



# University of BRISTOL

## Classics Hub

## January 2021 Newsletter

*Happy New Year from the Bristol Classics Hub! We hope everyone is keeping safe and well in light of the latest lockdown measures. This edition of the newsletter takes stock of what we achieved last term and looks forward to a number of online Classics events, initiatives and competitions coming up in 2021. There are plenty of virtual plans in pipeline... so don't miss out!*

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*Ovid in the West Country finalist from Cardiff High School*

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In this month's newsletter:

News from the Hub...

1. **Ovid in the West Country 2020... Winners!**
2. **Latin for PGCE at UWE**
3. **Teaching Classics: Careers Event**
4. **Access to Bristol 2020/21**

Upcoming events...

5. **Exploring Word Roots at KS2**
6. **'Teaching Warfare' Online Teach Meet**

What's happening in our wider network...

7. **Bristol CA Virtual Book Club**
8. **2021 Virtual Classics Competition**
9. **Classics and Ancient History Essay Competition**

[Key dates](#)

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On Monday 30th November 2020, the Bristol Classics Hub organised a virtual prize-giving event for students who participated in our fourth annual Ovid in the West Country competition.

The competition, which is run in collaboration with Joan Foley, PGCE Secondary English Course Lead at [UWE Bristol](#) and with the help of Bob Lister, author of the [Classical Tales](#) website, is open to all Year 7 and 8 students in local state schools. It encourages them to engage with stories from Ovid's *Metamorphoses* by responding creatively to a myth of their choosing.

During this particularly challenging year, the judges were impressed by the level of effort and creativity that had gone into students' work. Highly commended entries included a GBBO-worthy Theseus and the Minotaur cake from Sheldon School, and a seven string lyre from Wyedean School that had been beautifully handcrafted.

The winner was a Y7 student from Newent Community School who created an ingenious museum exhibit of King Midas's diary, including several artefacts which had been turned into gold.

You can watch the official prize-giving video on [YouTube](#) or find out more about the competition via our [website](#). Thank you and congratulations to everyone who took part in this year's competition... we hope to see you again next year!



*The winning entry from a Y7 student at Newent Community School*

## 2. Latin for PGCE at UWE

Following the success of the Introduction to Latin Day we organised for PGCE Secondary English trainees at [UWE Bristol](#) last year, we asked trainer Helen Currie to run an identical session in November for the latest cohort of students.

They spent the morning learning Latin through a combination of vocabulary building activities and translation exercises, and in the afternoon reflected on what they'd learned and how it might be useful in the English classroom. In groups, they came up with ideas on how basic Latin could lead to creative writing tasks, schemes to boost students' word power as well as to improve their awareness and understanding of English grammar.

The entire cohort of 22 trainees is participating in the Classics in the Classroom award scheme for 2020/21: a special initiative designed by Classics for All for trainee primary and secondary teachers in any subject discipline, to encourage them to explore ways to engage with the ancient world in their teaching.

If you'd like to find out more about the Classics in the Classroom scheme and what's involved, you can learn more [here](#).



*PGCE trainees during a previous Latin Day at UWE*

### 3. Teaching Classics: Careers Event

In more teaching-related news, [Dr Ben Folit-Weinberg](#) of the Classics Hub hosted a special online event in December entitled 'Exploring a Career in Teaching Classics and Ancient History'. The event was aimed at students in the University's Department of Classics & Ancient History who are interested in pursuing a career in teaching.

CLAH alumnus Rob Hancock-Jones, Head of Classics at Townley Grammar School, and Dan Lovell, Head of the Department of Classics at King's Bruton, spoke to students about their experience of teaching Classics, and offered advice on how to choose and pursue careers which best suit them.

The group comprised almost twenty students from first-year undergraduates to doctoral candidates, many of whom participated in a lively question and answer session with Rob and Dan which extended well beyond the scheduled end of the event.

The event was hosted in conjunction with the University of Bristol's Careers Service, and event co-organiser Amy Haines was on hand to help students take advantage of the resources the University offers prospective teachers.

success!

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## 4. Access to Bristol 2020/21

In November last year, we were involved in another successful round of the university's Access to Bristol scheme for Classics and Ancient History.

