UCFL Classical Studies report May 2024

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1. The Classical Association conference took place at the University of Warwick in March 2024. This is the largest UK Classics conference (480+ delegates from around the world). Poet Anne Carson, President of the Classical Association, gave the keynote address. Next year's conference will be at the University of St Andrews 11th-13th July 2025.
2. Classical language teaching is under threat at Cardiff University. I have worked with UCFL and The Council of University Classics Departments to support Classics staff at Cardiff. It is likely that CUCD will host an event, focussed on the sustainability of classical languages teaching in HE, at Cardiff later in 2024.
3. The threats to Arts and Humanities departments at Lincoln and at Kent do not appear to have negatively impacted Classics and Ancient History but I am in regular contact with colleagues in these departments and am closely monitoring the situation.
4. Latin with Classics PGCE places continue to attract a £25,000 bursary in 2024-2025. Recruitment has been slower than in previous years and all available places may not be filled. AHH is in discussion with DfE re: Classics teacher targets. For an update on Classics teacher supply/demand, see: Steven-Hunt-Latin-Education-final-2.10.23.pdf (sas.ac.uk)
5. Latin in primary schools has enjoyed further positive press coverage: 'Expelliarmus!' The primary schools ditching French for Latin (thetimes.co.uk). The Latin Excellence Programme, mentioned in the article, is in Year 2 of 3 and reports to an independent, pro bono, expert panel at the DfE quarterly. AHH is Chair of the expert panel. 40 secondary schools around England receive full funding to introduce/extend the teaching of Latin to GCSE as part of this programme. More details here: Centre for Latin Excellence.

6. The Classical Association is leading a qualification review for all four classical subjects (Latin, Classical Greek, Classical Civilisation, Ancient History). Subject advisory teams consult widely with the teaching community (including surveys) and make recommendations to OCR exam board via the Classics Consultative Forum. For more details, see here: Qualifications Review - The Classical Association and here, for preliminary results: Classical Studies Trends: teaching Classics in secondary schools in the UK | Journal of Classics Teaching | Cambridge Core.
7. FIEC (the international federation of classical associations) will host its triennial conference in Wroclaw, Poland, in July 2025. The call for papers is currently open: Call for panels – FIEC 2025 Wrocław (ptf.edu.pl).