



Classics Forum

Welcome to the third issue of *Classics Forum*! We hope you enjoy this issue, as well as finding it useful and informative. *Classics Forum* provides updates on what's going on in the wider Classics community, news from teachers in schools delivering Classics, and information about events and activities you and your students might find interesting.

The unmissable OCR Classics Conference

GCSE Ancient History impresses at Liverpool University

Classicists of the future?

The new and improved Classics online community!

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JACT summer schools**

Out and about

In this issue, we look at **teaching Classics to primary students**, find out about our new and improved **Classics online community**, and meet another Senior Examiner in our popular '*Meet the Examiner*' series. We also focus on your experiences of **teaching Classical Greek**, explore a **Classics Top 10**, and feature some exciting events coming up over the next few months.

If you know of a Classics event taking place near you, or would like to share your experiences of Classics in or out of the classroom, please get in touch by emailing us at ocr.classics@ocr.org.uk.



The unmissable OCR Classics Conference 2012

Epic in the Classical World – Putting the Text into Context, Wednesday 30 May, British Museum

Following the huge success of our Classics Conference last year, we're delighted to announce a fantastic programme for the 2012 event. Once again, it will be held at the British Museum, which is a wonderful venue.

With its focus on 'Epic in the Classical World', this is undoubtedly a conference for Classics and Ancient History teachers of all levels.

All these reasons to join us...

Our own subject experts will be running two practical workshops looking at the skills you need to help students undertake the literary analysis expected when studying for our qualifications. The sessions will provide ideas that you can use back in your classroom.

You could also join British Museum staff as they lead small groups on gallery tours to see the treasures of the museum that relate to 'epic' (places are limited so you must pre-book). The expert staff bring to life the museum exhibits and provide an 'off the shelf' guided tour that you can replicate with your students or colleagues at the museum.

There'll be lectures by four leading academics to update you on current thinking and views in the Classical world. We're planning to record these lectures so you'll have a useful CD resource to use in your centre along with the copy of the slides that you'll also receive.

In fact, whatever you attend on the day, you'll receive handouts/information from all sessions and tours, so you really will have a great resource folder for your centre that can be used for terms to come.

Book your place today

Please take a look at the timetable below to find out more about the exciting programme. The fee for the conference is £232 per delegate, which includes materials to take away, lunch and refreshments.

To book your place, please email training@ocr.org.uk. You may want to book your tours at the same time – they MUST be pre-booked as spaces are limited due to space restrictions at the British Museum. Please note that on 'Images of epic' there's only one place per centre for the same reason.

Event programme

Book online



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Our GCSE Ancient History impresses at Liverpool University

The University of Liverpool is a leading international centre for the study of the ancient world – from the archaeology of human evolution, through ancient Egypt and the Near East to Greek and Roman history, culture and literature, and Iron Age Europe. In August this year, Liverpool University will be running a three-day summer school to support teaching of our GCSE Ancient History. Here, Professor Tom Harrison explains why they're so impressed with our qualification.

Classics and Ancient History at Liverpool are distinctive in a few ways: the resources we have (our own in-house museum, for example), the hands-on teaching we offer (with the opportunity to read ancient languages from inscribed stones or from papyri, or to help stage a Greek tragedy within the classroom), and our National Student Survey results (of 98% and 97% overall satisfaction in the last two years). But perhaps the most distinctive feature of Liverpool Classics is that Greek and Roman cultures are seen as part of a larger, interconnected ancient world. Ancient History at Liverpool includes not only Greek and Roman history but also that of Iron Age Europe, Persia and the Near East, and – not least – Egypt. (Liverpool is, by some way, the largest centre for Egyptology in the UK.)

It is because of this breadth of approach that we are so impressed by the similar breadth of the new GCSE qualification in Ancient History offered by OCR. The GCSE, like the A Level that follows, offers students the chance to grapple with the testimonies of ancient writers and develop the kind of skills of primary source criticism that universities (and employers) look for. Uniquely, however, it gives students the opportunity to see how the Greek and Roman worlds operated not in isolation but *in relation* to their neighbours. The GCSE is only young, but we are sure it has a great future ahead!

