

Year 12 Trip to CERN, Geneva – Sunday 21 – Tuesday 23 January 2018

Year 12 A Level physicists arrived at school at 4:50am on Sunday 21 January, where we boarded the coach to the airport. We then had an hour and a half journey to Gatwick International Airport. We later boarded the aircraft, with everyone in anticipation of the exciting three educational days to come.

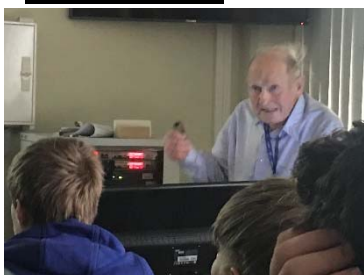
Day 1: (Musée d'histoire des sciences de la Ville de Genève)



After having lunch, we made our way from the Genève train station to the Geneva Science Museum where we got the opportunity to see many inventions from various scientists, with detailed descriptions of each scientific discovery and invention. It was fascinating to see what was present there - it is the history behind these inventions which made it so special. I can still remember seeing a sea of eyeballs in a display, which intrigued me because, in those days, people would use those eyeballs in replacement of their own eyes, if any injury had happened to them. It was interesting.

We later came back to the youth hostel and proceeded towards Il Fornello Napoletano. Here all the students were offered different choices of Italian cuisine. Some people went for pasta, but most people went for the evergreen margarita pizza. It was an eventful evening and everyone enjoyed their platter of delicacy. We all then came back to the hostel preparing for the big day ahead.

Day 2: (CERN)



On the second day of our trip, we were given instructions to wake up early, to get to see as much as we possibly could. Upon arrival, at CERN after travelling by tram, we were escorted to reception, where a gift shop and a museum were located. Later we made our way to an auditorium along with a renowned scientist, Dr Klaus Bätzner, who was giving us an insight into what to expect from CERN and gave us some information into the experiments that are taking place at this prestigious institution. Finally, he gave us some information about the history of CERN.

Mid way through the talk we were informed that the accelerator was under maintenance therefore we could go underground and visit. We were then sent to the CMS (compact muon solenoid), one of the main detectors of the Large Hadron Collider where evidence of the Higgs' Boson has been found, which was located 8km from the main building, so we were given a coach to take us there. We got the opportunity to cross the French-Swiss border, which fell on the path to the CMS.

The CMS itself was located underground, and so we had to get there by travelling in a massive lift. Once we arrived, we were given the opportunity to see a huge server room that stored the same amount of data as Facebook. Probably one of the main highlights during this trip. No words. Too good!



As you can see from this image we visited the Hadron Collider, which was very rare as the collider is not normally available for public visits.

For dinner we got the chance to eat at a fondue restaurant; Edelwiess, which had a traditional Swiss atmosphere which was a unique experience. This experience included a local band playing instruments, one of whom gave the people the opportunity to play the big Swiss mountain horn.



Day 3:

On the final day, we could wake up later, and we slowly made our way to the United Nations. The location was very picturesque and consisted of two major conference rooms which were very nicely built. Then soon after we got the opportunity to see Geneva city, which also included lots of restaurants and shops, and we could see lots of trams, something that is not what we normally get to see every day. After lunch we made our way back to the airport and left for home.



To sum it up, every single person who came along to this trip would definitely come back to CERN again and that's a guarantee!

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Year 12