The first session on Egyptology was run by Hub volunteer and doctoral researcher Maiken Mosleth King. This began with a short lecture on the basic historical development of Pharaonic Egypt, followed by an introduction to the animal gods of ancient Egypt and ancient Egyptian literature.

In the second session, run by Hub volunteer and doctoral researcher Martina Delucchi, students were introduced to the basics of textual transmission and tried their luck in reading an ancient Greek papyrus with the help of a Greek alphabet chart.

Both sessions enabled students to ask a variety of questions about the ancient world, as well as those relating to their future and the dynamics of engaging with classical studies.

You can learn more about the [Access to Bristol](#) scheme other opportunities available via the university website.



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## 5. Exploring Word Roots at KS2

On Thursday 11 February, [Classics for All](#) (in partnership with the Bristol Classics Hub) will be running a FREE literacy CPD session online via Zoom for all KS2 teachers in Bristol and the South West. The event will run **4:00-5:30pm** and full details can be found on the poster below.

In this session, we will be exploring some key Latin and Greek root words that feature frequently in English and discussing strategies and resources to support the teaching of literacy at KS2.

As highlighted in Alex Quigley's influential book 'Closing the Vocabulary Gap', drawing upon knowledge of etymology and morphology in the classroom can help pupils develop greater 'word consciousness', which in turn enables them to better use and understand language.

No prior knowledge of Latin or Greek is required to attend this workshop! During the session, we will also provide information about further free training and support available for state schools interested in introducing Classics on a curricular or extra-curricular basis.

To book a free place on this 'Exploring Word Roots' CPD workshop, please [sign up online](#) by **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February**. Zoom invitation details will be sent out in the week of the event.

(NB this is the same event advertised previously for January, which we decided to postpone as a result of the latest lockdown announcement.)



## WHY WORD ROOTS?

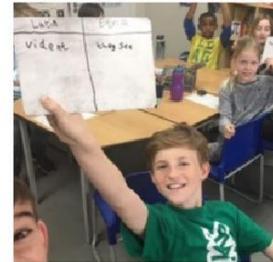


Learning about the roots of the English language offers a key to understanding new words and enriching vocabulary. As highlighted in Alex Quigley's influential book 'Closing the Vocabulary Gap' (2018), building knowledge of etymology and morphology in the classroom can help pupils to develop greater 'word consciousness', which in turn enables them to better understand and use language.

## SESSION OUTLINE

In this free CPD session, we will:

- explore key Latin and Greek root words that feature frequently in English
- explore the importance of Tier 2 and Tier 3 words in the English language
- discuss implicit and explicit strategies for teaching vocabulary in the KS2/3 classroom
- share resources that can be used to support the teaching of etymology at KS2/3
- provide information about how to access free advice and funding from Classics for All to support the introduction or development of classical subjects in your school



## TRAINER: CHARLIE ANDREW

Charlie is the Training and Resources Manager at Classics for All. She previously taught Latin and classics at Greig City Academy in Haringey and in various primary schools around London. Alongside her Word Roots materials, Charlie has developed a range of exciting and accessible ancient language and culture courses for KS2 & KS3 pupils (Maximum Classics, Mega Greek and Basil Batrakhos). All courses can be accessed free of charge at [www.classicsforall.org.uk](http://www.classicsforall.org.uk).

"I felt completely inspired by the session – it was delivered so enthusiastically and as well as learning a lot about where our language comes from, Charlie also gave us some really useful practical tips for helping to teach vocabulary to young people."

Secondary English teacher: Pittville School, Gloucestershire

CONTACT US: Classics for All provides FREE support to state schools wishing to introduce or develop the teaching of classics. To discuss how Classics for All can support your school, please email [hannah@classicsforall.org.uk](mailto:hannah@classicsforall.org.uk).

[WWW.CLASSICSFORALL.ORG.UK](http://WWW.CLASSICSFORALL.ORG.UK)

## 6. 'Teaching Warfare' Online Teach Meet

Hub Manager [Dr Hannah-Marie Chidwick](#) hopes to run an **online Teach Meet event** this term (**Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March**, 16:00-18:00) to explore the teaching of 'war' in Classics and Ancient History.

like war, in the context of the Classical Civilisations and Ancient History curricula.

