

# RUMBLE MUSEUM

Newsletter  
May 9th  
2022

## 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)

## DYSTOPIA SEASON KICKS OFF

From May to July, the Rumble Museum is running a Dystopia Season! There are a range of projects, activities, displays and breakfast talks taking place. You can find some first editions of classic dystopian novels and comics in the front reception cabinet.

Year Eights and Nines have had two breakfast talks so far. One by Dr Aidan Power explored dystopias in film, where students heard about films as diverse as Wall-E and Bladerunner. Another by Professor Matthew Beaumont looked at nineteenth century dystopias and utopias.



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## RUMBLE AFRICAN ARTEFACTS ON EARTH MUSEUM

We are delighted that a number of items from our African Collection have been featured on the Earth Museum.

The Earth Museum is an online museum which hosts objects and the stories connecting these from across the globe.

Over a few sessions in the autumn, Rumble Museum Museum Council students worked with Earth Museum volunteer Naima Mokhtar to create a series of entries about our African items. First they thought a bit about categories of object, and each chose an object or two to work with.

They then worked on short stories or pieces imagining the lives of each object. You can see each entry on the Earth Museum website.

We are very grateful to have been able to work with the Earth Museum on this project, and look forward to adding further entries in the coming months.

Rumble Museum African Artefacts provided by The Earth Museum

Find objects, people and place

Introducing this map

In December 2020, the Rumble Museum was privileged to receive the gift of a wide and varied collection of artefacts from a number of different sub-Saharan countries. The collection included a range of everyday items, for cooking, performing music, wearing and using in daily lives.

Students, staff, parents and visitors have all engaged with and contributed to our knowledge of these objects. In the past year, we have been working with local expert and poet Natty Mark Samuels and the Cheney School community in order to find out more about this beautiful

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## CASTLE OF OUR SKINS WORKSHOP

We were delighted and honoured to welcome five musicians from the organisation Castle of Our Skins to deliver a workshop with musical performances to Year Tens this week.

Castle of Our Skins is a concert and educational series which is dedicated to celebrating Black artistry through music. The visit was organised by Dr Samantha Ege. Samantha is a soloist performer, and the Lord Crewe Junior Research Fellow in Music at Lincoln College, University of Oxford.

The workshop introduced influence of spirituals on classical music, encouraging the students to think about the role of music in communities, and linking lyrics and the shape of the spirituals songs to the experiences of enslaved peoples. It explored how songs can be a form of resistance, both in terms of binding a group of people and also in terms of passing on important messages. One example of this was "Wade in the Water" where it was explained to the students that dogs were often used to track down escaping slaves, and being in the water can take away the scents that the dogs are pursuing.

Musicians Ashleigh, Matthew, Francesca and Gabrielle performed each piece after introducing the context to the students, and discussed the emotions invoked by the sound of the music with the students.

It was an amazing experience and we are enormously grateful to everyone involved for such an informative and moving workshop.



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## OXBOTICA TRIP

Year Eights who took part last term in our Artificial Intelligence Breakfast Talks were able to visit the Oxford headquarters of Oxbotica on Monday afternoon to meet founder and Oxford professor Paul Newman, and find out more about the development of exciting technology around autonomous vehicles.

Students arrived and were greeted by Paul with an introductory talk on the scope of the work Oxbotica are doing - from mining vehicles the size of houses which are already driverless, to developing driverless buses, which might appear within a few years on our streets.

We were able to then explore a driverless car up close, and find out more about how it all worked, before a workshop on how to approach ideas and computing. Paul spoke of how easy and important it is to learn to code, and encouraged everyone to have a go when they got home.

We are very grateful to everyone at Oxbotica who made it possible for this fascinating visit.

