



## Exploring the Hospital (behind the scenes)

**Wolfgang Huber** - Headteacher

**Maria Schmidt** - Teacher / Committee Member for HOPE Section Germany  
Hospital School Ludwigsburg, GERMANY

Exploring the Hospital' is a programme which the Hospital School Ludwigsburg has managed for many years. About 8 times a year a group of students from a school in our area is invited to spend a day at our hospital and find out about processes and facilities behind the scenes. In doing so, students learn about the wide variety of jobs in a hospital ( e.g. laboratory workers, telephone technicians, house-keepers, IT specialists, specialized nurses, electricians, physiotherapists, etc.). They get to know the hospital as a significant employer in our area and have the opportunity to speak personally with many professionals. At the same time the young people get a chance to correct their misconceptions about hospital and reduce possible fears.

When the students arrive in the morning they are divided in groups of 4. Each group is given an individual itinerary, time plan, and other documents. Then they find their way e.g. to the emergency room, the newborn ward, the accounting department, the repair workshops, the operating theaters, etc. At each stop they make contact with a specific liaison person.

At the end of the day all the students come together to share and present their experiences and impressions. Someone from the personnel department answers their questions about school diplomas, apprenticeships, careers, internships and work experience.

The day at the hospital is prepared and followed up in lessons at their home school, e.g. in role plays about good manners, communication and presentation techniques.

The programme may serve the following aims for the visiting students:

- Reducing fears of the hospital as a place of illness and pain;
- Getting to know the hospital behind the scenes;
- Exploring possible career options for students aged 14 - 16;
- Initiating contacts for work experience or internships;
- Practising communication and presentation techniques;

and for our school:

- PR for our hospital and our school;
- Strengthening our cooperation with schools in our area;
- Networking with wards and departments in our hospital.