Thomas Harrison
Archaeology, Classics and Egyptology
University of Liverpool

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Interested in a summer school for our GCSE Ancient History? 7–9 August 2012

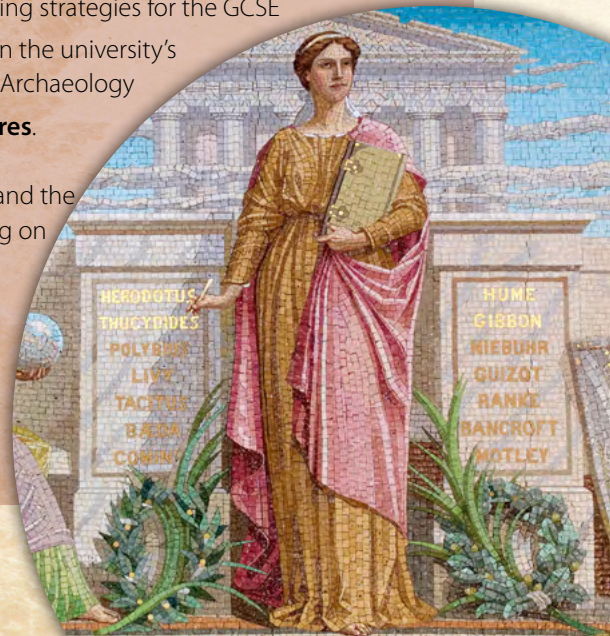
This carefully planned summer school, organised by the University of Liverpool in collaboration with us, is designed to support existing teachers of our GCSE in Ancient History and to help equip other teachers (including those undertaking training) who are planning to teach it in the future. A large number of full and half-bursaries are available, funded by the university's Postgate Fund.

Briefly, its practical agenda includes:

- **Individual sessions** on every option within the GCSE
- **Workshops** on teaching strategies for the GCSE
- **A handling session** in the university's Garstang Museum of Archaeology
- **Evening guest lectures.**

You'll find more details and the booking form by clicking on the button below.

If you have any queries, please email the Summer School Director, Professor Tom Harrison at tehh@liv.ac.uk





Classicists of the future?

A brief look at how a Classics topic proved to be a real success with some younger pupils

Classics can be interesting at any age, and the children in Year 4 at Southborough County Primary School in Maidstone, Kent got to discover that for themselves when they had the Romans as their topic for Autumn 2011.

In different areas of the curriculum, the children explored various aspects of Roman society such as their beliefs and attitudes and how they differed from those of today. They looked at Roman home life, entertainment, education, clothing and food. As part of their work, they prepared a full-scale Roman banquet – complete with an emperor, an empress, senators, their wives and slaves – with food made in the classroom from Apicius' recipe book.

They also studied the invasion of Britain, which helped them to develop historical understanding and perspective, and learned how to use resources to find out about events.

Getting creative with Classics

They were introduced to texts about the Romans, including the books of Caroline Lawrence, which contributed to their own creative writing. They developed their ideas through Art and Design & Technology too, allowing them to communicate understanding in a variety of creative ways.

The children's enthusiasm showed in the amount and level of written and creative material they produced. In fact, they enjoyed the topic to such an extent that, although it ended last term, they're now learning Latin one afternoon a week.



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Our new and improved Classics community!

Our Classics online community is a thriving online network of Classics teachers who use it to keep in touch, ask each other for advice, and share resources.

These teachers form one of the most supportive subject communities I've worked with, and whenever a community member asks for help, there are always people willing to offer suggestions, materials and support.

However, good though the community is, I think there have been times when all of us have wished it had been a little more focused. Until now, if members opted in to the email feeds, they received all emails posted to the community; which, given how enthusiastic and communicative our members are, sometimes meant a lot of emails!

Well, good news – the community has just got even better!

You can now:

- Register swiftly and participate instantly
- Share or download valuable resources
- Manage and maintain your user profile at any time.

There are sub-groups for the various Classics qualifications as well as a sub-group for overarching Classics discussions. This means you can go in and quickly find the discussions relevant to you. You can post to these, and read responses easily without having to receive them as emails.

