A school trip around Europe is a fantastic opportunity for students, but how can you enhance the adventure with experiences that build confidence and skillsets for the future? At NoTosh’s Berlin lab, a class of Australian teenagers touring Europe mastered the art of creating solutions to real-life problems and then pitched them live to the world over Facebook.

Six weeks previously, the NoTosh team had set the students from Melbourne Girls Grammar School (MGGS) a unique challenge as they left Melbourne to embark on a school trip around Europe: to record each and every issue, annoyance, disruption and inconvenience they encountered on their travels.

Fast forward to a Saturday morning in Berlin, where the NoTosh team and MGGS students took on the second part of their NoTosh Design Thinking challenge. Based in our flexible and creative space in the fashionable Kreuzberg district of the city, students and Team NoTosh worked together to analyse the information and personal experiences gathered on their trip around the world. Over 36 hours they defined problems they felt worth solving, developed thousands of ideas to solve them, and created working prototypes to pitch to their teachers and potential investors brought in by our team.

The students split into five teams, pulling together girls of different ages and stages into a multifaceted team, and created vibrant Project Nests in which to build their ideas, a world away from the traditional classroom setting.

“Creating our own space was wonderful, I loved how the nest was set up and the opportunities we were then given to work on our presentation skills” Year 9 Student.

“I’ve learned to appreciate the significance of a problem and it’s context in relation to the real world. The NoTosh Design Thinking process showed me how efficient you can be when you have the right steps and tight time limits” Year 10 Student.

At the conclusion of the weekend, each student had benefitted from the opportunity to work in a new, unique environment, challenged themselves to work outside their comfort zone and presented a first class pitch, with confidence, to a wide audience.

“What worked for me were the different styles and types of collaboration activities, working with girls I don’t normally see. The whole process has really shaped my approach to teamwork and problem solving for the