

Westminster School, Adelaide, South Australia

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Leaving my host family and new made friends back in a place I consider my second home was no easy task. Since my return, many people have approached me and asked similar questions along the lines of “how was your exchange?” I can’t help but pause to try to think of a word that would do this memorable journey justice. Two weeks later, I still find myself struggling to find a word that is better than “amazing” to describe those seven weeks. Although it may sound cliché, I can safely say that my exchange experience is something I will never forget and that has truly had an impact on my life.

Being out of the LCC routine was refreshing and being in a new environment was much needed. For just under two months, I attended Westminster School in Adelaide, South Australia. Some might say Adelaide is not the most exciting city, but to me, it was a city where I made memories, friendships, and above all, a second home and family. All of Westminster School greeted and welcomed me with open arms. Having never experienced any other education besides LCC was making me a little nervous to be new somewhere. I soon came to a conclusion that, without a doubt, I had nothing to be worried about.

Westminster allowed me to experience school life in a whole new and eye-opening way. The classes, hallways, locker rooms, and above all, school dynamic, were nothing I could begin to compare to LCC. One of my trip highlights was attending a brand new school where I could have a fresh start with people I had never met.

While being in Australia I got to visit and do many amazing things that I would’ve probably not have had the chance to do if it hadn’t been for the exchange opportunity. I visited Sydney, where I got to climb the Sydney Harbour Bridge and view the city in a completely different way. My host family also organized a trip to Kangaroo Island where we visited Remarkable Rocks and Admirals Arch, two sites created and made beautiful simply by the effects of nature. My stay also included a trip to the local wildlife park where I was given the opportunity to pet and hold a koala bear, as well as feed kangaroos.

At the start of this journey I was frantic and nervous about how it was all going to play out. My biggest concern was whether or not I was going to go through complete culture shock upon my arrival in South Australia. Within a matter of hours I felt completely at home. Seven weeks went by in a flash and I would do anything to see all the people I met there someday soon. I am so grateful I had the opportunity to have such an experience that taught me so many things. But most of all, the experience made me appreciate everything I have here in Canada. As the end of my trip approached, I felt as though I was part of their school – like I belonged there. However, I was nervous and upset to leave not knowing whether or not I would keep in contact with all the amazing people I met. I am more than happy to say that I have made long-lasting friendships

with many people on a continent on the complete opposite side of the world with high hopes to keep in contact with them.