

## Brighton College exchange Harry Brunner

Upon arrive at Heathrow airport, we were met by our host parents and taken for our first week in Brighton, England. My first big surprise was the length of the days in the English summer. With the sun rising at 4.00am and not setting until 10.30pm, the days were long and sleeping was very difficult. Another surprise was the unusual amount of rain. I was fully aware that it rained a lot more in England than in Australia, but even in their summer it rained all day, every day, non-stop.

Our first week attending Brighton College was quite interesting. Instead of leaving bags and books in lockers, the students would carry all of their belongings to every class of the day. One day consisted of nine periods, each only half an hour long. These short, quick periods seemed to make the day go extremely fast. You'd have a 40-minute chapel service every morning and before you knew it, it was 4.00 o'clock. Our tutor rooms were also very impressive. Instead of using classrooms for the mornings, they had entire buildings for tutorial. Mine had its own piano and a full sized pool table. Adjusting to a co-ed environment was also an interesting experience. The entire school seemed to be a much calmer place.

While we were there, we were lucky enough to experience some of the co-curricular programs that the school was running. The school had a very strong sport department. All of the students would participate in either athletics, cricket or tennis in the summer and rugby or football in the winter. They did not however have their sport trainings before or after school. Twice a week, they would train during the school timetable while other year groups sat their lessons. We were also surprised to see such a strong dance program at Brighton College. For the whole year, students from fourth form (Year 9) all the way to upper 6 (Year 13) had been preparing for an end of year dance show. We were lucky to have been able to see this incredible performance within the short time we were there. This show took place within the Brighton Dome. The very same theatre in which ABBA won Eurovision in 1974.

In some aspects, the school was much more like a University than Christ Church. They had a few lecture halls and two lounge cafes. There was also a brand new music department with many great facilities which included an amazing music hall with a Fazioli grand piano worth roughly \$300 000. All opened last year by David Gilmore himself.

In total, the exchange experience was one of the best things I've ever done. I made so many new friends that I will miss greatly, as well as discovering various new opportunities for the future. I would hands-up recommend this exchange to anyone who is interested from Years 7 to 9. It is absolutely worth it and you will remember it for the rest of your life.

I hope that I have represented Christ Church as well as I can and am extremely grateful to have been given the opportunity to go on such an incredible trip.