

Last Word - A Farewell to Alfriston

By Katharina from Germany

It's time to say goodbye to New Zealand, to Alfriston, to my friends I made here and to my host family.

I enjoyed every day and moment over the last year that I've been here in this beautiful country. I'm really sad to leave my second home. But a goodbye doesn't mean the end and I'm confident that it isn't the end, it's just until we see each other again.

First of all, I want to thank everyone I've met here in New Zealand, especially my host family and friends who made my stay so enjoyable and the best time of my life which I will never forget. During my stay here I had the opportunity to take part in lots of unforgettable experiences, memories and highlights.



A lot of my highlights were in the subject "Outdoor Education". The Outdoor Education program is outstanding at this school. For example, I learned to surf in summer, and in winter we went to the snow on an Alpine trip. One of my biggest highlights is the sailing trip in term 2. We sailed on a big boat around the Great Barrier Island. On this trip I enjoyed exploring the beautiful nature and survival experiences.

Outdoor Education shows the incredible landscape and nature from a different perspective, which gave me a good opportunity to see more from New Zealand.





Also, I made lots of amazing memories with my host family and friends. My family took me to amazing places like Rotorua, Mt Ruapehu and the northern part of the North Island which wasn't regarded as a matter of course for me. I was treated as their own child and being part of the family is a new and interesting experience. I want to say thank you to my host family. It was a pleasure to stay with them and now they are

my second family whom I can rely on.



New Zealand's school is different to the school I was used to in Germany but I quickly got used to the school life here.

I made some good friends over the year. In general everyone is friendly and helpful at the Alfriston. That's why it was quite easy to get along with almost everyone.

Whenever I had difficulties or problems with anything, I could go to our International Student Leader, Jody Lawrence, or my Hapu teacher, Amokura, and they helped me to solve the problem or gave me advice.

I fully recommend this school. Not only because I've had my best time at this school. The personal involvement and familiar atmosphere between teacher and student, and International Student Leader and student, is why I love this school. The support and encouragement help you to step up and think differently. Also the huge impact and value that the Maori culture has at this school makes it very special and even more attractive. Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for the amazing year I had Down Under!



Once AC whanau, always AC whanau!