



Student Life @ Tauranga Boys' College

It was my pleasure by having a chance to enrol as an international student at Tauranga Boys' College (TBC). I was feeling a bit nervous before arriving as it was my first time travelling overseas for my secondary education. A common anxiety regard to life in overseas for me during that time was simply the ability to effectively communicate to teachers, classmates, homestay family, and local people. TBC made me overcome those challenges by having a professional English as a Second Language (ESOL) teacher in charge to support and escalate the proficiency in English capabilities particularly for international students. This is also an optimal place where I could find myself a useful explanation for advices on some coursework from other mainstream courses I enrolled that may be vague or feeling unconfident on the way to structure my idea into the essay format. On the other hand, Mrs. Roff, a current international director, always pursues myself to transform the pressure that I felt into a positive solution in order to keep me on track when I have a general concern in both academically and mentally. Meanwhile, the staff in the international department also provided an extreme support for me regarded to the general support both inside and outside school hours to ensure I was having a memorable experience during my time here.

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Moreover, the homestay family that provided by the international department significantly connected myself to demonstrate more about Kiwi life outside school hours in the evening and over the weekend. It built lots of my confidence to express myself an idea or a thought through the conversation that will also raise the level of my English capabilities. The homestay family completely perceived my feeling while I was away long distances away from home and always treated me as the actual parents to ensure I was feeling to be part of their family. You will realise that more once the time elapses and last day before you leave your homestay family you are staying with throughout the year.

There were also plenty of activities and trips available for me to get involve in from both homestay family and school trips as Tauranga was an ideal location that intimately establishes to other tourism regions such as Auckland, Rotorua and Taupo. The international department also conducted a summer camp as well as a ski trip which I was extremely excited when I was doing it for a first time. I wouldn't have a chance to do it in Thailand due to a divergent climate I have back in my hometown. It was a delighted life experience for me to have an opportunity to be part of these activities outside classrooms and always wish to have a time to do it again in the future.

Overall, TBC is all about the place that allows you to build an experience in both academic and life perspective. Throughout a supportive environment, you will find yourself certainly adaptable and be part of a vigorous family network either school or homestay. On behalf of my dignity, I was also honoured to be a part of 2015 TBC graduation which led me to achieve a further opportunity extending myself to study in a tertiary education level in 2016. I'm currently studying Bachelor of Commerce at The University of Auckland majoring in Marketing and International Business and always wish to seek a time during the break to go down to Tauranga again to visit and catch up with staffs at school and homestay families to recall my time at TBC and my second home.

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