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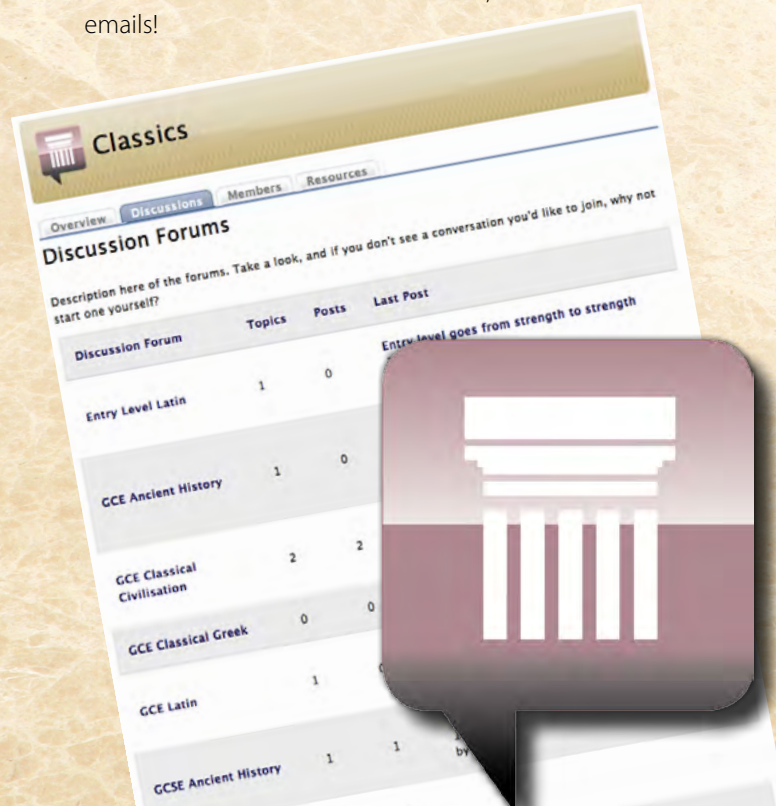
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To access our new service, just follow these simple steps:

1. Click <http://social.ocr.org.uk> to access the new OCR Communities website.
2. Click the 'Create new account' link located on the left of the homepage.
3. To register, complete the form, remembering to select your preferred group or groups.
4. The registration code is your centre number, but if you don't have a centre number get in touch with us at ocr.classics@ocr.org.uk for a work around.
5. To join in or start your own topic, click on a group then the 'Discussions' tab.

I'm looking forward to being part of a new and improved community that's even more vibrant and supportive than ever!

Ellen MacKay, Qualifications Manager



Focus on... teaching Greek in schools

Classics is taught in a huge variety of circumstances and contexts. Here we take a look at two schools and their very different approaches to teaching Classical Greek

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Setting up a Greek Club

When asked to offer a club at school, I immediately thought of Greek. Greek is not on the timetable at school and I initially offered a more light-hearted approach using Greek myths and pots, with elementary work on the alphabet and simple sentences.

This year I am offering half an hour per week and things are more serious. Our goal is the GCSE Greek Short Course. We shall be doing the mandatory B401 and the option B405, Sources for Greek. After an initial flurry of 'passers', we have settled to a few dedicated pupils, not all of whom are Latinists, in Years 10 and 11 who work at their own pace in the club and volunteer to do extra in their own time!

We have found Taylor's Greek to GCSE ideal for teaching, as the explanations are clear enough for those wishing to work on their own. The Eton Greek drills in grammatical tables and vocabulary on the Cambridge Latin website have also proved popular and provide good consolidation.

The sources set the grammar in a social context and are essential for a clear understanding of Greek society. As a skills paper, B405 offers practice in evaluation, a valuable and transferable skill.

We are not sure if it can be done in a year, but we are giving it a go!

Lucy Harrow

Woldingham School

Having Greek on the timetable...

At Headington School in Oxford, the study of Classics is becoming an increasingly attractive element of the curriculum. Along with strong numbers in both Latin and Classical Civilisation, we have seen a clear growth in Greek in recent years. After a few years without any Greek, the language is now taught in Years 10, 11 and 13 on timetable. There seems to be a strong interest in the subject from students in Year 9 as they consider their GCSE options. They are attracted by the novelty of a new language which has the discipline that they have enjoyed in Latin. Another attraction for some is the possibility that they might not only read great works of literature – the Odyssey holds a particular fascination – but also see how the Greek language lives on in our vocabulary today.

The current GCSE students enjoy the cross-curricular opportunities which the subject offers, with the chance to consider everything from the names of chemical elements to a wide variety of different phobias. As one of the Year 10 students recently commented, *"I enjoy Greek because it is something different that you do not normally get the chance to experience. It is very interesting learning a new alphabet and being able to decipher words when I go to Greece. It is also satisfying being able to recognise the roots of English words"*.





