They are highly appreciated! - teacher at St Joseph's, Wandsworth

“ Thank you so much, these video lessons are wonderful. The children are going to love them! - teacher at St Peter's, Eaton Square

The academic year 2020-21 was the second to be affected by the pandemic. Although we were disappointed not to be able to teach our programme face-to-face from September onwards, the previous year had stood us in good stead for delivering lessons flexibly.

A significant portion of the year's teaching, across all schools, had to be undertaken online, either via **live video links**, or **pre-recorded lessons**.

To make things as easy as possible for our schools, and to maintain consistency for our pupils, we built an **online portal** through which school staff and pupils alike could access video and worksheet content from school or from home. This allowed us to continue delivering lessons even when circumstances called for self-isolation.

We were delighted that, despite the ongoing disruption to our regular face-to-face lessons, our

programme remained effective. Our biannual tests saw an 8% overall increase in results from the first test in winter term to the second in the summer term. In the summer tests, 64% of all Year 6 pupils achieved 60% or above, while 76% of all Year 5 pupils achieved over 60% or above.

We asked our pupils to fill in a questionnaire at the end of their school year to help us understand how they experience the Programme. Here's what we found...

80% of pupils look forward to their Latin lessons

93% of pupils feel supported by their Latin Programme teacher

74% of pupils report that Latin helps with their other schoolwork

“ We are very lucky to have Latin at our school. Our teacher is funny and helps us understand the vocabulary.

“ It's very fun and it really helps with grammar!

“ I tell my friends to do it because it helps with English and science.

“ You get to play games like 'unlucky -nt' and 'gladiator'!

OUR IMPACT: CASE STUDIES

CASE STUDY: ARGYLE PRIMARY, CAMDEN

The Latin Programme has been embedded in the Argyle Primary curriculum since 2013. In the academic year 2020-2021, we taught across seven Key Stage 2 classes: one Year 3, and double-entry in Years 4, 5, and 6.

At Argyle, where the majority of pupils are eligible for Free School Meals and speak English as an additional language, pupils across the board **achieved between 60% and 70% in the end of year Latin tests** even after a turbulent pandemic year that meant our in-person teaching time was hugely reduced, and lessons were often taught via video.

CASE STUDY: ST MARY'S PRIMARY, BRENT

We have taught The Latin Programme at St Mary's Primary since 2014. In the academic year 2020-2021, we taught across eight classes from Year 3 to Year 6. At St Mary's, where the majority of pupils are eligible for Free School Meals and speak English as an additional language, the class average in the end of year tests was 70%.

SATS RESULTS: ST MARY'S

In 2019, **76%** of pupils achieved the expected standard in reading, writing and maths overall, **11% higher than the England average**. The same group achieved a score of **104 in reading, matching the England average**.

SATS RESULTS: ARGYLE

In 2019, **92%** of pupils spoke English as an additional language. **85%** of the cohort achieved the expected standard in reading, writing and maths overall, **20% higher than the England average of 65%**. The same group achieved a score of **106 in reading, compared to an England average of 104**.

“ Here at St Mary's we took the decision to give our children a solid grounding in an ancient language to provide a foundation for understanding how languages function and pave the way into other languages by choosing Latin. It has also helped to build their vocabulary and has supported our EAL children who often struggle with the early acquisition of English. Lessons for these children where root words are identified help our children to decode the English language through recognition of words. This has been particularly beneficial for the diverse range of languages spoken in the school in particular for our Spanish, Portuguese and Romanian children. Latin has helped our children particularly those with SEND with their grasp of basic grammar and syntax.

- Susan Lawrence - Headteacher at St Mary's Primary

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

SUMMER SCHOOL IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CLASSICAL ASSOCIATION

Following the success of last year's online version of our Summer School, and taking into account the ongoing difficulties of organising face-to-face events, we decided to stay online in 2021. Across five days, we delivered a daily YouTube Live session available to all, followed by two 50-minute Zoom sessions for 100 subscribed participants.

This year's theme was 'natura'. Sessions covered **flora and fauna in ancient myth, nature in epic, ancient astrology, mystical forests in opera, and animals in Aesop's fables**, which we explored through interactive dance, storytelling, poetry, creative writing, debate and discussion, volvelle-making, and theatre.

In addition to our fantastic Latin Programme teachers, we were joined by children's author Caroline Lawrence, poet Arji Manuelpillai, Scratchworks Theatre, Vicky Price at UCL Collections, and storytellers from Story Jam to help bring the Summer School to life.

