

Certificates, blood and Berlin - a day with 11K3

Written by Erik Becker and Fiona-Sophie Fender

It was Friday, February 2nd 2018, our last day before winter holidays. It should be the first time that our class teacher Mrs Podubrin would give us our certificate at this school. We didn't want to finish school without a highlight.

In January we started to plan our trip to Berlin, because we decided to discover the Berlin Dungeon and enjoy the journey into 800 years of Berlin's darkest history. As a part of our English lesson we booked a guided tour in English.

After we got our certificates from Mrs Podubrin we drove to Berlin - some students by car and some by train. Our meeting point in Berlin was the world time clock at Alexanderplatz - one of the most well known features in Berlin. As soon as all the students had arrived we went to the restaurant "Caramber" to have lunch together.

Now it was time to walk to the Berlin Dungeon to have our 70-minute journey. As soon as we got there we started to talk in English. Honestly that was a bit tricky for some students but we all tried our best. First we had to go into the darkness with a slightly broken lift. Would we arrive safely at the old library? Lucky us, we arrived in Berlin's Nikolaiviertel and we met the knight Erich Valke or better what is still left of him. He was accused of having set the great fire of Berlin on August 10th, 1380. Now we had to hurry as the soldiers were on their way to us. The soldiers were ready to put the arsonist of the great fire of Berlin on trial. We had to escape them quickly through the secret tunnels of Berlin. In the end we fled on the raft and got a ride. After that we found ourselves in the plague-ridden streets of Berlin in 1576.

Here we met a seedy doctor who wanted to demonstrate the treatment of plague patients on one member of our group. Who would his victim be? The doctor chose our poor Mrs Podubrin. While the rest of us were pinched and scared by some leeches under our seats, Mrs Podubrin had to take seat on the doctor's chair. Luckily she survived the treatment, so she was able to join us at the torture chamber. Then our classmate Martin had to sacrifice himself. The torturer showed the usage of her frightening instruments on his body. Afterwards we took part in a trial in a courtroom of the 17th century. Our classmate Jan was sentenced. His guilt: bad style of fashion. The fashion killer was nevertheless allowed to join us as we entered the lost catacombs of the Hohenzollern. The duke of Prussia told us the mysterious legend of the white lady. Of course she came to visit us in a very frightening way. We barely recovered this shock when we arrived at the climax of the 1848 revolution. Together with a desperate carpenter we fought for his potatoes on the barricades. At last we arrived at Friedrichshain - the slum of Berlin at the beginning of the 20th century. A prostitute led us into the flat of Carl Grossmann - the slaughter of Berlin. In complete darkness he told us about his sausages, that he made out of human meat. Before we knew it he was suddenly right next to us and pulled our chairs back. But he showed mercy and kept us alive. Unfortunately we weren't able to experience that last station of our tour. The free fall, that is typically for the Dungeon, was closed because of technical problems.

After we got back into the daylight and the 21st century we took some pictures at the pillory. This was the end of our trip to the dark past of Berlin.

We said goodbye to each other and started our holidays with an afternoon in downtown Berlin.

We want to thank our teacher Mrs Podubrin for joining us. We really appreciate it.