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We teach a two-year course to GCSE, which is supported by the girls' strong grounding in Latin from the lower school, where they have about an hour per week for three years. This means that the basic concepts of Classical grammar are well established before they start studying Greek, and that they can make excellent progress in all areas. The current Year 10 group have started translating the Iliad set text for next summer's Verse Literature module after only one term of studying the language. Their progress is aided by our PowerPoint presentations and the use of an interactive whiteboard, which enables a teacher-guided discussion of the translation.

It has been particularly pleasing to see the enthusiasm with which the girls have taken to the study of Greek. They enjoy the flexibility of the language, and yet the clear sense of structure which underlies many of its basic forms. It also offers them a unique insight into the influences and ideas which have formed the basis of much of Western thinking.

David Hodgkinson
Headington School





Classics sites in the UK

Ten great sites to visit with your students

We asked some of our teachers about the day trips and sites that help them make the Classics world come alive to their students and brighten up their teaching. Below are a few of the suggestions we received about sites to visit in Britain – and a big thank you to everyone who contributed their thoughts.

Click on any postcard to see further details.

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Roman Baths at Bath, Somerset



Fishbourne Roman Palace



Caerleon Roman Fort, South Wales



Hadrian's Wall, Northumbria and Cumbria



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Chester – The Dewa Experience



Wroxeter, Shropshire



British Museum, London



Museum of London



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Ashmolean Museum, Oxford



Museum of Classical Archaeology Cambridge



In the spotlight...

As our last PGCE and NQT Classics event was such a huge success, we're delighted to be running it again. Saturday 21 April, 10am–4pm. This is a FREE event which will provide a wonderful insight into teaching Classics

If you're a current PGCE student or a recently qualified NQT, this is a great opportunity to get an insight into the requirements of GCSE and A Level Classics, meet our Qualifications Managers and one of our subject experts.

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The programme will include:

- An introduction to OCR and what we provide
- A guide to controlled assessment
- A session on planning projects and site visits
- A literature workshop and sessions on analysing passages
- Teaching skills and essay writing.

Refreshments and lunch will also be provided.

If you would like to attend or know of a teacher new to teaching Classics who would be interested in attending, please email us at ocr.classics@ocr.org.uk.

Further information, directions and venues will be sent out to all registered delegates prior to the event.





Meet the Examiner

Yolanda Saunders is the Principal Examiner for Classical Greek Unit F371. She teaches at St James Senior Boys' School, Ashford.

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1. What inspired you to study Classics?

Sophocles.

2. Who was your favourite teacher and why?

My Physics teacher. He was a giant of a man with kind eyes and a thick beard. He was also the deputy headmaster. He used to be soft-spoken and explain the principles of Physics slowly and clearly. He wrote clear notes and drew all the diagrams on the blackboard in the neatest handwriting. Although I was taught in a class of 40, he never once raised his voice, nor did he have to discipline anyone.

3. What has been your best teaching moment?

Hard to pick. It has to be in Greece. After telling the *Medea* at the theatre of Epidaurus (don't tell the Greek guides), a Year 8 boy remarked that Jason starts off with the reputation of a great hero, behaves like a total anti-hero, and yet we end up sympathising with him. No prompting. It is always when the boys make these perceptive observations. It is the subject matter that brings it out of them.

4. Where was your favourite site visit to? When did you go? What is special about that site?

Mycenae. I go every year. Looking out on a clear day you can really understand why Agamemnon was commander-in-chief.

5. What courses/units are you teaching at the moment?

GCSE Greek, Latin and Classical Civilisation, A Level Greek and Latin.

6. What is your favourite subject to teach and why?

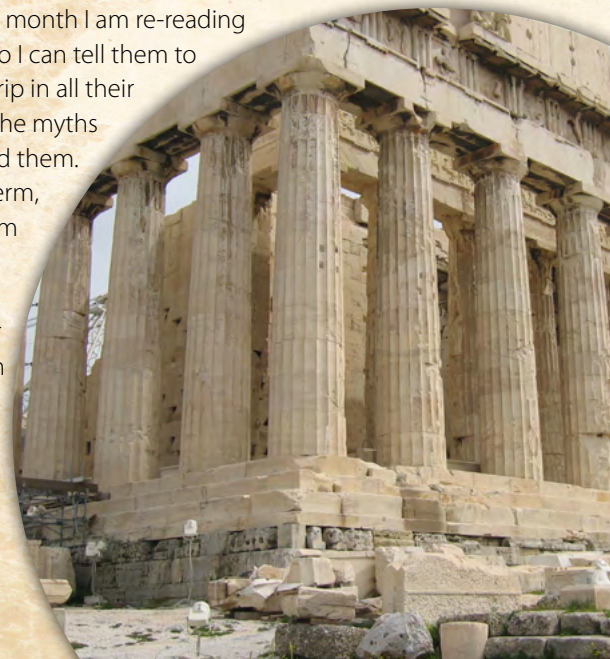
Greek literature because it inspires students with the eternal questions of humankind.

