

Hand-on Future in Berlin

Let us be honest: sooner or later almost every student must deal with lack of motivation in his or her school career. For sure you can partly blame the age and the foolish youth, but you should also look at the way knowledge is taught. Often a little variety can bring some new fresh air into the school life of students. That is why excursions for example are part of the educational goal of the Aska. Not only do excursions provide the opportunity to get a break from all the theoretical education, furthermore they most of the time provide a more efficient and useful way of gaining knowledge.

Especially when the topic is currently relevant you will most definitely find something worth a visit in a city like Berlin, which is basically what Mrs. Ax and her 12th grade English class took advantage of. In school they were talking about robots and machines as well as their development in the future, so they decided to visit the Futurium in Berlin Mitte. This exhibition displays in various sections what life in the future should or could look like and it includes a great area all about robots. First off certainly a lot of different robots are presented in the Futurium, which of course do not fit in the budget of any school. For example, there are different robot models shown that you are actually able to communicate or interact with, even if that means that a robot defeats you in Tic Tac Toe over and over again. Nevertheless, this provides a closeness to the topic likewise because the latest robots are not just presented there, in addition the Futurium also informs about their and our possible future. Connected with that, the Futurium informs for instance about the development of robots that are directly controlled by the user's brain which would be perfect for people who are not able to speak or move certain body parts. The constantly ongoing process of automation by robots and machines will lead to changes in our private lives but in particular in the labour market, which could be very important for the student's professional orientation. A robot that was designed like a stuffed animal seal was displayed, which is at that time already in use to partly replace the work of a caregivers for older people in Japan.

In general, all the concepts and information given by the Futurium deals with the future of exactly the generation of the class that paid the visit, which highlights the importance of the excursion even more. Besides some technical details that are not likely to be interesting to everyone, you get well informed and inspired by what our future might hold back for us. Because the robots and technology presented is brand new and up to date, Futurium offers another perspective on the topic in comparison with what is possible within the school. If the topic is that important to the lives of the whole class, it should not be that difficult to overcome a lack of motivation with some hands-on future in the Futurium.

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