The Ashcombe 6th Form
Classical Civilisation

The OCR A-Level Classical Civilisations course includes the origins of Western drama in ancient Athenian society, the Homeric epics and Love and Relationships in the Classical world.

The World of the Hero: Homer's Odyssey c. 800 BC

Read: Homer's *The Odyssey* (Penguin classics Rieu translation). This is widely regarded as the first work of western literature. Look at a map to see where he goes on his journey home, his *nostos.*

Listen to & make notes on 'In our Time' radio programme on *The Odyssey*;
https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p004y297.

Greek Theatre

Watch: Introduction to Greek Theatre: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aSRLK7SogvE

Watch BBC programmes by classicist Dr Michael Scott. They provide insights into theatre and democracy in the 5th century BC Athens.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FAkLTWQUbG8.

Read: *Love, Sex & Tragedy* by Simon Goldhill

Learn about the archaeology of the theatre space:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2CVO9Vd067U

Take an Assassins Creed style tour of the theatre:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Ourc8W25MU

Visit the British Museum. Just go have a wander! You might focus particularly on rooms 13, 15, 19, 22, 23, 69, 70, 71 and 73. You'll find lots of amazing classical artifacts.

For some extra fun– highly recommended background tasks:

Read
The Iliad by Homer
Classics: A Very Short Introduction (Oxford 1995) by M. Beard and J. Henderson
Thucydides' History of the Peloponnesian War (especially books 1–2)
Athenian Democracy by Robin Barrow
Circe by Madeline Miller. This is fiction based on Circe's role in *The Odyssey*; a fascinating character, she has inspired many art works & writings. And if you like this one, you can read Miller's *The Song of Achilles*, inspired by the *Iliad* and the Trojan War.
Watch the film: *The Odyssey* (2026), by Christopher Nolan in the cinemas this Summer!
https://youtu.be/f_bKjZeJBBI?si=9kZRWQiwLpkRZTcQ

Listen to a good background to the Greek myths. https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b0093z 1k

Want to laugh? Explore Natalie Haynes podcast: *Stand up for the Classics*, short, entertaining retellings of stories from Greek myths.