7. What is the best thing about being a Principal Examiner?

The opportunity to play such an active part in keeping Greek alive. Classics teachers everywhere, every single candidate you enter for Greek counts!

8. What books are you reading at the moment?

I find it hard to fit reading into term-time. This weekend I am reading *Holes* by Louis Sachar. My 13-year-old daughter put me onto it. This month I am reading Plato's *First Alcibiades* and Proclus' commentary on it. Next month I am re-reading all my Greek tragedies so I can tell them to the boys on the Greek trip in all their gory detail. I like to tell the myths the way the poet treated them. Every Wednesday this term, I am reading a love poem by Ovid (in Latin). On my bedside, I currently have *Critical Thinking for Students* by Roy van den Brink-Budgen.





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9. What is your favourite book of all time?

Wild Swans by Jung Chang.

10. Which one book should every Classics student read?

Homer's *Odyssey*. There is something in it for everyone. Gods and heroes, women and monsters, adventure and survival, deceit and loyalty, pathos and irony. And above all, homecoming.

11. Which three figures from the ancient world would you invite to your ideal imaginary dinner party? Who would the other guests be?

Socrates, Pericles and Pheidias. I would love to hear the story behind the Parthenon frieze from its makers. Socrates would make a controversial dinner guest. Herodotus would no doubt tell a good story and Homer might sing a line or two after dinner.

12. If you could travel back in time to the ancient world for one day, when and where would you go and what would you do?

I would go back to Athens in 399 BC on the day of Socrates' trial. I love courtroom drama.

13. If you could make any discovery from the ancient world, what would it be?

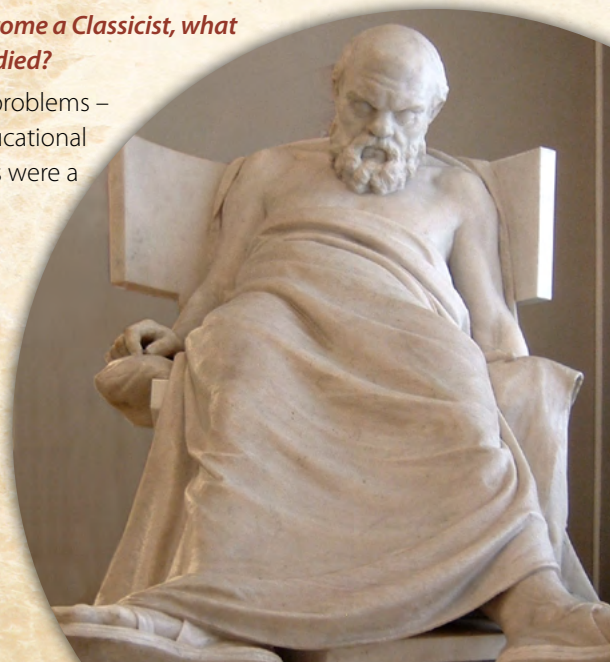
The Lost Atlantis (or at least Aristotle's comments on it).

14. What artefact or piece of literature from the ancient world would you send out into space to inform other civilisations about life on earth?

The Charioteer. It depicts the perfect human form at the height of worldly success, while capturing the moment of conquering pride and maintaining equanimity. Its effect on the aliens would be awesome.

15. If you hadn't become a Classicist, what would you have studied?

Physics. I loved the problems – but in the Greek educational system, experiments were a non-starter.





Close-up on... JACT summer schools 2012 – exploring a range of Classical topics

The Joint Association of Classical Teachers (JACT) runs residential summer schools for students on various Classical topics, and bursaries are available for attendance at all of them. The 2012 summer schools are:

The JACT Classical Civilisation and Ancient History Summer School

14–19 July, held at Repton School in Derbyshire. For students aged 16+.

