

Yeovil College Learners Engineer Opportunities in Berlin

Yeovil College Engineering learners visited Berlin recently on a very successful enrichment trip. The trip was sponsored by several local engineering companies, Honeywell and Talon.

The 14 learners visited Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp in Oranienburg which is now a memorial site. The camp was established in 1936 and is located 35 kilometres north of Berlin.

John Holle, 20, formerly of Kings of Wessex School, said, "I really enjoyed my time on the trip and I gained many useful skills. It has shown me the value of knowing different languages and made me want to learn German myself. I really enjoyed my visit to Adlershoff Science Park and found the visit to Sachsenhausen concentration camp very emotional."

They visited a feat of engineering, one of the tallest structures in Europe, the TV tower, "Fernsehturm" in Alexanderplatz, Berlin. The total height to the top of the spire is 365 meters or 1197 feet. The sphere contains a revolving restaurant (Telecafé) at 207 meters and a viewing platform at a height of 203 meters (666 ft).

Lecturer Jim Dixon said, "Our time in Berlin was very busy and hectic with many activities and excursions planned for each of our days. We learned a lot about the history and culture of one of Europe's finest capital cities, experience new things, and made new friends. We even picked up a little German on the way."

The trip also took in the iconic Oberbaumbrücke bridge built by Otto Stahn, and the German Technology Museum (Deutsches Technikmuseum), both important Berlin landmarks. The bridge gained fame during the Cold War when it was used as a border crossing between West and East Berlin. The museum hosts a large range of exhibitions topics including rail transport, industrial technology, maritime, aviation and much more.

Learners also had the chance to see the Brandenburg Gate, a monumental gate built in the eighteenth century as a symbol of peace, and widely regarded as Berlin's most famous landmark. During the Cold War, when the gate was located right near the border between East and West Berlin, it became a symbol of a divided city, and then again of a reunified Germany when the Berlin Wall fell in 1989.

Stephen Jennings said, "I am very grateful for the places we visited and the things we achieved to do on the trip, as I very much doubt I would have had another opportunity to do those things through other means. The college trip was an excellent break from work and since returning to work, I feel I am progressing at a quicker rate, as well as increasing my confidence in the work place."

