



MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES

2024 - 2025

"EVERYONE EXCELS EVERYDAY"

CERN, GENEVA

This term, the Science Department took 30 Year 10 and 11 students to CERN, Geneva. As the world's foremost particle physics research facility, CERN provided a fascinating insight into the mysteries of the Universe.

Students had the opportunity to meet scientists from around the globe, who explained how the 16-mile-long tunnel under the Alps is used to smash particles together at 99.9999991% the speed of light. This groundbreaking research has revealed insights into the Big Bang, dark matter and the fundamental forces that control the whole Universe. CERN is also famous as the birthplace of the Higgs Boson discovery, a Nobel Prize winning discovery also known as the "God Particle", and it still continues to lead the way in physics research. We were also lucky enough to visit the Swiss Plasma Research Centre in Lausanne; scientists here are finding out how we can harness nuclear fusion to provide almost unlimited energy without the issues caused by fossil fuels and traditional nuclear fission power stations.

A highlight of the visit was seeing an experimental fusion reactor in action, operating at temperatures of nearly 100 million degrees - this was an unforgettable experience! Whilst in Switzerland, students enjoyed a traditional Swiss fondue night and even had time for an evening of ten-pin bowling. A huge thank you to the staff and students who made this trip so memorable. Who knows? Maybe we've inspired some future Nobel Prize-winners from Hollingworth Academy?



