

Ancient World Student Annual Meeting (AWSAM) 2026

Wednesday 4th November 2026, 9.15am-2.30pm



By popular demand, AWSAM is back for a third year!

School groups are warmly invited to the University of Leicester's FREE programme of workshops on topics from the **KS5 Classical Civilization curriculum** and sessions on **Classics-related skills and employability**, delivered by academic staff and commercial archaeologists from the University's School of Heritage and Culture (SHAC).

Teachers are invited to [register their interest here](#). Those with places will then be contacted by the University and asked to rank the following sessions in order of preference. All groups will attend two from 'Session Options' (1-5), in addition to the two core sessions (6 and 7).

SESSION OPTIONS:

- 1. Working with Ancient Sources and Materials: Decoding Ancient Inscriptions - Dr Jane Ainsworth**
This session offers an introduction to deciphering and using ancient inscriptions, giving you the skills you need to level up your use of primary sources.
- 2. Politics of the Late Republic (H408/33): The Big Three Balloon Debate - Dr Kathryn Tempest**
Who really brought down the Roman Republic? In this interactive balloon debate, students will build the case for Pompey, Caesar or Crassus, then battle to decide which political titan posed the greatest threat to Rome's political order.

3. Greek Religion (H408/31): Experiencing the Divine at Dodona - Dr Jan Haywood

What sorts of things did the ancient Greeks ask from their gods? This session introduces the oracle of Zeus Naios and Dione at Dodona and examines the spectacular cache of lead tablets preserved at the site, highlighting the diverse backgrounds of consultants seeking divine guidance.

4. Inventing the Barbarian (H408/23): How to upset an Athenian - Dr Janie Masségia

How did an Athenian recognise a barbarian? This session explores some of the common features that Athenian artists and authors emphasised when depicting "dangerous foreigners", with particular emphasis on the undesirable trio of Persians, Amazons and Medea.

5. Imperial Image (H408/22): Augustus and the *Res Gestae*: Telling "the Truth" (sort of) - Dr Jack Lennon

Do you trust Augustus? How did he use his *Res Gestae* to shape not only his own image, but his own version of history? How did he twist his presentation of events to paper over the magnitude of his crimes? In this session we will explore some revealing passages and what they really meant for the newly-emerging Principate.

CORE SESSIONS (ALL STUDENTS):

6. *A Roman Mystery: Careers for the Curious – ULAS (John Thomas and Jen Browning)

Interact with the past and learn new skills with hands-on experience of the techniques used by professional Archaeologists and Historians working on Roman sites. Unravel the secrets of a mysterious excavation in this session, run by University of Leicester Archaeological Services – helping you enhance your University applications.

7. *Campus Tour: Life at the University of Leicester

Meet real students and explore our campus with the help of our Student Ambassadors.

Please contact Dr Jane Masségia (jeam2@le.ac.uk) with queries about the content of the sessions.