The course explores Classical drama, epic, history, language, mythology and philosophy and is open to beginners and to those who have already studied Classical subjects. More details at

www.ccsummerschool.info

The JACT Latin Summer School

23 July–4 August, held at Wells Cathedral School in Somerset. For students aged 14+.

Tuition is offered at all levels, from complete beginners to post-A2. There's also a varied programme of lectures and two optional excursions to Roman sites nearby. Residential and non-residential places are on offer.

The JACT Greek Summer School

29 July–11 August, held at Bryanston School in Dorset. For students aged 16+.

Tuition is offered at all levels, from complete beginners to post-A2, and there's an extensive additional programme of lectures and seminars.

Further information about all the summer schools, including application forms and details of course fees and financial aid, can be found on the JACT website where there's also information about other Classical summer schools in the UK and Europe.

[JACT website](http://www.jact.org.uk)

Here are some of the things past students have said about the summer schools:

"Splendid! I really did not expect to make this much progress in such a short time! [The] tutors were the perfect balance of knowledgeable professionalism and approachability. Thank you all so much."

"I have learned so much, yet found that I have done so while finding Greek fun."

"I loved the summer school and wouldn't have missed it for the world. My school doesn't offer Classics so it was a real eye-opener."

"I not only learned lots of invaluable information that will prove incredibly useful when I go on to further study, but I also had an amazing fun time. I will remember the summer school for years to come."

"Incredibly challenging – but I found this beneficial!"

"I met some fantastic people and learned a lot in a great group. I loved the lessons and had so much fun."

"I don't think I'll ever forget some of what I've learned in these weeks."

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Out and about, April to July 2012

Exhibitions

The cost of living in Roman and modern Britain

Date: Until 15 April

Venue: British Museum, Room 69a

Cost: Free

This small display looks at the similarities and differences between the cost of everyday living in Britain about 2,000 years ago and today.

Our Londinium 2012

Date: Opens 22 June – ongoing

Venue: Museum of London

Cost: Free

Young people have reinvented the Roman London gallery. Through films, sculpture, audio-visual displays and objects from 21st century life, discover how Roman London still lives on in today's modern capital.

Events

Roman fort visit

Date: 20 April, 18 May, 15 June and 20 July, 2pm–2.30pm and 3pm–3.30pm

Venue: Museum of London

Cost: FREE but tickets allocated on arrival

Tour the remains of the western gate of London's Roman military fort, located beneath the streets next to the museum.

Roman festival

Date: Saturday 2 June, 11am–4pm and Sunday 3 June, 1pm–4pm

Venue: Grosvenor Park and Amphitheatre, Grosvenor Museum, Cheshire

Cost: Free, drop in

The largest Roman festival of its kind will gather legions from across the empire to recreate a Roman village and to demonstrate crafts, trades and gladiatorial combat. Activities and handling sessions will take place at the museum and the park to inspire visitors of all ages.

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Lectures and talks

Life in the Roman Army

Date: 12 May, 2.30pm–3pm and 13 May, 3pm–3.30pm

Venue: A gallery talk by members of Legion XIII at Verulamium Museum, St Albans.

Cost: Free

Roman Seal Boxes

Date: 24 April, 12.30pm

Venue: Corinium Museum, Cirencester

Cost: Free with museum entry

Seal boxes are bronze containers that occur in a variety of sizes and shapes. They were attached to sealed documents and protected the impression of an intaglio enclosed within it.

From Olympia to London!

Date: Saturday 12 May, 2pm–7pm

Venue: British Museum, Clore Education Centre

Cost: £12

Discover whether the modern Games have changed over 3,000 years on this fun-filled afternoon.

The Olympic Games and sport across ancient cultures

Date: Saturday 23 June, 10.30am–4.30pm

Venue: British Museum, BP Lecture Theatre

Cost: £35

Judith Swaddling, British Museum, leads other Museum curators and specialists in discussing the role and form of sporting competitions across diverse ancient cultures, from Greece, Rome and Crete to China and the Middle East.

Family events

Drop-In Roman Mask

Date: 3 April, 11am–4pm and 4 April, 11am–4pm

Venue: Verulamium Museum, St Albans

Cost: £1.00

Drop-in event, Roman mask making at Verulamium Museum, St Albans.

Suitable for children aged 3–11 years. All children must be accompanied by an adult.



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Drop-In Roman Shield Making

Date: 10 April, 11am–4pm, and 11 April, 11am–4pm

Venue: Verulamium Museum, St Albans

Cost: £1.00

Drop-in event, Roman shield making at Verulamium Museum, St Albans.