This event is a follow-up to a workshop last academic year, [Teaching Ancient Warfare in Schools, Colleges and Universities](#), supported by Public Engagement and the Bristol Classics Hub.

Hannah-Marie hopes to establish a network for future discussion and collaboration regarding ancient warfare in education. For more details, please contact Hannah-Marie via [email](#).



*Last year's workshop on 'Teaching Warfare in the Ancient World'*

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## 7. Bristol CA Virtual Book Club

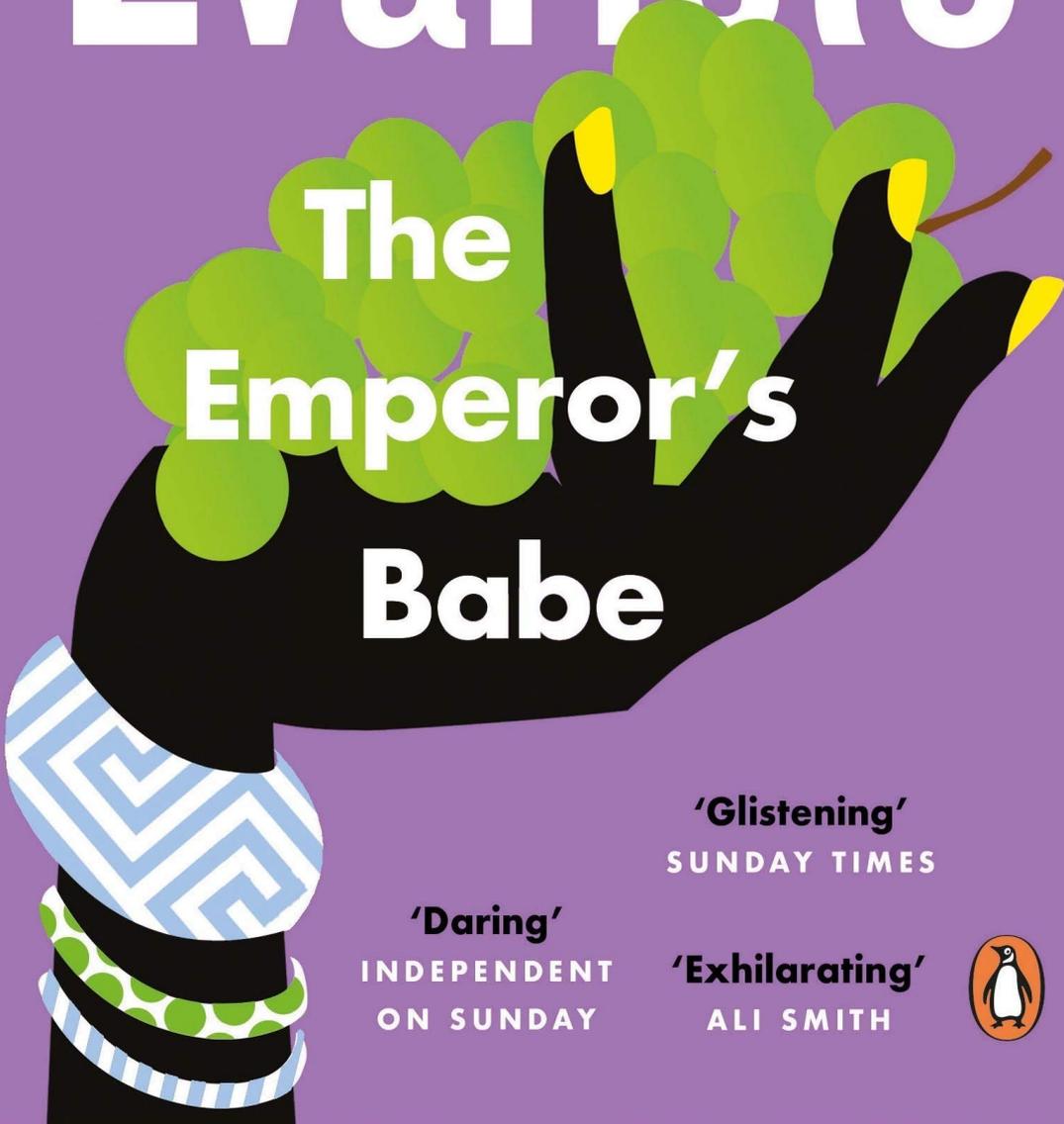
Calling all fans of historical fiction! The second meeting of the Bristol Classical Association Virtual Book Club will be taking place via Zoom on **Tuesday 12th January at 7pm**.

