

London Summer School in Classics 2022 Bursary report
by Hannah Holluby-Plaistow

I am a 14 year old pupil from the Wirral, Merseyside. I started studying classical Greek with Classics for North last September (year 9) and completed the first year of the GCSE studies. Next term I will not be able to attend the course as I will be going to the junior RNCM on Saturdays and attending the London Summer School in Classics allowed me to carry on with my GCSE studies.

I was first allocated the intermediate 2 group which was a bit too advanced and from day 2 I was in the intermediate 3 group with Marina Pavlidou Elamin.

This class carried on with the Taylor book and was a perfect match for me. I found Marina was kind, welcoming and very good at explaining grammar to us. I felt very comfortable asking her and I particularly enjoyed going through every task in the book even the English to Greek translation which my previous teachers mostly omitted. Whenever we learned something new we took turns reading the words out loud and this was great because I found it was loads of fun to read greek out loud. I enjoyed listening to everybody else's pronunciation. The translations were very challenging because we had to do them fairly quickly sometimes on the spot and that was very different from my previous course. I really enjoyed this challenge especially that Marina was always there to help. The other thing I found extremely beneficial is that Marina taught us about accents which was omitted in my previous course and it is not in the book. I am a native Hungarian speaker and learning Italian and German so myself use accents in these languages and really wanted to learn about accents in Greek.

I attended a few afternoon lecture and particularly enjoyed the "Reading Greek Inscriptions" lecture. It gave me a wider understanding the different type of letters used, for example the letter "wau" which looks like an "f". Before the lecture I didn't know that the "sigma" could look dangerously similar to a certain type of "m" or a certain type of "iota".

I also enjoyed the Euripides' Helen lecture because I had learnt about the play in the Classical Civilisation course, which I am studying on my own (I have been home educated till now). I loved watching the clips of a zoom performance of the play. I also attended the talk on Egyptian Hieroglyphs and found it very interesting getting to know the many different functions of the symbols.

I am very grateful for the opportunity to study with the UCL this summer, it allowed me to carry on with classical Greek in a faster pace and more deeply than the GCSE courses and also introduced me to many new concepts and ideas. I also loved that our course members were varied and had many different nations and people made an effort to pronounce the words.

(499 words)