Suitable for children aged 3–11 years. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Performances

Euripides' *The Women of Troy*

Lazarus Theatre Company

Date: 20 March–14 April, Tue–Sat at 8pm. Matinee on Wed 4 and 11 April at 4pm.

Venue: Blue Elephant Theatre, Camberwell

Cost: £12.50, £10 (Concessions)

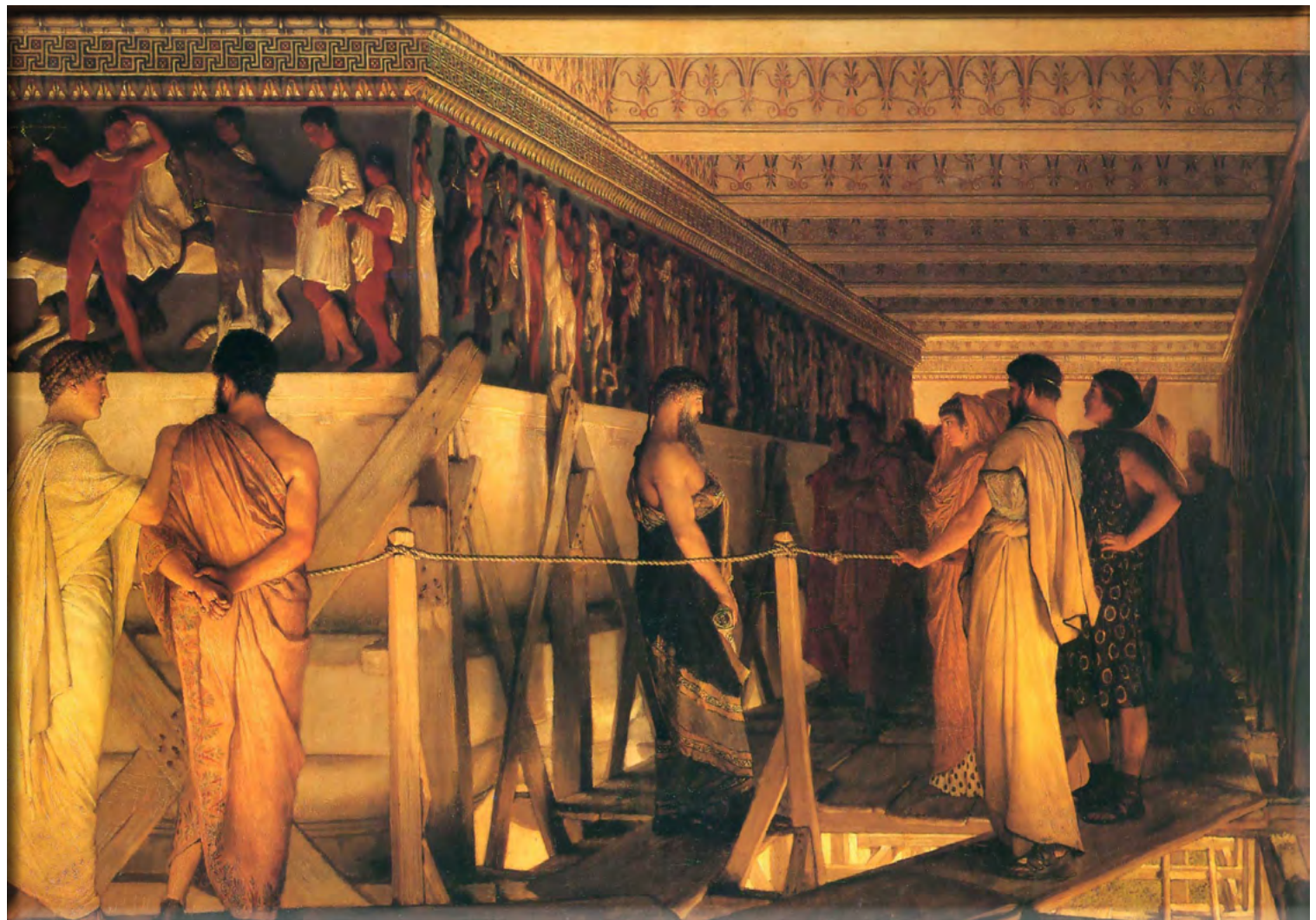
Aeschylus' *Prometheus Bound*

In a new translation by Henry Stead directed by Helen Slaney

Date: June 23

Venue: South Street outdoor theatre





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British Museum [Eric Pouhier](#)

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