

RUMBLE MUSEUM

Newsletter
June 15th
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

MIDDLESBURY COLLEGE STUDENTS VISIT

We were delighted to welcome students from Middlesbury College "CMRS Humanities Programme" to the school on Tuesday 14th June to explore our collections and displays, and find out more about our museum.

They were met by Tess, Isla, Daisy and Catriona from our Year Nine Museum Project group who have an excellent, detailed and thoughtful tour of all the different exhibits and displays on the site, before having a Q & A with the museum director and museum lead in the Classics Centre to round things up. Well done to our amazing Year Nine tour guides!



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PENELOPIAD WORKSHOP AND PERFORMANCE

Last week, our GCSE Latin group were very fortunate to have been involved in an exciting project led by Professor Fiona Macintosh at the University of Oxford, and a team of musicians, directors and composers. The project involved a workshop at Cheney on Tuesday 7th June, followed by a special invitation to a performance at St Hilda's College between 5 and 6pm on Wednesday 8th June.

Professor Fiona Macintosh introduces the project: "This project brings together creative artists, Oxford researchers and students from the Cheney to develop a new 90-minute opera entitled *The Alternative Queen's Speech*, based on Margaret Atwood's *The Penelopiad* (2005), by composer, Cheryl Frances-Hoad and opera director/librettist, Jeanne Pansard-Besson. *The Alternative Queen's Speech*, like Atwood's novella, turns the canonical narrative of Homer's *Odyssey* upside down: Odysseus' wife, Penelope, traditionally the model of marital fidelity and patient endurance, is given the chance to offer her side of the story from the underworld."

At the workshop, students were able to hear an excerpt of the opera, and then to ask questions of the composer, director and one of the singers. The following afternoon, students were welcomed to the St Hilda's auditorium, where they were able to watch a stunningly beautiful performance, featuring two singers, a reader, a pianist, and a weaver on stage, telling the story from Penelope's perspective, with readings from the *Penelopiad* and Homer's *Odyssey*. Towards the end, they all read their chorus lines by the slave women to finish the performance. This was followed by drinks and a chance to ask some questions informally of the singers, director and composer.



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DESIGNER NAOMI WAITE WORKS WITH MUSEUM COUNCIL ON NEW SIGNS

When the museum was awarded full accreditation by the Arts Council in March 2020, it was recommended that we improve museum signage around the school. We applied for a grant to create new signs, and our Year Eight Museum Council are now working with acclaimed designer Naomi Waite on creating a large new sign and map on the back wall in reception, as well as smaller signs around the school to show what is in each building.

The students chose the London Underground map as the basis for their design, and are now exploring how to create separate "lines" which people can follow to see different sorts of artefacts. Ideas such as having a "bee line" with the museum's "must see" items, and things like a nature lover's line are being explored.

Naomi is an expert designer who, amongst many other things, created the Alice's Day Signs around Oxford.

The students will work throughout this month on their signs, which will be installed this summer!



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CALL FOR 80s OBJECTS!

You may have noticed the 80s is having something of a revival thanks to the popular Netflix series Stranger Things!

The Rumble Museum is planning to create an 80s display, and is looking for any 80s items which people in the wider community might like to donate or loan for this new display. Whether it's old technology, newspapers, clothing, or anything else, please let us know if you have something you would be happy to be on display at the museum!



AFRICAN DRUMMING AND ARTEFACT WORKSHOPS

As part of our National Heritage Lottery Fund project with our African collection, every Year Seven class had an African Drumming and Artefact Workshop with Natty Mark Samuels over the past few weeks,

Students were able to have a go at African drumming and to explore our Nankasa Drum and other musical items in our African collection.

We are very grateful to Ms O'Neill and Mr Barquilla for organising these workshops to happen!



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DYSTOPIA EVENTS!

On Tuesday 12th July we will be rounding off our Dystopia and Utopia Season with an all day event celebrating the utopian and dystopian stories that have inspired and fascinated through the ages.

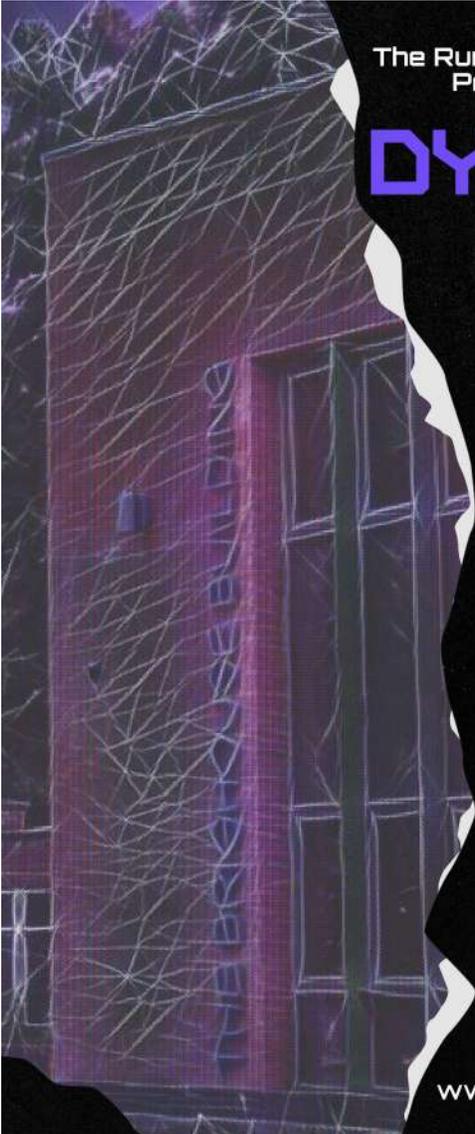
Author Chris Beckett will be joining us for the day to deliver an assembly to the whole of Year Eight, followed by spending the day working on story ideas and cover art with Year Nines.

Mostly Books from Abingdon will be running an all day stall in the Library selling discounted novels and comics.

As well as this, a team of students will be running themed stalls and activities in the Library at break and lunch times, so do come along and find out what's going on!

Finally, from 3.30pm we will be opening up the stalls and activities to the wider community, and between 4 and 4.45pm Chirs Beckett will be giving a talk followed by a book signing.

The activities and talk will be suitable for all ages. To book, please email lro@cheneyschool.org



The Rumble Museum
Presents

DYSTOPIA DAY

12.07.2022

- Author talks
- Workshops
- Artefacts
- Stalls
- Activities
- Film viewings

www.rumblemuseum.org.uk