

HK & KLN Chiu Chow Public Association Secondary School

English Study Tour *Australia*

Dates: 19-27 June 2026



AUSTRALIA

**2025-2026 ENGLISH STUDY
TOUR TO BRISBANE AND
THE GOLD COAST,
AUSTRALIA**

G'DAY, GROWTH! OUR UNFORGETTABLE AUSTRALIAN STUDY TOUR



Departure from Hong Kong



Ferny Grove State High School

Our school is deeply committed to providing students with experiential learning opportunities that broaden their horizons and foster well-rounded development. As part of this mission, we organize an annual English study tour to various English-speaking destinations, including New Zealand, Australia, and the UK. This year, a group of ten S.1 to S.5 students journeyed to Australia to explore the vibrant cities of Brisbane and the Gold Coast.

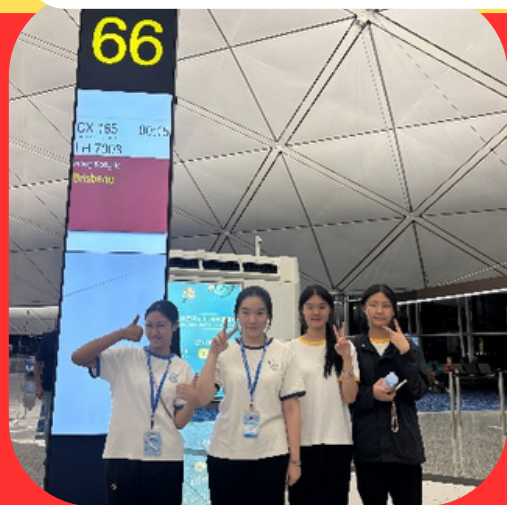
A highlight of the 9-day tour was a 4-day immersion programme at Ferny Grove State High School, a vibrant and exciting institution that encourages all students to "Always Aim High." Immersed in an English-rich, highly supportive environment, our students were encouraged to maximize their language use. The school's highly qualified, experienced, and conscientious teaching staff provided an authentic learning experience, ensuring high standards of academic engagement while allowing our students to practice their listening and speaking skills daily with local teachers and peers. In addition to practicing their language skills, our students explored Ferny Grove's distinct curriculum. From technology integration and Agricultural Science to language study and the arts, the school truly reflects a shared vision built on respect and excellence.

The adventure didn't stop at school. The tour was packed with incredible sightseeing, including trips to the Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary, Movie World, South Bank, and the Queen Street Mall.

Living with local homestay families made the experience even more special, allowing students to dive into daily routines, share traditions, and build real independence within a community where every individual is valued.

The tour was a massive success, and we can't wait to see more students join future study tours to build the global skills they need for tomorrow!

BEFORE THE DEPARTURE: OUR HOPES, GOALS, AND EXPECTATIONS



I'm really looking forward to this Australia study tour. I can't wait to go there. First, I hope to boost and practice my spoken English by chatting with local teachers, students, and my homestay family every day. I also want to share my experiences of Australian daily life with my classmates and share Chinese traditions with my host. Besides language improvement, I wish to become braver and try to speak English more. I want to start speaking English to my host family by myself. I believe this trip will be fun and interesting, and will build my confidence to communicate in English bravely.

TANG YAN YAN, YANKIE 1A

Before going to Brisbane, I am excited to learn more about Australian culture and daily life, such as local meals and pastimes. Apart from that, I hope to learn how to interact with the community and increase my confidence in English while attending a local school and living with a homestay family. Ultimately, I aim to grow in independence by navigating a new environment, while strengthening my communication skills as an international student. This tour is an incredible opportunity to step out of my comfort zone, broaden my horizons, and bring fresh, invaluable inspiration back home.

DENG KING TIN, TIM 3A



I am incredibly excited about my upcoming trip to Brisbane. While staying with a local homestay family, I hope to learn about their daily life and practice my English with them. I am also looking forward to attending a local high school and visiting the university, which will be a fantastic opportunity to see how Australian students learn. Finally, we will visit the beautiful Gold Coast. Ultimately, I hope this trip helps me become more independent, confident, and open-minded, and I am certain it will be an unforgettable experience.

