

Year 12 visit to Geneva

During our two-day trip to Switzerland, our objective was to learn about what research is conducted in the famous CERN particle physics laboratory and how. We also visited numerous other sites and attractions including the United Nations Headquarters and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Museum. We arrived at Geneva on a sunny Friday afternoon and went to CERN where we were lucky enough to be given a guided tour by some of the scientists. CERN is one of the world's largest and most respected centres for scientific research. It is based on the French-Swiss border near Geneva. Switzerland is known for being a neutral country throughout history. At CERN, physicists and engineers use the world's largest and most complex scientific instruments to study

fundamental particles. The particles are made to collide together at close to the speed of light which gives clues about how they interact, and provides insight into the laws of nature. The instruments at CERN are purpose-built particle accelerators and detectors. Accelerators boost beams of particles to high energies before the beams are made to collide with each other or stationary targets. Detectors observe and record the results of these collisions. CERN is also popularly known for its diversity. It brings together people from around the world to pursue a common interest, a crucial element that has contributed to lab's success. The Globe of Science and Innovation After the unfortunate delay and hectic journey to actually get to Switzerland, going to one of the largest lakes in Western Europe, Lake Geneva, in the evening was an instant tranquilliser. This created a perfect balance between city and country. Towards the end of our trip we got a boat from one side of Lake Geneva to the other. Whilst

we were in Geneva, we visited the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Museum. We were also lucky to have a guided tour around the United Nations headquarters. The building was given to the City of Geneva in 1890 by Gustave de Revilliod de la Rive. It was given to the city on three conditions, one of which allowed peacocks to roam freely on the grounds (we were lucky enough to see some ourselves!) Despite the exhausting five-hour delay at the beginning our trip was interesting and enjoyable, especially at CERN and

the UN.



The Globe of Science and Innovation



The Assembly Hall at the UN



The Hadron Collider forces particles to collide

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