

Japanese Students Study Abroad at King's

SECONDARY Melissa, 15 June 2016



Three Year 10 students from Seikyo Gakuen, our sister school in Osaka, are this week finishing a one-semester study abroad exchange program at King's. Misaki, Tomoka and Hayato are the first students to engage in this partnership and will leave Australia with a stronger understanding of the English language, new friends and great memories from their time spent on the Gold Coast.

Prior to studying at King's Misaki and Tomoka had visited Australia on holidays and were excited to live with a King's homestay family on the Gold Coast. Hayato's first experience in Australia formed a love for Gold Coast beaches and the colourful rainbow lorikeet. "I am taking a souvenir of the bird back to Japan to sit on my desk," said Hayato, of the wild birds that roost at night in the trees along the Gold Coast coastline. "Where I come from there are tall buildings and not many trees or wildlife."

Daily school life in Australia replaced Misaki's usual Japanese lunch of rice, chicken, vegetables and egg with hot potato wedges and sour cream from the King's tuckshop. At home in Seikyo Gakuen, high school students stay in one classroom all day. Tomoka has enjoyed the Australian experience of rotating classrooms and classmates several times each day giving her the opportunity to make lots of friends.

King's values friendships between different age groups and starts each morning's roll marking with a group of students from each year level. Hayato remarked, "In Australia it is easy to be friends with older and younger students." Writing assignments in English is challenging, but with the support of teachers, school friends and helpful homestay siblings Seikyo Gakuen's students have achieved many new learning experiences this semester.



On the weekends, Misaki loves to eat at restaurants with Pancakes in Paradise in Paradise being a favourite. Tomoka took the opportunity to swim at the beach and visit Gold Coast's theme parks and Australia Zoo with her host family. Hayato visited Cairns in northern Queensland, home to the Great Barrier Reef, with his host family during the holidays at the end of Term 1. There is much to enjoy on the Gold Coast.

We wish Misaki, Tomoka and Hayato all the best as they return home to their families with lots of stories to tell, memories to treasure and new friendships to keep.

We look forward to welcoming a short term tour group of Seikyo Gakuen students in Term 3 (31 July - 12 August). If there are any King's students who wish to experience study abroad at our sister school in Osaka, Japan please see Mrs Worth. Tomoka promises, "It is definitely worth considering."

