Translations of the Latin phrases used in the frontispiece of Eikon Basilike

The English phrases (in the second column here) could simply be displayed on a PowerPoint for the students to add to their copy of the image, or they could be given out as cards for them to place in the correct position on a copy of the image.

The students could then be asked to develop their own suggestions as to why this phrase has been included: what is it referring to and/or what is the message that it is giving about Charles? As an easier alternative, students could be presented with some or all of the explanations given in the third column below and asked to match them to the relevant phrase.

The students can then be asked how these messages compare with their own suggestions about how Charles might have chosen to present himself – and what they now need to know in order to judge whether his campaign to be seen as a martyr was successful.

Latin phrase	English translation	The message it was intended
		to convey
IMMOTA, TRIVMPHANS	UNMOVED, TRIUMPHANT	Just like the rock – not moved or smashed by the waves or the storm battering against it – Charles has stood firm (faithful to God and to his people) in the face of opposition and will triumph.
Clarior é tenebris	Brighter through the darkness	God's light shines even brighter for Charles despite the darkness around him (despite the terrible situation he is in).
CRESCIT SUB PONDERE VIRTVS	VIRTUE GROWS BENEATH WEIGHTS	If the branches of a tree are pulled down (by weights) they will spring back <i>higher</i> once they are released. This means that Charles' virtue (his goodness) will grow even stronger in the face of difficulties.
Beatam & Æternam	Blessed & Eternal	The crown that Charles is gazing at is a heavenly crown – that will last for ever. He will be blessed and crowned by God in heaven.
GLORIA	GLORY	The word 'glory' is attached to the heavenly crown that Charles is gazing at. He will be crowned in glory when he gets to heaven.

Splendidam & Gravem	Splendid and heavy	Although the crown that he wore on earth was splendid, it was a heavy burden to bear.
Vanitas	Worthless, empty (Vanity, in the sense that something is 'in vain' or pointless)	Although Charles may have lost his crown (which is lying at his feet) in the end, it does not matter. It is the heavenly crown he will receive that really matters.
Asperam & Levem	Bitter and light	The crown Charles is holding is a crown of thorns (a crown of pain and sorrow and pain, even if it is light). Because Jesus was given a crown of thorns when he was crucified, Charles is comparing his death to Jesus's death.
GRATIA	Grace (In the sense of God's love or gift to us: the grace of God)	Jesus's death was a sign of God's grace (he died because of God's love for His people). Charles is suggesting that he can bear the crown with God's help and because of his love for his people.
Coeli Specto	I look to heaven	Charles's thoughts are all focused on God – and on the heavenly crown that he will receive for remaining faithful – not on the terrible things that are being done to him.
IN VERBO TVO SPES MEA	MY HOPE IS IN YOUR WORD	Charles is making it clear that he has put his trust in God. It does not matter what men may do to him – he has trusted God's promises and ruled as God had appointed him to do.
Christi Tracto	I entreat Christ or By the word of Christ	Charles is putting his trust in Jesus, and in what He has promised
Mundi Calco	I tread on the world	Charles is saying that his life on earth doesn't really matter to him. He may walk on the earth for now, but his eyes are fixed on heaven.