

Last Word

By Lena Maurer from Austria

It's time to say goodbye to New Zealand, to Alfriston College, to my friends I made here and to my host family. I think this letter is the perfect opportunity to do that..

I love every single day at school, love to spend my breaks with my gorgeous Kiwi-friends and to have those lessons, which are completely different to the lessons and the school I am used to in Austria.

Two highlights of my time here at Alfriston College are that I could choose subjects I was very interested in, from a big range of fascinating subjects which entertained me a lot and were great fun, and the time I could spend with my friends. I found so many good friends at Alfriston College. Friends, I believe, who will last for a lifetime.

Maybe I just had luck that I found those friends, but I also believe it is the fact that people at Alfriston College are generally friendly and opened for new people.

Another highlight of my school time was my time with the football team. I just loved being a part of this team, all the people were so nice and accepted me as they accepted New Zealanders.



And the last highlight of my time at Alfriston College was the Outdoor Education trips. We got an opportunity to do absolutely impressive things you would never get to do if you weren't in the Outdoor Education class. One of my best experiences in my whole life was the OED Sailing trip on the Steinlager 2 yacht to Great Barrier Island. I saw dolphins right next to me and swam through a cave above stingrays. Not many people can experience that and only the Outdoor Education programme of Alfriston College made it possible for me.





I also had lots of highlights with my host family. They took me to so many famous and beautiful places in New Zealand and they gave me the chance to do all the things I wanted to do and wanted to see in New Zealand. But the one thing about my host family I appreciated even more was that they treated me like a real family member. They were loving, and they showed me that they cared about me and that is one of the most important things to make your time a great time in another country in another family. A huge thank you for being the best host family I could imagine!

I had some difficulties with my first host family. It was a hard time. But Jody helped me through this difficult time and proved what a professional and loving International Student Leader she is and how well she does her job. That's one of the reasons why I would really recommend Alfriston College. You are looked after very well by a very experienced and involved International Student Leader.

Another outstanding thing you can experience at Alfriston College is the Maori culture. The Haka competitions made me feel like I am part Maori. It was a great feeling to do the Haka and to feel part of a culture, Not many schools provide that.

All in all I can only say that I had the best time of my life in New Zealand. I haven't been happier or more satisfied with my life. I learned so many lessons for my life and I learned what is important in life, I learned how to appreciate little things and to see the positive things rather than negative things. I grew up. It's all I expected and more!

Thank you to Alfriston College, to my gorgeous host family and my incredible friends for making this time the best time of my life.