LI YU HO, RICHARD 4A



Before going to Brisbane, I hope to experience what daily life is like there and build a good relationship with my host family. I want to learn how to do practical things—like buying items and asking for directions in English—without feeling nervous. Additionally, I hope to become more independent so I do not always have to rely on my friends or teachers for help. This trip is about much more than just sightseeing. I believe I will learn valuable lessons that cannot be found in textbooks, from trying new foods to chatting with locals and making new friends. Ultimately, I hope to return to Hong Kong as a more confident person. I am truly excited!

TAI CHUI WAN, CHERRY 4B

BEFORE THE DEPARTURE: OUR HOPE, GOALS, AND EXPECTATIONS

I am truly looking forward to this Australian study tour. By immersing myself in an all-English environment, I hope to gain the confidence to speak with local teachers, classmates, and my homestay family, thereby improving my listening and speaking skills. Staying with a local family will also allow me to experience genuine Australian culture and daily life firsthand. Additionally, I look forward to broadening my horizons by visiting koala sanctuaries and local libraries. Most importantly, I aim to become more independent, develop my cross-cultural communication skills, and cultivate a global perspective for my future.

HUANG QIN, VIVI 4B

Before heading to Brisbane, I'm really looking forward to this trip. I hope to experience Australian coastal culture and practise my English by chatting with locals. I also want to learn to manage my daily plans independently and solve problems by myself. Stepping out of my comfort zone will help me become more outgoing and adaptable. I expect to gain new perspectives on the world and grow into a braver, more open-minded person through this journey.

CAI POK WAN, BOB 5A

Before setting off for Australia, I have several clear expectations for this study tour. First, I hope to build my confidence in spoken English. By communicating with local students and host-family members daily, I plan to overcome my fear of speaking the language. Besides, I wish to experience authentic Australian school culture and daily life, thereby broadening my global perspective. Living away from home will also teach me self-management and independence, as I expect to solve daily challenges on my own. Overall, I aim to grow into a more open-minded person with stronger cross-cultural communication skills after this trip.

LIU WEN LE, WENDY 4B

I am filled with excitement and anticipation for my upcoming study tour to Brisbane. By attending classes with local students, I hope to experience a different academic culture and improve my English communication skills in a real-world setting. Living with a host family will also allow me to fully immerse myself in the authentic Australian lifestyle and foster a deep cultural understanding. Through this journey, I hope to become more independent and develop a broader global perspective.

CHU YAU SHUN, TOMMY 5A

Before taking off for Australia, I have high hopes for what I will learn on this study tour. By visiting Brisbane and the Gold Coast, I look forward to experiencing campus life and deepening my understanding of Australian culture. Additionally, staying with a host family will give me a wonderful opportunity to immerse myself in the daily routines of the locals. I hope to practice natural, spoken English across various real-life scenarios, ultimately improving my communication skills and becoming much more confident when interacting with others.

LIU ZHENYE, KEVIN 5A

I am incredibly excited to head to Brisbane! My biggest expectation for this tour is to fully understand Australia's unique culture and diverse ecosystems. I hope to learn firsthand about local conservation efforts and gain a deeper understanding of its history and traditions. By stepping outside my comfort zone and exploring a new environment with my peers, I hope to develop more independence, adaptability, and global awareness. I can't wait to see how this journey shapes my perspective and helps me become a more thoughtful world citizen.

