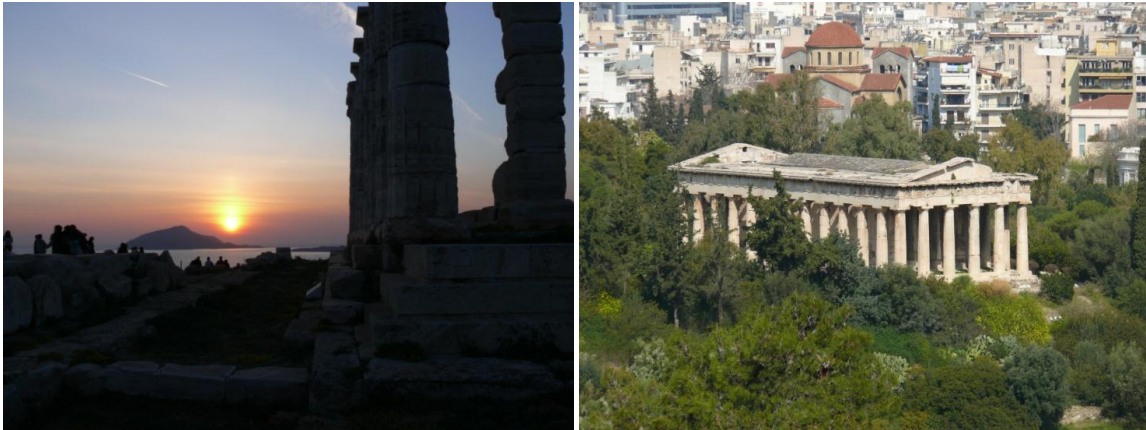
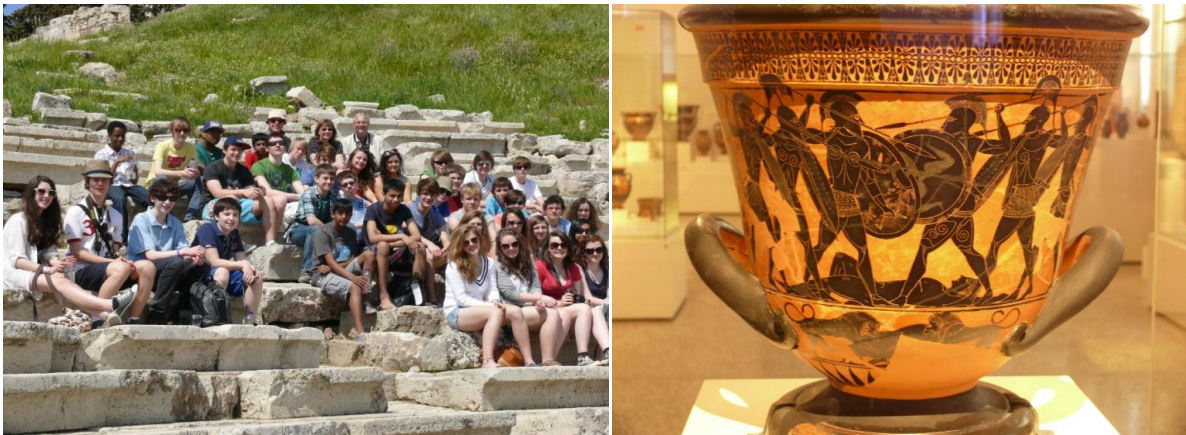


Chasing the sun - Greece Trip Easter 2012

The most recent trip by the Classics Department was a resounding success. 37 pupils and four staff enjoyed a nine-day tour based in and around Athens, Delphi, Olympia, Pylos and Tolo. Our prayers to Apollo were answered and the sun shone every day. Pupils were introduced to a wide variety of classical and later sites, and had some time for leisure activities.



After we arrived in Athens, our coach took us straight to Cape Sounion where we had time to see the temple of Poseidon just before a spectacular sunset. After dinner at a taverna in a bay below the temple we returned to Athens where we checked in for our first night. On our first full day we explored Athens on foot, visiting the ancient agora, acropolis, theatre of Dionysus, pnyx and new Acropolis Museum. The following morning we visited the National Museum before leaving Athens and driving to Delphi.



As we climbed into the mountains near Delphi we visited the working monastery of Osios Loukas where calm surroundings amid spectacular scenery captured the mood. The following morning was spent exploring the site and museum at Delphi, home of the famous oracle, before driving down to the coast at Itea where we enjoyed an excellent lunch by the sea. Our destination for the evening was Olympia, which we explored the following morning. As ever the site was very popular, and various groups took their turn at re-enacting the foot race in the stadium.



After leaving Olympia we travelled to Pylos via the spectacular temple of Apollo at Bassae which we found after just one wrong turn. Spectacular twisted rock formations provided evidence of the volatile nature of the place. From Pylos we were able to visit the Mycenaean Palace of Nestor and Museum at Chora with its Linear B tablets before taking a well-earned rest in the afternoon and making the most the sea-front location of the hotel. We completed our circuit of the Peloponnese by visiting Mystra and Sparta before arriving at our final base in Tolo.





Of all the wonders of Greece, the theatre at Epidauros is amongst the most stunning. By arriving early in the morning we were able to enjoy the site before it became too crowded. From there we travelled to one of the four main sites of ancient Greek games at Nemea and then the Mycenaean citadel at Mycenae, from which Agamemnon organised his campaign against Troy.





All too soon our last morning arrived. We visited the site of ancient Corinth with its mix of Greek and Roman remains before returning to the airport for our flight home.

Many thanks to all the pupils who made the trip so successful and trouble-free, and to the staff Dr Fearon, Mr Paterson, Ms Pottinger and Mr Harrop for their hard work and attention to detail.