

SPOTLIGHT ON



HILLCREST PRIMARY

We spoke to Hillcrest Primary School, one of the newest schools in our network, about why they decided to introduce Latin and how it's benefitting their students...

WHY LATIN?

"We introduced Latin to replace French as we decided it would provide a better linguistic foundation for our students," explains Helen Wilson, Head of Languages at Hillcrest.

"Aside from improving their English literacy and vocabulary, Latin will prepare them for whichever language they go on to study at secondary school – whether Spanish, French, Italian, or German."

Thanks to a few all-staff training sessions delivered by Classics for All trainer, Mike Beer, Hillcrest was able to hit the ground running with Latin in September with everyone onboard. The ease and accessibility of the Maximum Classics course certainly helped.

"I love the materials from Maximum Classics," says Helen. "The course is really well-designed with brilliant planning and beautiful PowerPoints – all really well put together. Teachers can pick it up and run with it."

Yet the scheme was not without its challenges, Helen admits.

"I'd never studied Latin before so I was quite nervous, but I love teaching it now! It doesn't feel hard and the students have really taken to it. They're loving making connections with English and we've seen noticeable



Hillcrest students dressed up as their favourite Latin word or Roman figure for a school Latin Day last week

improvements in their spelling, punctuation and grammar. It's been a great success."

Initial scepticism from some parents was easily overcome when they saw how much their children were enjoying the subject.

"Now they tell us how excited their children are to be learning Latin!" says Helen. "We've received lots of positive comments in the playground."

When Ofsted visited, they were similarly impressed, commenting on the cross-curricular links students were making with other subjects such as Science, History and Geography.

"Latin is already much more embedded in the school than French ever was," says Helen, who organised a Latin play competition earlier this year and a Latin Day involving Latin-based games and activities last week.

"It's fun to teach and great to see the children excited about learning and making connections."