

AERONAUTICS CUM CULTURAL IMMERSION LEARNING JOURNEY TO CHINA BEIJING/TIANJIN 2017

As part of our school's Aeronautics Applied Learning Programme, a group of 37 students and 6 teachers went to Beijing and Tianjin from 19 to 26 November 2017. The learning journey focused on visits to mainstream schools with a niche in aeronautics, Aeronautics training institutes and the aerospace industry.

During the school visits, our students attended various demonstration lessons in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) and learn about radio frequencies, drone technology, robotics and mathematical estimation. One such interesting lesson on the applications of wireless technologies in our everyday lives involved students using radio frequency receivers to find out the location of a transmitter hidden by the teacher, and to decipher the message being transmitted. Students also tried their hands in flying drones that were built and assembled by Tianjin Fu Xing School.



L-R.: Students using radio frequency receivers to determine the location of a hidden transmitter; Students learning to use mathematical estimation to determine the approximate length of the school's soccer field.

The industry visits included the Tianjin Airbus Final Assembly Line (FAL), Aircraft Maintenance and Engineering Corporation (AMECO) Beijing and Reignwood Star Aviation. Students gained an insight into the aerospace industry in China and were shown some of the day-to-day operations of the companies. At the Tianjin Airbus FAL, students saw how an Airbus A320 was being put together in stages. The students also saw how apprentices were trained at the AMECO training college as they observed ongoing classes and were brought around the hangar to observe training teams working on the maintenance of various airplanes. At Reignwood Star Aviation, students attended a lesson on basic flight theory conducted by an experienced pilot and were given a tour of their hangar facilities including exploring the inside of a helicopter.



Tianjin Airbus Final Assembly Line



Ameco Beijing



Reignwood Star Aviation

Besides visiting aeronautics schools and the industry, our students also visited vocational schools and the applications of vocational skills in the real world. This includes visits to Beijing Jinsong Vocational High School, a top vocational school in Beijing, and vocational training facilities in Beijing and Tianjin. One such facility was a fully operational hotel which provided training for students in the areas of hospitality and culinary arts. The students observed lessons in progress and got to participate in a culinary lesson as well. Our students also visited the Grand Millennium Hotel Beijing, where they received invaluable education and career guidance from the general manager of the hotel. The students were brought around the hotel to observe its day-to-day operations and gained valuable insight into what goes on behind the scenes in a large scale hospitality business.



Beijing Jinsong Vocational High School



Grand Millenium Hotel Beijing

The learning journey was also a cultural immersion trip. Our students visited the various cultural and heritage sites in Beijing and Tianjin such as the Great Wall of China, the Forbidden City, Tian-an-men Square and Tianjin Food Street. At these locations, students learnt more about the historical and cultural significance of the sites through interesting activities such as an “Amazing Race” at the Forbidden City, in which students raced around to find out more about the history of the palaces and the various innovations to improve the lives of the people who lived there.



L-R: Great Wall of China; Tianjin Food Street

Our students also attended Chinese cultural enrichment classes and tried their hands at calligraphy writing and Chinese paper-fan and figurine painting during the school visits.



To wrap up the trip and not forgetting doing good, our students visited an orphanage where they were shown the challenges in operating an orphanage. The students interacted with the children, put up performances and played games with them. It was a fulfilling and touching experience for all.



All in all, the learning journey was an invaluable and enriching learning experience for all our students, even teachers. It is hoped that it would inspire our students to continue pursuing their passion in aeronautics and perhaps a career in the aerospace industry. Besides learning about vocational training in China and gaining some knowledge in hospitality management, our students were also developed in the 21st century competencies of civic literacy, global awareness and cross-cultural skills and gained a deeper appreciation of the Chinese culture and heritage.