

ACE Project report for the Hellenic Society August 2019
Dr Arlene Holmes-Henderson



In June 2019, I was awarded £900 towards creating a database of schools offering Classics subjects, and the purchase of textbooks for the ACE Classical Civilisation summer school taking place at King's College London in July 2019. I am pleased to report on progress.

The teachers' summer school was a resounding success. The teachers ranged from someone still training, to non-classicist teachers hoping to introduce Classical Civilisation, to experienced teachers of Classical subjects. Participants came from Manchester, Leicester, Cardiff, the West Midlands, the South West and Greater London. We are confident that the summer school will expand the availability of Classical Civilisation in several schools and sixth-form colleges.

Feedback from teachers:

'Both my knowledge and my confidence have been transformed this week. Filling gaps has been invaluable and will definitely benefit my students. The comprehensive approach across all units at GCSE and A Level has allowed for flow and connections which will enrich subject knowledge as a whole. The most important thing which I'll take away from this week is the confidence to analyse sources and structure topics. The course will change my professional practice because it will help me to make my delivery of the course better quality and more relevant to my students.'

'My confidence has increased hugely both in terms of subject content and effective delivery of it. Since the start of the week, I have much greater awareness of the expectations of exam boards as well as resources. This course has been the key factor in my school permitting the introduction of Classics in my school. I would absolutely attend another course.'

'This has been tremendous CPD. I feel really confident after a brilliant week.'

Giving teachers copies of the textbooks was useful for a number of reasons. Firstly, it gave them a much better idea of the content of the various specifications since the curriculum and assessment documents provide bullet-point outlines only. Secondly, it helped teachers to see some possible pedagogical approaches to teaching source material, and provided a starting point for discussions. Lastly, being able to take textbooks back into school, means that teachers feel that they have an exam-board endorsed resource for introducing Classical Civilisation qualifications. In an age of shrinking school budgets, this is especially valuable.



The database is now complete for all Classical subjects across schools in England, Wales and Scotland and has been shared with the society's secretary. Having this information is instructive and valuable to Edith and myself as we advocate for Classics education with policymakers and other key educational stakeholders across the UK in the coming months.

The grant has been spent in full.