



Daly College – Indore, India
Lizzie McInnes '13

Going to India with one of my closet friends was among the most amazing experiences of my life. The culture was the most interesting and different thing I had ever experienced. I had incredible opportunities and learned so much that I still catch myself reminiscing about the time I had there.

Although it was a very positive experience I still believe that it was a huge challenge even just being there. If you are looking for a place to do an exchange it definitely is amazing but you need to have an open mind and a willingness to try new things. The culture shock was unbelievable. You felt as if you had stepped into a new world. The biggest shock for me was the moment we passed the school gateways and saw the grand place that I would be calling my home and school for the next few weeks. The school was one of the most beautiful sites I had ever seen. The huge building with so much history was instantly overwhelming. When we finally got the big tour of the campus it took us forever because it was huge and there were so many people at the school. It was so different from LCC.

The school in itself was absolutely breathtaking. Every building was so different and old you knew that these buildings had been there forever. At first, the people at the school were a little reserved around us. We were two exchanges who stood out like sore thumbs. After a few days we became immersed in the culture around us. We had gone to a wedding within the first week, which was the most amazing experience I have ever had. The culture was so different and beautiful. I was never bored during the four-day wedding spectacular.

Once we returned to school and really started classes is when everyone warmed up to us. We had realized that people weren't shy or just didn't like us; they were scared of us because they weren't used to two, tall blond-haired, blue-eyed girls in India. Once people looked past our "scary" appearance everyone was very friendly making us feel truly welcome. I will never forget one night, about the second week into our exchange; Alana and I were sitting in our dorm room when we heard loud music coming from the corridor. Being curious, we followed it to find a large group of girls dancing and having a good time. As we stood there for a second almost everyone stopped to look at us. Suddenly one girl grabbed both our hands and dragged us into the middle of the circle and everyone started dancing again! This was the moment when I knew going to India was the right choice.

Although we had some adjusting, we learned to love everything about the new culture even if we found some things odd or very different. Overall going to India was the most amazing experience of my life. I would return to do it over and the only thing I would change would to have stayed longer. The memories will last a lifetime and I hope that one day I will return to visit this amazing country and reunite with all the friends I made.