# Caesar's Secrets



Although Julius Caesar never came to Bath, the Roman Baths would probably not exist in the way it does today without him.  He was the first Roman to invade Britain.

## Julius Caesar and Britain

Caesar's job was to conquer the Celtic tribes in Gaul (France).  He thought that invading Britain was part of doing that job.  He knew that victorious generals are always popular and he wanted more power.

Caesar kept a journal.   Here is what it said about Britain and the Celts who lived there:

*The inland part of Britain is inhabited by tribes who, according to their own tradition, are native to the island, the coastal part by tribes that crossed from Belgium (…) and then stayed and started cultivating the land.*

*Of all the people, the most civilised are those who live in Kent, all of which is close to the sea; the life there is not much different to that in Gaul.  Most of the inland people do not sow corn; they live on milk and flesh and dress themselves in skins.*

Caesar invaded Britannia (Britain) in 55 B.C. but he retreated. He realised that there was lots of food in Britain and that it would provide materials that the Roman Empire could use. A year later he tried to invade again but this time the tribes of Britain united under a leader called Cassivellaunus.

But as winter approached and there was a revolt in Gaul Caesar left, taking his British prisoners with him. He never came back but the Romans knew now that invading Britain might be a good idea. A hundred years later, after Julius Caesar had died, they returned. This time they conquered the country and stayed for over three hundred years.
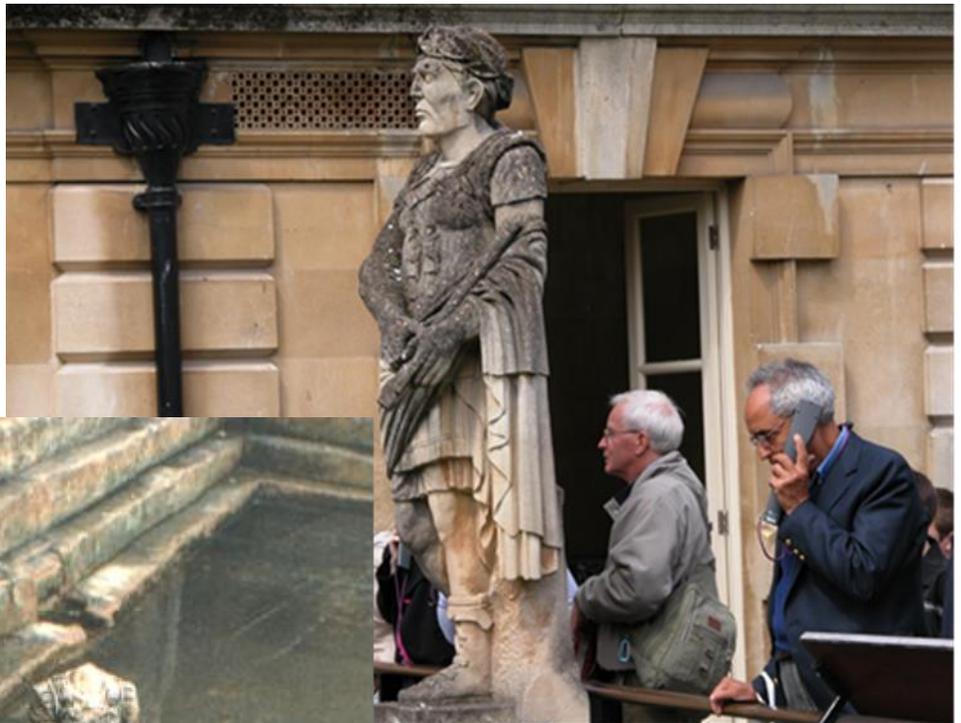
**The Roman Baths and Julius Caesar**

Unlike all the other statues that you can see on the terrace overlooking the Roman Baths, the statue of Julius Caesar is not the original carved one hundred years ago.  Around thirty years ago the original was pushed into the Great Bath by vandals.

Luckily the Great Bath wasn't damaged.  It was drained so that the pieces could be recovered, then members of the museum's staff attempted to put Julius Caesar back together again.

Sadly, this was impossible.  Instead, a new Julius Caesar was carved, closely matching the original.  Over the years the stonework has weathered until the new statue matches the others.

This code was created by Julius Caesar in about 50 B.C. to send messages.

Have a go at using the Caesar Code:
See if you can decode this message. In Latin it says:
VENI VIDI VICI

| Plain | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L | M |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cipher | X | Y | Z | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J |

| Plain | N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cipher | K | L | M | N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W |

Use Julius Caesar's code to change it to English:

F ZXJB, F PXT, F ZLKNRBOBA!

When **decoding** a message, a person looks up each letter of the message in the **cipher** line and writes down the corresponding letter in the **plain** line.

When **encoding** a message, a person looks up each letter of the message in the **plain** line and writes down the corresponding letter in the **cipher** line.

What secret message do you want to write and send to someone!