

## Carey Grammar School, Melbourne, Australia

Sam Freder '17

My exchange to Carey Grammar School in Melbourne, Australia, was an unbelievable experience. I was very excited to be able to spend time in another part of the world. I knew I would be out of my comfort zone, and I was excited for the challenge.

Melbourne and Montreal are very similar cities. They are both based around rivers, they both have many different cultural neighbourhoods, such as Chinatown or Little Italy, and they both are very modern and developed. However, they also have many differences. For instance, our winters are much colder than theirs, with their lowest temperature being around 5 degrees Celsius in the wintertime.

My first thought when I got to Australia was that everything was backwards. They drive on the right; we drive on the left. They have summer when we have winter, and vice-versa. We have 2 per cent fat milk, they have 98 per cent fat-free milk. We say, "Thank you," and they say, "Cheers!"

The whole school is outside (except for the classrooms), and there is a massive courtyard with outdoor basketball courts in the middle where students can hang out. Even the students' lockers were outside, which was a bit of a shock for me. The campus itself is gigantic, and I don't think I had the opportunity to see more than half the school while I was there!

I was welcomed by the students as soon as I got to Carey. From the moment I got to the school, I had people showing me to my classes and helping me get around the school. I immediately felt like I had been there for years, even though I was miles outside of my comfort zone. I couldn't believe the easy transition I made going from Montreal to Melbourne. I had an amazing time at Carey and I could not recommend it more to all of you.

