

CENTENARY HEIGHTS STATE HIGH SCHOOL

Safety - Respect - Learning

Testimonial from Nozomi Arai, 2024

When I first arrived in Australia, I was very nervous because it was my first time abroad. My host mother welcomed me with a cheerful smile, which made me feel at ease immediately. I was surprised to see so many people from different countries at Centenary Heights State High school, it is like a global community.



Throughout the year, I joined various activities, each bringing new experiences. I joined a local tennis club and played doubles with people of different ages. Although it was hard to fit in initially, everyone was friendly, and they made me feel I am a valued team member.

Every Friday after school, I attended a youth group, where I interacted with students from other schools in activities organized by warm-hearted volunteers. Their aim was to create a platform for young people to connect and share friendships. This experience not only improved my English skills but also boosted my confidence.



I also participated in school-organized learning experience at a local day-care. I was happy to assist the teachers and make the connect with the local children. It was a very unique experience in my Australian learning journey, and I can still remember the children's cute faces and their names.

Since English is my second language, and I hadn't completed a comprehensive English preparatory course before coming here, participating in the curriculum was difficult at first. However, the International Student Team understood our challenges and arranged for subject teachers to modify tasks when necessary so we could access the assessment with confidence. Additionally, they provided us with private tutoring opportunities.



Tutors came weekly to help me one-on-one with English grammar, offer tips for assignments, and explain things I didn't understand in class. They were so knowledgeable, approachable and patient, and I wouldn't have been able to keep up with my studies without them. At the school awards night, I received academic awards from the school. As a student from Tokyo receiving an award at an Australian school, I feel very proud of myself and I am grateful for the support that I have received from the school. My favourite subject was Industrial Graphics Skills, where I learned to create 3D designs on the computer. This was a new experience because we don't have this class in Japan. It inspired me to consider a future in architecture, as I enjoyed designing things.

Looking back, I have many wonderful memories of Toowoomba—the calm atmosphere, kind people, beautiful views and caring friends. I hope to return to Australia to attend university someday. My time here will always be special to me.