CHAN PAK HONG, OSCAR 5B

MAPPING THE MEMORIES: THE JOURNEY AT A GLANCE



ITINERARY OVERVIEW

Date	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
19 June (Fri)	Departure from Hong Kong		
20 June (Sat)	Arrival at Brisbane, Australia	Brisbane City Tour Picked up by host family	Homestay Experience
21 June (Sun)	Sightseeing at Gold Coast (Surfers Paradise, Movie World)		
22 June (Mon)	Immersion at Ferny Grove State High School		
23 June (Tue)	Immersion at Ferny Grove State High School		
24 June (Wed)	Immersion at Ferny Grove State High School		
25 June (Thu)	Immersion at Ferny Grove State High School	Visit to University of Queensland	
26 June (Fri)	Sightseeing at Brisbane (Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary, South Bank, Queensland Museum)		
27 June (Sat)	Departure from Brisbane and arrival at Hong Kong		

DEEP DIVE: THE FERNY GROVE STATE HIGH SCHOOL IMMERSION EXPERIENCE

Bell Times	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
9:05 Form	22 June	23 June	24 June	25 June
9:15 Period 1	Official Welcome & School tour	AG Farm Tour	First Nations Studies	Integration Integration
10:25 Morning Tea	Welcome Morning Tea at Auditorium	Morning Tea with Buddies	Morning Tea with Buddies	Morning Tea with Buddies
10:55 Period 2	Integration	Integration	Integration	Integration
12:05 Period 3	Integration	Integration	Integration	Integration
13:15 Lunch	Lunch with Buddies	Lunch with Buddies	Lunch with Buddies	Certificate Presentation
13:55 Period 4	Psychology Studies	Biology Studies	Chemistry Studies	

BEYOND THE WHITEBOARD: BRISBANE TEACHER INTERVIEWS



Ms. Brenda Theodore is the Head of Department (HOD) for Science at Ferny Grove State High School. She oversees the science curriculum, staff, and programs at the campus.

Interviewers: **Richard Li, Bob Cai, Cherry Tai**

Richard:	How would you describe the school culture and the relationship between teachers and students here in Australia?
Ms. Theodore:	Okay, so the relationship here is pretty good. In junior school, we're probably a bit stricter—it's a different relationship. By the time you get to senior school and you're in Year 12 and getting ready for university, then the relationship is a bit more of an adult-to-adult relationship. School culture is good here; we have a lot of community involvement. The kids get involved in many extracurricular activities, so you can do sports, music programs, and all those sorts of things. We encourage a holistic education—a bit of everything—and then hopefully you find the thing that you're passionate about.
Bob:	What do you do to help the students balance their studies and hobbies?
Ms. Theodore:	Okay, so what we do is help them by having different people look at it. Individual teachers can help you. The form teacher sometimes helps with time tabling. We look at a tour assessment planner so we know what our assessments are, and we map it out. A lot of Australian kids also have part-time work. If students can't manage it on their own, we have guidance officers who can help. We can make an appointment with the guidance officer, and they will sit down with you to work out a plan to give you some space and figure out the timing. And then if things get tough, we have other support people we can call on to help.
Cherry:	What's the best part of your school day?
Ms. Theodore:	Lunchtime, I think! School days are all different. That's actually what I like about schools—every single day is different. Different kids each day, different challenges...It's good because it breaks the routine and you get to do different things, and I think that's one of the best parts. Oh, and feeding all the fish in the morning! The crayfish, the fish, and the axolotls, getting them all ready to swim around for you guys. Over in the tanks, we've got fish, axolotls, and a blue crayfish, and we're breeding bits and pieces. It's always a highlight to come in and see what's new in the tank.

INTRODUCTION TO OUR SCHOOL: A PRESENTATION FOR STUDENT BUDDIES



On our last day at Ferny Grove State High School, Tommy Chu and Oscar Chan stepped up to give our student buddies a proper introduction to our school. Since the buddies had been so incredibly helpful to us, we wanted to give them a real, behind-the-scenes look at what high school life is actually like back in Hong Kong.

They kicked things off by sharing how our school has grown since starting out in 1957, evolving into a fully government-aided school that blends classic traditions with modern STEAM projects.

Tommy and Oscar gave the buddies a heads-up about our busy schedules, mentioning how we usually have after-school classes until 5:00 pm (or later!) and a test every single Friday to keep us on our toes.

