

TALKS AND EVENTS

Our programme of talks and events is designed to engage and entertain students, whilst enriching their curriculum knowledge. Make sure you head to the talks tent in plenty of time to get seated before the talk starts!

MOOT	FORUM	HENGE	MAINSAIL STAGE
10:00-10:30 THE HISTORY OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR IN 30 MINUTES James Holland Discover the history of the Second World War in 30 minutes – what’s not to like?!	10:00-10:30 LEE MILLER: WAR CORRESPONDENT Kate Vigurs Breaking glass ceilings was far from the minds of the female war correspondents who reported back on the events that swept across the world during the 1940s. From Claire Hollingworth, who witnessed the invasion of Poland, to Lee Miller soaking in Hitler’s bathtub, discover the amazing, daring, and sometimes dark world of the war correspondents.		
11:00-11:30 BLOOD ON THE SAND: MYTH BUSTING GLADIATORS Ben Kane Ben Kane delves deep into ancient Rome, exposing the richness and brutality of gladiatorial combat. What was it like to fight in the arena? Was every fight to the death? Did women fight as gladiators? How did gladiators	11:00-11:30 THE CRAZY WORLD OF THE VICTORIANS Foreign Field Step into the peculiar world of the Victorian era. Join Paul Bavill as he unravels crazy facts, blending laughter and astonishment. The world’s most disturbing children’s book, politicians pelted with dead cats and the mass exportation of stoats, this one-	11:00-11:30 TEXTUAL HISTORY The Quill Project What is a historian and what do they do? Join our team from the University of Oxford and learn how to decipher the clues left in written sources. Boring? Think again! Get ready for history in all its funny, surprising, and gory detail.	11:00-11:30 SWINGDYHOP SWINGDYHOP will be providing an interactive education into the music, fashions, and society of the Second World War period through swing and lindy dance. Everyone is welcome to come and try their hand at swing dancing in this fun class!

CHALKE FESTIVAL FOR SCHOOLS – MONDAY 23RD JUNE 2025

train? What did they eat? Did any survive?	man show is a journey through the eccentricities that defined the enigmatic Victorian period.		
11:30-12:00 ALIVE ON THE OCEAN WAVE Wizzo's Rip-Roaring History Join Wizzo as he takes you on an extraordinary journey into dangerous waters with a cargo that wants to eat you. Hoist the sails!			
MOOT	FORUM	HENGE	MAINSAIL STAGE
12:00-12:30 THE WAR OF THE ROSES: ENGLAND'S MOST AWESOME AND BLOODY WAR! Jackson van Uden Join historian Jackson van Uden as he dives into England's most awesome and bloody war! Featuring useless Kings, ambitious Dukes, and streams that run red with blood. This is the war that you don't want to forget about!	12:00-12:30 VERA ATKINS: SOE'S MISSING AGENTS Kate Vigurs Often dubbed as the second in command of SOE F Section, Vera Atkins had a particular affinity with female agents sent behind the lines into enemy-occupied territory during WW2. After the war, she set out to find the 118 missing agents. This is her story.	12:00-12:30 WW2 UNIFORM AND KIT James Holland Learn about the uniform and equipment of the Second World War soldier as he prepared for battle.	12:00-12:30 SWINGDYHOP SWINGDYHOP will be providing an interactive education into the music, fashions, and society of the Second World War period through swing and lindy dance. Everyone is welcome to come and try their hand at swing dancing in this fun class!
13:15-13:45 HISTORY'S GREATEST FIBS Athena Kugblenu Uncover some of history's most EPIC FIBS and separate the facts from the historical fake news. History is full of legendary battles, brave explorers, mighty kings and queens and epic stories passed down through the ages. But how much of what we think we know about history	13:15-13:45 History Rage LIVE Paul Bavill Join the host of History Rage, Paul Bavill, as he digs into the lazy legends and tired misconceptions taught about history. From medieval myths to WWII whoppers, expect laughter, surprises, and fiery truths. It's history, but not as		13:15-13:45 SWINGDYHOP SWINGDYHOP will be providing an interactive education into the music, fashions, and society of the Second World War period through swing and lindy dance. Everyone is welcome to come and try their hand at swing dancing in this fun class!

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<p>is true? And how much is just an EPIC FIB? Athena Kugblenu – comedian, podcaster and writer on CBBC's <i>Horrible Histories</i> – discovers the truth that lies behind the tall tales.</p> <p>From revealing that Vikings never really wore horned helmets and that famous Egyptian queen Cleopatra wasn't actually, erm, Egyptian, to unravelling the mysteries of Loch Ness and uncovering the historical figures who lied for money, power, influence – or just to be super famous.</p>	<p>you've been taught. Are you ready to rage?</p>		
<p>13:45-14:15 HERE BE DINOSAURS! Wizzo's Rip-Roaring History The Victorian age gave us steam ships, railways and... dinosaurs so join Wizzo as he lifts the lid on the paleontological puzzle locked in rock, and the brilliant minds that found the fossils.</p>			

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	<p>14:15-14:45 THE LIFE OF A ROMAN LEGIONARY Ben Kane Having not only walked Hadrian's Wall in full Roman legionary kit, but also recreated Hannibal's route through the Alps, Ben Kane has first-hand experience of day-to-day life as a Roman legionary. In this exciting and interactive event, Ben explains what it was like to live and fight in the Caesars' legions, from what they wore to who they fought, and gives an insight into the trials and tribulations of being a Roman soldier.</p>		<p>14:15-14:45 SWINGDYHOP SWINGDYHOP will be providing an interactive education into the music, fashions, and society of the Second World War period through swing and lindy dance. Everyone is welcome to come and try their hand at swing dancing in this fun class!</p>

LIVING HISTORY

Visit our living history encampments throughout the day, where our expert living historians will be demonstrating the tools, skills, and lifestyles of societies from the Neolithic age to the Second World War. Activities will start on the hour during the day. Please be aware, some activities must be booked in advance via Eventbrite.

