



# Q&A

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## What area of research do you focus on and why?

I specialise in the learning and teaching of Classics in schools. This includes the Classical languages (Latin and Classical Greek) AND Ancient History, Classical civilisations and cultures. I research the value and relevance of studying Classics in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, train teachers and campaign for greater access to Classics in state schools.

## What book in your field should everyone read?

For the Greeks, everyone should read Professor Edith Hall's '*The Ancient Greeks: ten ways they shaped the modern world*' (Vintage, 2016).

For the Romans, everyone should read Professor Mary Beard's '*SPQR: A History of Ancient Rome*' (Profile, 2016).

For Classics education, I've heard '*Forward with Classics: classical languages in schools and communities*' (Bloomsbury, 2018) is pretty good...

## Which book inspired you to study History?

I actually studied Classics at University which is a stimulating mix of History, language, literature, philosophy, art and archaeology. I was inspired to do so because, at school, I loved Classical languages (Latin and Greek) as well as Ancient History. The book which united these interests was Sallust's *Bellum Catilinae*. The Roman historian and politician Sallust provided an account of the Catilinarian conspiracy in 63BC in which he depicts Catiline as an enemy of the Roman people, deeply immoral and committed to overthrowing the Republic. I was also studying Cicero's prosecution speech against Catiline, so enjoyed comparing and contrasting various sources from such a dramatic period in Rome's history.

## What book are you currently reading?

I am currently reading 'A People's History of Classics: class and Graeco-Roman antiquity in Britain and Ireland 1689 to 1939' by Professor Edith Hall and Dr Henry Stead. This is a magnificent book which explores the influence of the classical past on the lives of working-class people from all corners of the British Isles and Ireland. It inspires me to continue my advocacy work with policymakers and politicians to ensure that we make the study of Classics available to every young person in every school who desires it.

## What is the best museum you have ever been to?

This is a really difficult one for me. Can I choose two? The National Archaeological Museum of Athens which houses many of the most important artefacts from around the Greek world spanning prehistory to late antiquity. The other is the Naples National Archaeological Museum which contains most of the treasures excavated from nearby from Pompeii and Herculaneum. It even has a secret cabinet...

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