

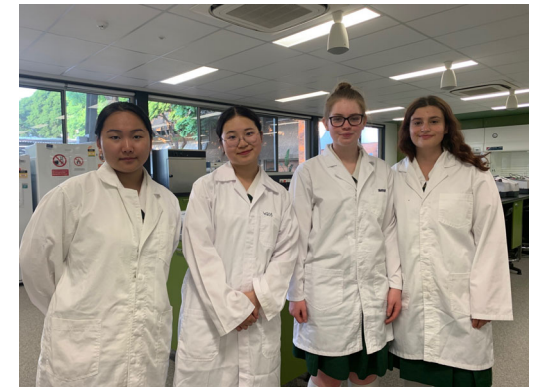
Toowoomba is not a big city, and the good thing about living in a small city is that you'll experience a very unique Australian environment, peaceful and lovely. In a small city, you'll find everyone is so kind that I often talk with strangers when they talk to me. The landscape and views here are also beautiful. Even a light walk is really comfortable and fun. In terms of studying English, Toowoomba, which doesn't really have a big Japanese community, has helped me improve my English, I reckon.



Tama Abe



Spending one year overseas has had a big effect on my life. However, I feel so lucky to have been able to spend my year at Centenary State High School. I wish I could have stayed longer and had more experiences at this school.



**International Student Testimonial
2023**

www.centheigshs.eq.edu.au



Hello, I'm Tama Abe. I was an international student at Centenary in 2023. I came from Tokyo, Japan, to gain an Australian high school study experience, especially to improve my English. However, so far, I've learned and obtained far more than just English skills.

I've been playing the violin for a long time and have enjoyed singing, so I joined the Centenary Heights School orchestra, string ensemble, and choir. I had never participated in or played in an orchestra before, but as soon as I joined these activities, I was amazed and impressed. I had the opportunity to perform as one of the violinists at school and at the Eisteddfod several times. They were absolutely some of the best moments of my life.

Through the school music activities, I also had some opportunities to learn and perform at Griffith University in Brisbane. The experience of learning music from university teachers and sharing time with my friends was very precious to me.

Also, I love the teachers and people here. I feel that the teachers here think and care for us students. At first, I thought I had to handle everything and felt stressed, but here at Centenary, there are many who are willing to support me! I was so touched. Teachers, including the international support team, EAL support staff, and my subject teachers, as well as Ms. Frew, the deputy principal, are always happy to answer my questions, and I enjoy talking with them. When I had issues about anything, they were always kind and listened to me, even though I'm not fluent in English, and it's not easy for them to understand me. Not only teachers but friends also helped me so many times. I guess it's because there have been many international students so far, but everyone's very kind to me, even though I'm an outsider. Friends from Centenary are absolutely the best people I've ever met, not only in Australia but also in my life. So, I really love and appreciate their kindness.

