

RUMBLE MUSEUM

Newsletter
June 16
2021

ABOUT US

The Rumble Museum at Cheney is run by educational charity The Iris Project and spread throughout corridors and rooms. We run regular projects, talks and events, and have two active student Museum Councils.

We have been awarded full Museum Accreditation by the Arts Council. Find out more at www.rumblemuseum.org.uk

CHENEY GIRLS GRAMMAR OLD GIRL VISIT

On Tuesday 15 June, the Year Nine Museum Project group were able to welcome back Lynn Ferris to the school for the first time since the 1960s. Lynn Ferris attended the Cheney Girls Grammar School in the 60s when it had recently moved to the site. It occupied the area of the school we now call C-block (named after Louisa Chadwick, a much-loved headmistress of the Oxford Central Girls School, which became 'Cheney Girls Grammar School' when it moved to the Headington Hill site in 1959).

Lynn had brought a range of old uniform items, including a navy blazer, with the motto "vitam impendere vero", which means "to pay one's life for the truth", and is a quote from the Roman satirist Juvenal. She had also brought a summer dress, as girls wore different uniforms in summer and winter, and a pair of sport shorts, which were navy and made of very rough wool.

Lynn showed photographs and explained how the school was much less diverse at the time, and how you would have to leave at the end of a year if you didn't pass the exams. Speaking to students from Cheney Technical School (which resided in W block) was not allowed, and the teachers were almost all female. She explained how careers options for girls were limited compared to today, and how difficult it was to find a job after leaving. Things like detentions sounded very similar!



AFRICAN ARTEFACT COLLECTION EVENT

In December, the Rumble Museum was very fortunate to receive a gift of a beautiful and wide-ranging collection of items from countries such as Uganda, Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, Gambia and Kenya. The items include a beautifully decorated African doorframe, an embuutu drum, and an agaseke basket, a quiver, and many other exquisitely made items.

Natty Mark Samuels, founder of the African School, is working with the Rumble Museum to run workshops with groups of students of African heritage, and he has composed poems about the objects in traditional style. We will be making these poems available online soon both as a booklet and audio recordings.

On Friday 16th July, 4 - 6.30pm we are holding a community event to display our African artefacts. We are also inviting anyone from the wider community to share their stories and knowledge to help us understand and interpret these objects within their cultural and historical context. A team of students will be ready to record stories, and take photographs of any African objects visitors might like to bring in to share. Natty will be running drop-in workshops about the items, and refreshments will be provided.

Visitors do not need to have an object or story to share - if anyone is planning to visit with a particular story they want to share or object they want to show, please let us know by emailing info@irisproject.org.uk.



Rumble Museum

invites you to our

AFRICAN ARTEFACTS EXHIBITION

4 - 6.30 PM
JULY 16, 2021
CHENEY SCHOOL

DROP-IN WORKSHOPS
DISPLAYS