As a product of the Welsh comprehensive education system of the 1980s I was fortunate enough to be taught Latin at school from the age of 12 until I was 18. I was inspired by the stories of the CLC and fascinated by the work of Horace and Catullus and continued Latin as part of my degree course. I now teach Latin at King's College in Taunton, a 13 – 18 Boarding School and for the past three years I have been running Latin lessons for pupils from Bishop Fox's School, a maintained 11-16 school which is located very close to our site. I began the classes because I want to encourage as many children as possible to study Latin and to give them the opportunity that I had although it has now all but disappeared from the maintained school curriculum in my area.

In June 2010, I wrote to the Gifted and Talented Co-ordinators of the four maintained schools in Taunton, offering to provide free weekly after school Latin classes for their pupils. Although, disappointingly, I did not receive replies from three of the schools, I received an enthusiastic response from Bishop Fox's. We agreed that the classes would run from September for one hour per week and that letters would be sent to the parents of Gifted and Talented pupils in Years 7 and 8.

I started teaching a group of 25 pupils using CLC materials. I was generously supported by The Classical Association and The Roman Society for the purchase of textbooks and the DVD. Over the two years, there were those that found that they had too many commitments to continue, but in June 2012, 13 pupils sat the WJEC Level 1 Certificate in Latin Language and they all achieved excellent grades, with a few A*s amongst them. The WJEC course was perfect for this group as the OCR GCSE would have been impossible for us to cover in such a short time. Instead I was able to offer the WJEC qualification in Latin Language only, which made it more accessible and has inspired at least some of the group to want to study Classics later on.

The classes are now continuing with a new cohort. This time we had over 40 pupils wanting to take part and we had to take the hard decision to select the top 25 based on Midyas scores. I have now enlisted the help of my Lower Sixth pupils to teach, which they are enjoying hugely, and Bishop Fox's have managed to find a fortnightly slot in the timetable in which the group have an opportunity to complete work that I have set them under the supervision of their Gifted and Talented Co-ordinator.

The partnership has been so successful that we are looking in to how it can be expanded further by perhaps training some of the teachers at Bishop Fox's to teach Latin, with the ultimate aim that it is offered as part of the curriculum. I would be delighted to speak to anyone who is interested in setting up a similar scheme in their area. Please email me: lscashmore@kings-taunton.co.uk.

Lisa Cashmore is a teacher of Classics in a secondary school.