



My first year as Head of Classics has been a busy and exciting one and I was delighted that Madame Powell was able to join me in the department to lend her invaluable support. Our year of trips began with our regular visit with Year 7 to Fishbourne Roman Palace en route to their Science trip to Little Canada. This tied in well with 7P's study of Book II of the Cambridge Latin Course which is set in and around the palace. Although the visit was quite short, we packed a lot in and enjoyed two very interesting workshops on different aspects of Roman life.

In November 8L benefited from a visit by a guest speaker, Paul Tweddle, Head of Classics and Director of Studies at Danes Hill School, Surrey and editor of the SATIPS broadsheet for Classics teachers. As well as being a committed ancient historian, Mr Tweddle has somehow managed to find time to publish a book about the RAF in World War II. The class was treated to a lesson about how 'spin' is not necessarily a modern political phenomenon as the Romans could often be accused of it too. The class were enthused by Mr Tweddle's teaching and asked many intelligent questions. Mr Tweddle reported back that he had very much enjoyed his visit and felt that Vinehall had 'a lovely atmosphere with beautifully behaved children.'

Also in November, Vinehall played host to a meeting of local Classics teachers who were treated to a presentation by Mr Hooper (Vinehall's former Head of Classics) about the CD ROM which he has been working on for the last few years. This resource features support for both language and non-linguistic topics and is already well used by Vinehall pupils. The visitors were given a tour of the latest games on the Cyberlatin website, ably provided by members of Year 6.

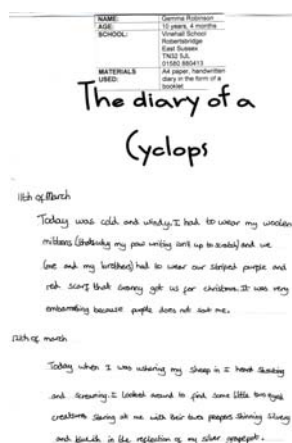
For the first time this year the 'Minimus' course book was used by Year 5 pupils and it has been a resounding success. All three classes enjoyed preparing entries for this year's national 'Minimus' competition. The entries could either be a piece of artwork or a creative writing on the theme of 'The Cyclops,' the one eyed giant who features in the story of 'The Odyssey.' We were delighted to hear that Vinehall had two winners in the competition: Fred Holt in the art category and Gemma Robinson in the creative writing category. Many congratulations to them!

Year 5 made their usual pilgrimage to Canterbury in May. This included a fascinating visit to the Cathedral and a most enjoyable visit to Richborough Castle in the afternoon. This was the place where the Romans are said to have first landed for their second invasion of Britain in 43AD. Unfortunately Year 4 were unable to make their regular outing to Lullingstone Roman Villa which usually links so well with their history lessons. The villa was closed for essential conservation work so instead we visited Pevensey Castle (Anderida) and discovered more about the Roman remains there. We spent a very informative afternoon at the castle and, as ever, the dramatic dungeon caused much excitement.

This year we are pleased to report some very good scholarship grades, most notably Alexander Pugh who gained As in both his Latin papers for his Tonbridge Scholarship and also his Greek. There were also some super C.E. results with A grades for Eleanor Judd, Edward Sparkes, Sigrid Koerner and Isabelle Thomas. KC

## Prizewinners

Fred Holt and Gemma Robinson won prizes in the National Minimus Mythology competition; Gemma for her 'vibrant retelling of the Cyclops myth, with good characterisation and some agreeable description' in the narrative section and Fred for his 'zany but very engaging use of mixed media' in the artwork section.



## English as an Additional Language (EAL)



The photos show two of our pupils from abroad practising their language skills and testing out giving instructions on Year 3 pupils. They quickly learn to become fluent.



by Florence Williams

