Write your name... in the ROMAN CURSIVE ALPHABET

- The Roman alphabet familiar from stone monumental inscriptions was not the usual way of writing Latin by hand. When writing in ink on a material like wood or papyrus, people would have used more flowing, *cursive* shapes for each letter.
- These cursive shapes are attested across the Roman empire, from the Vindolanda tablets on Hadrian’s Wall to Latin papyri from Roman Egypt. They are also well represented in graffiti from Pompeii.

Try writing your name or a short message in Roman cursive. What difficulties do you encounter? Are some sounds difficult to represent? Are some letters confusible?

*The single letter V in the monumental Latin alphabet (and ȝ in the cursive Latin alphabet) could always represent both the vowel sound u and the consonant sound w. In later Latin, the consonant sound w developed into a v. Compare Latin vinum (pronounced winum) and French vin or Spanish vino.*