

Day 3 - 14th February

We visited the local Archeological museum in Patra which showed us the daily life of Ancient Greeks and the a Bronze Age.



Archeologists have recovered artefacts which showed the design of historical buildings and items they used in their daily life.



Some buildings were used for the production of wine. Grapes were placed on the floor and people stamped on them. The juice from the grapes ran through a tiled Chanel into a holding pit to be made into wine.

Bathing was very important to people from the past and they often had heavily decorated marble baths within their homes.



The houses were heavily decorated. The walls were covered in detailed paintings and mosaic patterned floors were laid throughout the houses and courtyards. These illustrated family related stories or Greek gods.



The museum also displayed the traditions for celebrating life and death of families.

Symbols were painted on pottery that were put in the tombs of the people that had died. They represented grief and new life.



The wealth of the family determined what type of burial people had and the items that were buried with them. Wealthy families had family tombs where all the bodies were buried together with pottery, gold headdresses and perfumed oils. The entrance of the tombs were then blocked up and stones placed in front to show people it was a grave so that they paid their respect to the buried bodies.





Following the visit to the museum we went on the the local 'Carnival Lab'. This is a workshop where floats are made for the upcoming carnival. We saw the process the artists went through to create the moulds and final designs for each floats.



Designs were drawn up for each float and then iron structures were made to support the structures. Polystyrene blocks were then placed over the iron structures.

The artists then carved the polystyrene blocks to create the shapes that were needed for each float.

The next step was to sand the polystyrene to ensure it was smooth before applying a layer of paper mâché to the shapes. It was then left to dry.



The final step was to paint the floats in bright colours and add any finishing touches.



When we returned to school the drama group performed a short play about the local carnival traditions. First the clown tours the city tell people about the upcoming carnival and encourages people to attend.



Next, local people host street parties with local wines and traditional food.

A ball was then held in the centre of the city. All women have wear a traditional black gown and a black mask to cover their face. This makes the ball very mysterious as the identities of the women are unknown.

The carnival parade is then held, thousands of people take part and line the streets to see the floats pass through the city. The final float in the parade throws chocolates to the crowds of people watching.



Finally, local people meet in parks to share picnics. They are not allowed to eat any meat during the final week of the carnival season.