

Advocating Classics Education

Arlene Holmes-Henderson

'Advocating Classics Education' is a new initiative (funded by the AHRC), which seeks to extend the availability of Classical Civilization and Ancient History qualifications to learners in non-fee-paying schools across the United Kingdom. Led by Prof. Edith Hall and Dr Arlene Holmes-Henderson (seen in the photograph on the right at the launch event) at King's College London, the project has 16 university partners: Durham University, King's College London, Liverpool Hope University, the Open University, Queen's University Belfast, Swansea University and the Universities of Bristol, Exeter, Glasgow, Kent, Leeds, Nottingham, Reading, Roehampton, St. Andrews, and

Warwick. Over the course of 2017-2018, the plan is that each partner university will host one high-profile public event and that academic staff will then support schools in their region to introduce and develop the teaching of Classical Civilisation and Ancient History. For more information about the project's partners, supporters, patrons, events and aims please see the website www.aceclassics.org.uk

At the policy level, Edith and Arlene will meet with representatives from the Education departments in each of the four nations to raise the profile of the study of the Classical world as an important element of 21st century education. Meetings with the five exam boards offering accreditation in Classical subjects will ensure that qualification bodies contribute to discussions affecting policy and practice. The research element of the project addresses two fundamental questions: (1) what is the history of the study of Classical Civilisation and Ancient History at secondary level in British schools? (2) what are the skills and intellectual competencies conferred upon students who take such courses? A monograph is planned, co-authored by Hall and Holmes-Henderson, which will be freely accessible online.

An important tool for data collection in this project is a survey on Classics education. We would like to invite *Omnibus* readers to complete the survey and ask that they share the link as widely as possible:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/WTDM76R>

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