

Creative Technologies: Berlin 2019

Creative Technologies offered their first ever overseas visit to Berlin's key educational Computer Science, Technology and Engineering sites. The tour was designed to support our curriculum plans for Computer Science & Technology students and to enhance hands on learning experiences within the school. Germany is the biggest exporter of technology in Europe and the purpose of this visit was to inspire and educate our students about the history and application of the Creative Technologies subjects. The main places visits were to:

- BMW Motorcycle Plant for a 2 hour guided tour
- German Museum of Technology for interactive learning & hands on experiences
- Game Science Centre, a small, interactive museum run by a team of game developers
- Computer Spiele Museum & the "Computer Games: The Evolution of a Medium" exhibition
- BT Tower

Here are some accounts from the students on the visit:

Day 1: Started off by arriving at school by 4:30am and getting onto the coach to make our way to Stanstead airport. Boarding on the plane, we felt nervous, but that is also the moment when the excitement really kicked in as we knew that the next three days would be full of a new experience.

Once we landed in Berlin, we were accompanied by this hilarious tour guide, he made us feel very welcome in the short time he spent with us. It did not look too different to Britain, but you could most definitely see the difference in terms of lifestyle. It smelt less polluted and there were high numbers of people on bikes and electric scooters which was very refreshing to see.



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We took the train to Alexandra Platz, it was quite busy but expected as it was one of the main shopping spots in Berlin. Once stopping for lunch, we walked a two minutes distance to the TV Tower. It was so tall and big. Everyone loved it, to get up we had to take a lift once getting to the top we could pretty much see everything. The view was outstanding.

After leaving the TV Tower we went back to the hotel for a well-deserved rest. Once fully rested, we set out again to visit Checkpoint Charlie. Then went for dinner at Potsdamer Platz where we all had dinner at Vapianos. It was so nice to eat and talk with everyone especially people from other forms or year groups. On our walk back to hotel, we visited Brandenburg Gate, one of Berlin's main historical attraction.



Day 2: We woke up bright and early at 7:30 am and got ready for the day ahead of us. We had a nice continental breakfast and received our briefing for the day then we were off on a coach to the BMW motorcycle factory. Once we entered the building we saw so many different models of so many different motorcycles. We then went on a guided tour. The tour guide really opened our eyes to the world of design and manufacturing.

Creative Technologies: Berlin 2019 (cont'd)

After the guided tour we headed to the Alexandra Platz once again for lunch and after having a nice relaxing lunch, we took the coach to the Computer Spiele museum. Once we arrived and entered, I felt like we were entering an entire different world there were so many games and innovations and time flew by so quickly when we were in there and we all bonded so well.



After that we boarded the coach once more time and took it to Potsdamer Platz for dinner.

Anjola, 9F



Day 3: On the third and final day, we spent the day looking around museums. First of all we travelled on foot to the Deutsches Technik museum. It was very interesting. Following this we headed to another museum: Computer Science museum which, although small, had a number of games and simulations free for our use.

On a whole the trip was great fun, where we made new friends. Thank you to Ms Siddiq and Ms Malik for taking us!

Tania & Alice, 9A

Creative Technologies: Berlin 2019 (cont'd)

I found the trip very interesting and exciting. It gave me a chance to travel to a new country with people I didn't know very well and make new friendships. The resources for creative technologies in Berlin were endless. The BMW factory was fascinating. The German donor kebabs are the best meal to eat in Berlin for anyone who wants to go. I would just like to thank Ms Siddiq and Ms Malik for taking us on an unforgettable trip.

Arooba 9E

The trip to Berlin helped me find a new interest in engineering because we went to the BMW plant. I found the different sectors of production and designs to be inspiring. It was also very fascinating to find that most of the intricate components were produced by programmed robots, who worked extremely fast - much faster than any human could.

Rubie, 9C

As a year 12 student, I must admit that these 3 days were the most informative yet exciting experience I have ever had with the subject Computer Science. Due to the Berlin Visit, I was able to explore parts of Computer Science that I never knew existed. For example, we had visited the Game Science Centre consisting of games based on virtual reality which made me realise how Virtual Reality is the next big revelation in Computer Science. Without this trip, I would not have been able to realise how much of an impact Computer Science has in the real world.

Brinda, Y12



My favourite part of the trip was the visit to the BMW factory where we got to see how motorbikes are manufactured. This showcased just how meticulous the company have to be to deliver quality products. I also enjoyed the visit to Checkpoint

Charlie, the former border crossing between East and West Germany during the Cold War. There are still remnants of the time period; parts of the Berlin Wall have been preserved and the American and Soviet flags still fly at the Checkpoint. Overall, our visit to Berlin was really enjoyable. Thank you to the Computer Science Department for organising a wonderful trip.

Deveena, Year 12

Organisers: Ms Hossein, Ms Siddiq, Support Teacher Ms Malik