

# Classics Conference: 21st November 2023

## Women in the ancient world

### Reflection



#### Y10 Latin

We really enjoyed this conference. We didn't realise how significant women were to ancient Roman and Greek society due to the narrative being told mainly from a male perspective. We found it interesting how young women with periods were celebrated by society in the Brauronia Festival ('festival of the little bears'), instead of being shamed as they can be today.

**Sol and Lucy K-H**

We really enjoyed this. This is because we learnt a lot of specific details that we wouldn't have originally researched. It adds to our set text in Latin literature, as it links to the women in our set text and explains a lot more about Messalina and what the rest of her life and expectation for her would have been.

**Sabine, Lucy and Jenny**

It was extremely interesting and both speakers were very engaging. It was interesting to learn more about the religion and women's representation in religion as it's something we hadn't thought about much before so it was amazing to learn more.

**Alex, Reya, Ellie**

#### Y13 Latin

What resonated for me the most from this talk is how the way men perceived women in the ancient world creates stigma around them (e.g. Cicero using Sassia in an exploitative way as 'a literary device'). Also, the secret lives of women in cults and religion makes them seem more dimensional which was interesting.

**Roxanne B**

#### Y12/13 Drama

This talk was a good introduction to the context of Sophocles' "Antigone". Edith Hall was very interesting and I learnt a lot about Greek tradition which was valuable.

**Thea C**

The first lecture especially resonated with me as women in the Roman world is a specific interest of mine. I also found Edith Hall very interesting to listen to and found her description of the religious calendar for a young woman in Athens fascinating. I also thought that the comparisons between different city states attitudes towards women of great interest also due to the great variation. Overall, I found it greatly informative as well as entertaining and I feel that I have greatly furthered my knowledge.

**Charlotte D**



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#### Y12/13 Classical Civilisation

I found learning about the different Athenian festivals such as the Arkteia very interesting, and also learning about the Pythia at Delphi in more depth and how people had to book in advance in order to see her.

**Harrie S**

The first talk was incredibly insightful on what you could do in university as well as inspiring as it showed us a great level of interest in a powerful woman not too well known. It added depth to my knowledge of Greek religion and helped me further understand how women were perceived and stood as a very strong view point.

**Darcey H**

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**Charlotte D**

Attending the virtual Oxford High School Classics Conference was an illuminating and enjoyable experience. The lecture by Edith Hall was particularly relevant to our Greek Religion topic in our Classical Civilisation A-level. We enjoyed learning about the hugely important role of women in society and religious activities such as festivals. The EPQ presentation was also very good, giving us insight into the lives of Roman women, in particular Antonia Minor.

**Mei B**