95%

of pupils 'likely' or 'very likely' to take part in another Latin Programme course

100%

interested in continuing to learn about Ancient Greek and Roman cultures, languages and stories

100%

reported that The Latin Programme made accessing the sessions easy

“ I really loved this course and would definitely do it again! - **Summer School participant**

“ The summer school has really encouraged me to aim to do Classics if I get the chance at school - **Summer School participant**

“ Please continue the programme, it is a lot of fun! :) - **Summer School participant**

“ Wonderful range of teachers and speakers. As a Classics graduate myself, I'm so happy that these courses exist and make learning Latin fun- I sent the link to my old Latin professor and my 64 year old aunt to join in! - **parent of participant**

“ I wish I could do it more often! - **Summer School participant**





WORKSHEETS

Each month, we add a new collection of bespoke worksheets created by The Latin Programme team to our ever-expanding collection of downloadable written resources.

400

free worksheets
downloaded

150

free worksheets
available

THE LATIN PROGRAMME LECTURES

In June 2020, we held our first Latin Programme Lecture. Thanks to its success, we decided to keep the lecture series going. So far, our lectures have included:

- **Skeins and Skins: Weaving and Revealing with Ovid in Renaissance Painting with Dr Tim Smith-Laing**
- **Temporary Arrangements: Life and Death in Early-Modern Dutch Painting with Dr Tim Smith-Laing**
- **The Spectacular Politics of Theatre with Professor Simon Goldhill**
- **Classics and Creative Writing: Caroline Lawrence and Iszi Lawrence Q&A**

THE LATIN PROGRAMME POETRY PRIZE 2020

In October 2020, we launched our inaugural poetry prize. Poets were encouraged to compose a poem using the Latin phrase 'de rerum natura' ('on the nature of things') as a starting point. How our poets used the phrase was completely up to them. We were delighted to be joined by three wonderful judges, Blake Morrison, Deanna Rodger and Ella Hickson, who chose the winner from a shortlist of nine. All entry fee donations helped us to continue to deliver our programme in London state schools and beyond.

All poems from the longlist can be found in our digital booklet at <https://www.thelatinprogramme.co.uk/poetryprize2020>

EASTER MINI-COURSES

Over the Easter holiday we created two video mini-courses for Key Stage 2 and 3 pupils. Each day, we posted a new 30-minute video on our YouTube channel.

- **5 hours of sessions**
- **2 extra-curricular themes**
- **Additional worksheets to explore**

THE MEDITATIONS

Who were the Stoic philosophers and how can they help us? Our Director of Teaching and Learning, Jonathan Goddard, explores the key figures of Stoicism and the influence of their teachings throughout history.

INTRO TO OPERA & THEATRE: OVID

Opera singers Charmian Bedford and Rob Gildon explore Ovid's *Metamorphoses* through the lens of Handel's *Acis and Galatea* and Lerner and Loewe's *My Fair Lady*.

WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO...

OUR PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

Argyle Primary School, Camden
Harris Academy, South Norwood
Holy Trinity C of E Primary School, Camden
St Barnabas' CE Primary School & Nursery, Westminster
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Wandsworth
St Mary's C of E Primary, Brent
St Monica's Catholic Primary School, Hackney
St Peter's C of E Primary School, Southwark
St Peter's Eaton Square, Westminster

OUR PARTNERS

The Broadway Bookshop, Camden Council, Camden Collective, City of London Guide Lecturer's Association, London Singers Studio, Museum Of London, Scratchworks Theatre, Story Jam, Strange Day Films, The Classical Association, Tomorrow's Achievers, UCL Special Collections

OUR SUPPORTERS

Alex MacKeith, Anna Richmond, Anna Siewierska, Alys Torrance, Arji Manuelpillai, Blake Morrison, Caroline Lawrence, Charmian Bedford, Deanna Rodger, Ella Hickson, Frances Illingworth, Jack Ashton, Jamila Zabiri, Jonathan Goddard, Katharine Swire, Lucy Lill, Miles Ridley, Nic Wassell, Philip Moore & The Moores, Rebecca Lawes, Richard Gilder III, Rob Gildon, Sarah Rundle, Simon Carr, Simon Goldhill, Tim Smith-Laing, Tomasso Petrolo, Vicky Price, Virginia James, Zanna Wing-Davey, Zippy Woolfson