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To whom it may concern:-

### Summer School of Science

I was intrigued and delighted to be asked to come and give a talk to the Summer School of Science 2014, held in Pozega, Croatia, last July. I found an enthusiastic group of students and teachers working hard in a very nice modern building belonging to one of the local high schools. The headmaster kindly showed me round, including an astronomical observatory on the roof and a small scientific museum; the school had a long tradition of scientific excellence quite apart from its hosting its current guests.

The students of the school are teenagers in grades 9-12 with, presumably, a keen interest in science, and I think drawn from all over Europe, although I guess the majority are from Croatia. They are divided into small groups, each pursuing a particular practical project. The projects are led by graduate students and struck me as being very sophisticated. Two in particular stuck in my mind, one involving laser light scattering and another, which was computer-based, studying bioinformatics. Unfortunately, I wasn't there long enough to really participate in any particular project, but the levels of enthusiasm and expertise were clearly very high, as was the general feeling of comradeship among the participants. As well as the projects, there are also lectures.

Perhaps the most impressive thing about the Summer School of Science is its longevity and continuity. It's clear that the idea is good and strong, so that over the years the baton of organisation has passed seamlessly from hand to hand down generations of graduate students and there is great loyalty and support from alumni and past mentors. The organisation is an expression of a strong commitment to teaching, and a strong belief in the power of science to reach out across all kinds of boundaries of nationality and belief.

I'm sure that the experience of the Summer School makes a deep impression on its alumni. I was certainly impressed by the whole thing!

Yours sincerely,

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