

## Birmingham and Midlands Classical Association (BMCA)

# Texts & Topics Sixth Form Conference 2025

**King Edward's  
School,  
Birmingham**

**King Edward's School,  
Edgbaston Park Road,  
Birmingham, B15 2UA**

**Thursday 3rd July 2025  
09:00–14:45**

**For further details contact  
Ana Henderson,  
Head of Classics,  
King Edward's School,  
Birmingham.**

**Booking deadline:  
16th June 2025**

**Full programme titles will be  
updated on the website.**

The Birmingham and Midlands branch of the Classical Association invites you to their Texts & Topics Sixth Form Conference on Thursday 3rd July 2025, hosted at King Edward's School, Birmingham.

This in-person event for A level students and a range of engaging relevant topics from Latin, Greek, Classical Civilisation, and Ancient History will be offered by university academics and subject specialists.

The day will begin with registration from 9:00am, followed by a keynote lecture at 10:00am by Dr Elena Theodorakopoulos (University of Birmingham) on Virgil and Augustus.

Students will then participate in parallel sessions tailored to A level content, including: Tacitus, Annals, Cicero, Pro Caelio, Greek Theatre, The World of Homer, Archaeology and inscriptions workshops and workshop on revision tips and student-led discussions. There will be an opportunity to visit the campus of the University of Birmingham during lunchtime break.

The day concludes with a talk from Dr Emily Hauser on Women of the Homeric World.

**The conference is free for state schools, and £5 per student for independent schools. Invoice upon request from Jo Johnson, JohnsonJ@SolSch.org.uk**

**Please use this [link](#) or this QR code to access the workshop sign up.**

Texts & Topics Sixth Form  
Conference 2025 workshop  
options



**9:00 -10:00 Welcome, Payment of Fees and Registration  
(King Edward's School, Birmingham, RPAC)**

**10:00 - 10:30 Keynote Address:  
Virgil and Augustus  
Dr Elena Theodorakopoulos (The University of Birmingham)**

**Latin/CCV:  
Group A**

**Greek/CCV:  
Group B**

**Curiosity session:  
Group C**

**10:30 - 11:10**

**Tacitus, Annals  
"Agrippina and the collapsible ship"**

In this session we focus on Tacitus' style and vocabulary in an episode from Annals 14 to explore how Tacitus 'does' history as drama, and how this is one reason why his representations of women are so compelling.

**Dr Elena Theodorakopoulos  
(Birmingham)**

**"Gender and Heroism in the Homeric Epics"**

This talk will explore the topic of gender in Homer's epic poems. Focusing on the Odyssey, we will look at the connection between gender norms and heroic ethics, identifying key passages and significant themes, and discussing narrative techniques.

**Dr Lisa Doyle  
(Birmingham)**

**The Aeneid: "To what extent is Aeneas a hero in his own right, and to what extent is he simply the instrument of fate?"**

Student-led discussion: Students offering their opinions and insight to the group. 20 minutes preparation time (bring your own copy of the Aeneid) and 20 minutes discussion.

**Chair: Dr Kathryn Tempest**

**11:10 - 12:00**

**"Women 'on trial' in Cicero's speeches"**

In this lecture, Kathryn Tempest explores Cicero's presentation of two infamous women, Clodia and Sassia, to examine why his character assassinations worked and what this information reveals about attitudes towards gender in ancient Rome.

**Dr Kathryn Tempest  
(Leicester)**

**"Engaging pupils' imagination in the teaching of Greek theatre at A Level"**

The introduction to the new digital resources for teaching A-Level Greek theatre. Based on her research into tragedy, comedy, and performance, these tools aim to better engage pupils' imagination—an often overlooked aspect of appreciating Greek drama with examples from plays on the OCR Classical Civilisation syllabus.

**Dr Emanuela Bakola  
(Warwick)**

**Archaeology Workshop at University of Birmingham**

If you are interested in archaeology, this session will give you an insight into this weird and wonderful discipline. Professor Chapman is an expert in digital technologies for modelling prehistoric landscapes, best known for his work on the fascinating European bog bodies.

**Professor Henry Chapman  
(Birmingham)**

**12:00 - 12:10 Break**

**12:10 - 13:00**

**"Reading Aeneid 2"**

This session will involve close reading of passages from this most emotional and dramatic book of the Aeneid. We will consider especially the role of furor and the hold this has on Aeneas, the narrator and protagonist of the book.

**Dr Elena Theodorakopoulos  
(Birmingham)**

**"Being a Citizen in Classical Athens"**

Dr Will Mack explores how new scholarship and alternative sources can make the A-Level syllabus on Athenian democracy—usually focused on figures like Solon, Cleisthenes, and Pericles—more engaging. The talk shifts attention from political reforms to the lived experiences of ordinary citizens across different periods.

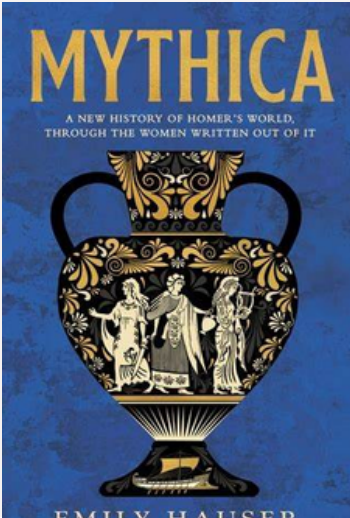
**Dr Will Mack  
(Birmingham)**

**"Reimagining ancient myths for a modern audiences"**

In this session, we will focus on talking specifically about two books, Medusa and Medea (Sunday Times Bestseller). For both books Rosie Hewlett, former UoB Classics student, has won international awards.

**Rosie Hewlett**

**13:00 - 14:00 Lunch/Tour of the University of Birmingham Campus (optional)**



**14:00 - 14:45 Closing lecture  
Mythica: In Search of the Real Women Behind Homer's Myths  
Dr Emily Hauser  
(Exeter)**