This time, the book club will be reading [The Emperor's Babe](#) (2001) by Bernardine Evaristo. The club is chaired by [Dr Richard Cole](#), Research Associate in Ancient Greek History and Virtual Reality at the

If you would like to join the second meeting of the book club, please let Richard know [via email](#). All welcome!

FROM THE BOOKER PRIZE-WINNING AUTHOR  
OF *GIRL, WOMAN, OTHER*

# Bernardine Evaristo



## The Emperor's Babe

'Glistening'  
SUNDAY TIMES

'Daring'  
INDEPENDENT  
ON SUNDAY

'Exhilarating'  
ALI SMITH



The Lytham St Annes Classical Association holds an annual Classics Competition for students in years 7-13 (aged 11-18) to produce and deliver a presentation in 15 minutes or less in response to a particular question about the ancient world.

This year students are being asked to respond to the following question: ***If you could travel back in time to one day in the ancient past, which would it be and why?*** They may travel back to one twenty-four hour period in any part of the ancient world prior to 5th September AD 476.

In order to enter, students must upload an unlisted video of their presentation to YouTube by **6pm on Thursday 11th February**. The competition is FREE to enter and open to any young person aged 11-18, regardless of their educational background or location.

Please see [website](#) for more information, competition rules and submission guidelines.

Generously supported by

**LSA CA Classics Competition 2021**

"If you could travel back in time to one day in the ancient past, which would it be and why?"

**£450 Prize Money!**  
Individual & School Trophies  
People's Choice Award

**Final on 4th March 2021**  
Judge: LSA CA President  
**Professor Michael Scott**

Open to all students aged 11 to 18

Video Entries by 11th Feb More details at [www.lsaclassics.com](http://www.lsaclassics.com)

## 9. Classics and Ancient History Competition

open to all UK students in Year 12 or equivalent, regardless of whether they are currently studying a Classical or Ancient subject.

Each student may submit one essay (only) of up to 2,000 words on any of the following four questions:

1. *'Nice guys finish last.'* Is this statement true for characters (of any gender) in ancient literature?
2. Did Greek and/or Roman elections express the will of the people?
3. Plato thought that democracy was the rule of the ignorant. Was he right?
4. In the ancient world, did the art of democracies express the same concerns as the art of the autocratic regimes?

Essays must be submitted by **Thursday 25th February 2021** and all entrants will be invited to a virtual study afternoon hosted by St John's College, Oxford on Thursday 22nd April. More information and submission guidelines can be accessed via their [website](#)

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## **Key dates**

### SPRING TERM

- **Tuesday 12th January:** meeting of the Bristol CA Virtual Book Club
- **Thursday 11th February:** Exploring Word Roots at KS2 (online CPD event)
- **Thursday 11th February:** deadline for the Lytham St Anne's Virtual Classics Competition
- **Thursday 25th February:** deadline for St John's Classics and Ancient History Essay Competition
- **Monday 22nd March:** online Teach Meet event on teaching warfare in Classics and Ancient History

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*Thank you for supporting the Hub during these challenging times. We hope to see you - if virtually - at one of our events soon!*

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# CLASSICS FOR ALL

## Championing Classics in Schools

The Bristol Classics Hub is funded by [Classics for All](#).

We are also very grateful for the continued support of our partners: the Bristol Classical Association, the [Classics and Ancient History Department](#) and the [Institute of Greece, Rome and the Classical Tradition](#) at the University of Bristol.

*If you have questions about the newsletter, please email [classics-hub@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:classics-hub@bristol.ac.uk). Similarly if you have Classics news that you would like to share, do get in touch – we'd love to feature updates in our newsletter or on our website. Please pass this newsletter on to interested parties.*



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