

# RUMBLE MUSEUM

Newsletter  
Oct 6  
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](http://www.rumblemuseum.org.uk)

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH DISPLAYS AND TALKS

Our various Black History Month activities, displays and talks are now underway. Natty Mark Samuels delivered a fascinating assembly on 24th September for Year Twelves on the university at Timbuktu, African trade routes, and how Timbuktu was a centre for exciting research and scholarship in the Islamic Golden Age.

He also delivered a community poetry reading after school, where students, staff and visitors were able to hear some of the beautiful poems he has composed about our African artefacts, which were infused with lots of information about the wider contexts of these items.

Students were able to get involved in chanting and even dancing to some of Natty's drumming!

We have filled the cabinet in the front reception with items from our collection chosen by students. These are: a quiver,

headrest, wrist knife, finger knife, bracelet, flywhip and mbira. Do take a look - they will be there, with information labels, all this month in main reception.

Later this week, we have a breakfast talk by Warren Stanislaus on UK Grime Music and Japanese culture. Warren was a "Rare Rising Star" in 2019, an award given to black academics early in their research careers.



## A TOUR OF THE ASHMOLEAN

In our second trip of the year, our Year Nine Museum Project students were very lucky to be the first school group since the pandemic started to be welcomed to the Ashmolean Museum!

We were met outside the main entrance by Clare Corey, Secondary Learning Officer, who started by taking us to see a very striking artefact, which appeared to be a large piece of brown material, with circle patterns, two animals and a man sewn into the fabric. Clare explained that it was the "Powhantle's Mantle", a large deer hide decorated with shells. It dates to the first time of contact between Indigenous North American peoples and British colonists. She talked about how this and other items raised the very important issue of contested objects and collections. We then had a whistle-stop tour of a number of the galleries at the museum. We started with the conservation galleries, which showed some of the latest scientific knowledge about how museum objects can get damaged over time. We looked at a gallery with some paintings and objects from Pompeii. We looked at the beautiful ancient Greek gallery and the Egyptian gallery, where some were struck to find human remains. We looked at some stunning Egyptian building parts as well as burial coffins. We looked at the Watlington Hoard, a mixture of coins, ingots and jewellery that was discovered as recently as 2015. We also saw the Islamic Art gallery plus several other art galleries before finishing with the striking Nice Cup of Tea? installation.

