

TEL. LEYLAND 8009



V. U. OLDLAND. B. A.  
HEADMASTER.

BALSHAW'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL,  
LEYLAND, LANCS.

12. 6. 1950.

Dear Mr. Smith

In the event of your son, Roy Smith, obtaining promotion to the 2nd form at the end of this term, I have to decide whether it would be in his interests to pursue a course involving Latin or an alternative course which does not include that subject. In coming to a decision, I am influenced by many considerations, but I would like to have word from you if you have a strong preference for either course.

I enclose a copy of an excerpt from a leaflet "The value of Latin" issued by the Council of the Classical Association which may be of interest and of assistance to you in coming to a decision.

If I do not hear from you on or before July 1st, I will assume that you have no decided preference and your son will be placed in the form in which his interests seem best to be served.

Yours sincerely,

*V. U. Oldland*

Headmaster.

## THE VALUE OF LATIN.

The Latin language has been the main vehicle of Western culture. To a first-hand knowledge of the creeds, codes, laws, literature, philosophy, and science of Western Europe, considered in their historical development, it remains an indispensable key. At the present time, when great social changes are impending, it is more than ever necessary that men and women should have a clear understanding of the path by which they have already come. This is impossible without Latin. Latin Culture is not an obstacle to modern knowledge, but a necessary element in it. Our civilisation will lose in breadth and depth, in stability and richness, if it is severed from its Latin roots.

The linguistic training of Latin, emphasising as it does constant processes of analysis and synthesis, teaches clarity and precision of thought, lucidity of expression in English, and, in particular, the ability to distinguish the thought and the form in which it is expressed. The position of Latin is unique in this respect because, more than any other language likely to be studied, it involves the translation not of single words but of ideas.

Not only is a knowledge of Latin indispensable as a scientific basis of European language studies, but we believe the training that it involves to be of unrivalled assistance towards the subsequent study of almost any new subject.

(Excerpt from a leaflet entitled "The Value of Latin" issued  
by the Council of the Classical Association)



V. U. OLDLAND. B.A.  
HEADMASTER.

BALSHAW'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL,  
LEYLAND, LANCS.

12. 6. 1950.

Dear Mr. Cook,

In the event of your daughter Dorothy I. Cook obtaining promotion to the 2nd form at the end of this term, I have to decide whether it would be in her interests to pursue a course involving Latin or an alternative course which does not include that subject. In coming to a decision, I am influenced by many considerations, but I would like to have word from you if you have a strong preference for either course.

I enclose a copy of an excerpt from a leaflet "The value of Latin" issued by the Council of the Classical Association which may be of interest and of assistance to you in coming to a decision.

If I do not hear from you on or before July 1st I will assume that you have no decided preference and your daughter will be placed in the form in which her interests seem best to be served.

Yours sincerely,

*V. U. Oldland*

Headmaster.



V. U. OLDLAND. B.A.  
HEADMASTER.

BALSHAW'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL,  
LEYLAND, LANCS.

7.6.1951.

Dear Mr. Cook,

In the event of your daughter Dorothy obtaining promotion to the 3rd. form at the end of this term, I have to decide whether it would be in her interests to pursue a course involving Greek or an alternative course involving History. In coming to a decision, I am influenced by many considerations, but I would like to have word from you if you have a strong preference for either subject.

I enclose a copy of an excerpt from a leaflet "The value of Greek" issued by the Council of the Classical Association which may be of interest and of assistance to you in coming to a decision.

If I do not hear from you on or before July 1st. I will assume that you have no decided preference and your daughter will be placed in the form in which her interests seem best to be served.

Yours sincerely,

Headmaster.

## THE VALUE OF GREEK.

The beauty and power of the Greek language, and the splendour of Greek thought, give them a vital significance which we must be careful not to lose. At some of the most crucial moments of history Greek civilisation has fired and enlightened the human spirit, while for countless individuals the study of Greek has been a creative inspiration. This dynamic quality in the Greek genius needs to be experienced to be fully realised, but it is possible to see it at work in the course of centuries and to appreciate some of its results.

- (1) Greek literature is not only one of the noblest in the world but the most original and influential. Nearly all our literary forms (epic, lyric, tragedy, comedy, history, oratory) either go back to Greek originals or have been vitally influenced by them at some point in their development.
- (2) The Greeks were pioneers in science, mathematics, and philosophy, and were the first to devise those political forms which have favoured the growth of freedom. The study of the fifth and fourth centuries B.C., in particular, is at this time a most important introduction to political thinking. The Greeks have thus been a lasting inspiration to the life, literature, and language of the modern world.
- (3) Greek has exercised a dominating influence at three different periods, each of vast importance. The Romans were the first heirs and pupils of Greece; all that was best, not only in Roman literature but in the Roman Empire, was the work of men who had been educated in Greek and had drawn their inspiration from it. Secondly, Greek was the language by which Christianity was spread through the Empire, and was for centuries its chief means of extension and its vehicle of thought. Thirdly, Greek was the strongest formative influence at the time of the revival of learning and the whole intellectual movement of the Renaissance. In our own age, when we stand at a turning-point and at the beginning of a great era, Greek has its part to play.
- (4) Greek, which is a potent instrument of education at all stages, has an exceptional power to attract the interest and stimulate the thought of youth. This is true of Homer, of much Greek drama, of great episodes from the historians and passages of Demosthenes, Plato's portrayal of the life and death of Socrates, and many of Plutarch's Lives. Thus Greek is not a subject for a few specialists only but has a wide educational appeal.

(Excerpt from a leaflet entitled "The Value of Greek" issued by the Council of the Classical Association)