

A Farewell to Alfriston by Tatjana from Austria 2015

I just can't believe that my time here passed so fast!

I came here at the end of January and I will leave in the holidays between term 2 and 3, so all in all I stayed 2 terms. I can really say that in this 5 and a half months I actually had and still have "the time of my life".

One of the biggest reasons for this is of course, Alfriston College. It took me really long to decide on a school, because I had a few criterions and with AC I found exactly what I was looking for.

Even though I was a bit nervous at the beginning I felt welcome from the first day on. Staff and students, both were always there for me when I needed help or was lost.

One thing I didn't expect was that everybody was just so open and interested.

People just came to me, started a conversation, were interested in my background and culture. The people at school just gave me the feeling, that they actually want me here and that is also probably one of the reasons why it was so easy for me to adapt so quickly to the Kiwi lifestyle.

Definitely one of the highlights during my school time, and what I would really recommend to all international students, was Outdoor Education. I got the chance to explore the beauty of New Zealand's nature, trying out completely new things I've never done before, like sailing on a racing yacht and surfing, and quickly building new and strong friendships

with my classmates which is what you definitely do because of the 3 or 4 day trips.

As well I really enjoyed our different Whanaus, because here at AC, school isn't just a duty, but also family. And special events like sports day, cross country or choir just strengthens this connection.

Another point I really enjoyed at Alfriston College is that I got to know so many new cultures which I am definitely not able to at my school in Austria. Also learning the haka gave me an even bigger connection to this country and it's culture.

At Alfriston College I built such good friendships that it feels like I've known these people forever. Even though I don't like to categorize, I would count these people as some of my best friends.

Not only that, I count New Zealand now as my second home, I actually have a second family here now.



I have to admit, before I actually met my host family I was a bit nervous, because it is one of the major impacts during an exchange. But really, all these “thoughts” were unnecessary, because I couldn’t have get a better one.

My host parents Ine and Barend treated me like a family member, their daughter, from day one. And also after a time my host brothers just treated me like their sister, what includes mocking each other and play fights.

I just really felt and still feel at home and I know if I have problems I can always go and talk to them,



because that is what a family does.

I am just so thankful for everybody and everything that made my stay here so perfect and unforgettable. If I could plan my exchange again, I would chose the exact same things because there is really nothing I would like to change.

Thank you Alfriston College, I will never forget this time!