LIFE IN THE NEOLITHIC AND EARLY BRONZE AGE

Visit our prehistory hub and discover life in the Neolithic and Early Bronze Age. Students will learn about food and lifestyles in prehistory, with an opportunity to help grind grain, identify ingredients, and try on costume elements. Using gold foil and embossing tools, the team will also discuss the earliest gold in Britain and make sun discs inspired by finds from near Stonehenge. Plus, have a go at making cordage from flax fibres and discover the importance of textiles – and why the ‘Stone Age’ is about so much more than rocks.

EXPERIMENTAL ARCHAEOLOGY AND ANCIENT TECHNOLOGIES

Archaeologists today use all kinds of incredible methods to explore human life in prehistory, including experimenting with ancient technologies. Our team from the Universities of Liverpool and Cambridge, led by Drs Rebecca Wragg Sykes, Pete Hommel and Ceren Kabukcu, will be demonstrating craft skills including bronze smelting, glue-making, pottery and cooking. Come and discover how prehistoric artisans worked, learn some of the ways we study their artefacts, and join in with interactive sessions.

AN IRON AGE BUILDING SITE

Learn about the techniques, materials, and tools used in construction work over 2,000 years ago, from roofing to wall painting. What does it take to build an Iron Age round house?

CUTLER’S WORKSHOP

Feel the heat of the furnace in our thirteenth-century cutler’s workshop, where Tom Timbrell of Heritage Blades and Emma Harrison of Bog Born Crafts will be smelting and refining iron to produce cutlery. Discover how practical experimentation and living history can reveal new insights into the skills and knowledge of medieval craftspeople. Plus, learn about the role of cutlery in medieval society and how it still impacts us today.

THE MEDIEVAL APOTHECARY (must be pre-booked via Eventbrite)

Step into our medieval apothecaries' garden and discover how plants have been used through the centuries, from healing cuts and bruises to dyeing fabrics and creating inks.

THE MEDIEVAL KNIGHT

When we think about the Middle Ages, the image of a knight on horseback often springs to mind. Join Historic Equitation as they explore the role of the mounted knight in medieval society, from conflict to chivalry.

TUDOR PIES

Discover the culinary delights of the Tudor period with Jane's Historical Kitchen, who will be demonstrating how to create the highly decorated pie lids favoured by Henry VIII. Learn how to make the dough and have a go at designing your own pie lid!

THE HISTORY OF SAILMAKING

Professional sailmaker Sarah Liscoe of The Historical Sailmaker explores the history of sailmaking from the 1400s to 1800s, demonstrating a unique and endangered heritage craft and its role through history. Portraying a travelling sailmaker in 1650, she will share tales of her time spent on board great ships around the world and demonstrate the tools and techniques used to make sails.

THE 17TH-CENTURY MILITIA

Discover the tools and techniques required to accurately fire 17th-century cannons in this exciting display from the Wimborne Militia. Using historical ranging tools and calculations, they will be combining maths, science, and history as they attempt to hit targets in our arena.

THE GREAT GAME

1830, Russia wants to invade India, Britain wants to invade Russia, from India; Tibet stands between them as an inscrutable, but vast no-man's land. The "Great Game" is the intricate political and military chess game played between Russia and Great Britain to gain Tibet's allegiance and thereby gain a buffer zone against the Russian threat of invasion. Join ex-spy and master of disguise Major-General Bishop Poncenby Vainen Schuch-des Forges to hear first-hand stories of international intrigue and unbelievable geopolitics.

DIG FOR VICTORY: THE TRUTH BEHIND THE PROPAGANDA

The Time Travellers Kitchen continues to travel through British culinary history, this year stopping in 1940 with the introduction of rationing during the Second World War. Uncover the truth behind the Dig for Britain propaganda as Alex and Peter prepare meals of the period. How did the war impact food supplies? Did it matter if you were in a town or in the country? What could you buy on the black market? Can carrots really help you see in the dark? And did we really fend for ourselves, or did we rely on imports? Explore the myths and realities of rationing during the Second World War and how it still impacts food culture.

SAILER SOLDIERS: THE STORY OF THE ROYAL NAVAL COMMANDOS

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Discover the history of the Royal Naval Commandos and their crucial role in major amphibious landings during the Second World War, from intelligence gathering to mine removal.

SOE TRAINING CAMP (must be pre-booked via Eventbrite)

Our hugely popular SOE Training Camp is back for 2025! This unique experience is the perfect opportunity for students to learn the skills and techniques of espionage from the Second World War. During the camp, they will be put through their paces as they learn self defence, codes and signals, explosives training, and weapons handling.

THE TRENCH (must be pre-booked via Eventbrite)

Step back in time and experience the sights, sounds, and smells of the Second World War. It is 1945, and the troops must secure the area after years of conflict. Join them to discover what it was like for the people on the ground in this immersive and unique experience.

Please be aware, there will be smoke, loud noises and the sound of gunfire during the experience.