But it's not all hard work—the guys explained that our school culture is all about balance, featuring big events like our annual Sports Day. And while our daily classes are taught in Cantonese, the absolute highlight of the year is "English Week" every May. Tommy and Oscar wrapped up by showing how the campus completely comes alive during that week with spelling bees, Kahoot! games, a talent show, and sports with our native English teachers. It's just a super fun, immersive week where everyone gets to practice their English and celebrate different cultures together.



Giving a presentation about Hong Kong to a classroom of local Australian students was one of the most challenging yet rewarding experiences of this study tour. Standing at the front as ambassadors of our school was nerve-wracking, but it pushed us completely out of our comfort zones.

The highlight was sharing how compact and vertical our school in Hong Kong is compared to their massive campus. When we joked that kicking a football too hard during lunch could literally send it flying onto a passing city bus, the entire class burst into laughter. Seeing them genuinely engaged by our culture was an incredibly proud moment for us. It made us realize that humor and storytelling are universal languages that can instantly bridge cultural gaps.

This experience taught us that public speaking is not just about delivering facts perfectly, but about creating an authentic connection with the audience. We are deeply grateful to our buddies for their support and to the class for being so welcoming. This presentation significantly boosted our confidence in using English and proved to us that with preparation and courage, we can effectively share our story with the world.

Tommy Chu and Oscar Chan

OUR WONDERFUL BUDDIES



Student from Hong Kong	FGSHSBuddy1	FGSHS Buddy 2
Tang Yan Yan, Yankie	Amelia GRAY	Jennifer LABUSCHAGNE
Deng King Tin, Tim	Riley CLARK	Caitlin COLLINGS
Li Yu Ho, Richard	Annabeth SEAR	Alena IWASZCZYN
Tai Chui Wan, Cherry	Emi EARLE	Abi VAN BEEK
Huang Qin, Vivi	Bailey WARD	Mya Elizabeth BENNETT
Liu Wenle, Wendy	Kaitlin PRYTHERCH	Maya SMITH
Cai Pok Wan, Bob	Olivia WRIGHT	Eliza PINKERTON
Chu Yau Shun, Tommy	Sarah HUTTUNEN	Lillian MCCOSKER
Liu Zhenye, Kevin	Anneke WALLS	Matilda CARTWRIGHT
Chan Pak Hong, Oscar	Olivia TYRRELL	Amelia COSTELLO

Getting to Know Our Buddies: The Inside Scoop

To get a closer look at Aussie school life, we sat down with our fantastic student buddies for a quick Q&A. We wanted to see what they really thought about our study tour and find out what makes life at Ferny Grove so unique!

Kevin:	What do you do at school? When do you go to school and leave school?
Matilda:	At school, I do Math and English, history, and science, and I also do farming and cooking. I go to school at 9 am and leave at 3 pm.

Vivi:	What's the best part of your school day? Do you often stay late after school? How do you relax after school?
Bailey:	I think it's probably spending time with my friends. So, yeah, spending time with my friends. For the second question, not really, no. For your last question, I change into comfy clothes, lie down, and eat something nice.

Wendy:	What's the best part of your school day? What's your favourite subject?
Kaitlin:	The best part of my school day is that I love learning, especially around my friends, and I have very amazing teachers. My favourite subject is History because I love learning about the things that happened in the past. Also, in history, we get to learn about the law and civics, which I love too.



Thank you for all the support and accommodation provided by Ferny Grove State High School. With the assistance of the diligent student buddies, the immersion experience has been incredibly rewarding. The buddies have been exceptionally friendly, making the transition seamless and ensuring our students feel right at home.

The spacious campus offers a wonderful environment for learning. During the immersion period, our students were able to visit the school farm and interact with different kinds of animals. They were also able to try some subjects they hadn't before, like Psychology. Following their buddies to different classes, our students reflected that the relaxed environment creates a welcoming, low-stress atmosphere for everyone involved.

I am particularly impressed by the school's mobile phone policy. As students are not allowed to use their phones in class, they are remarkably attentive, active and fully engaged during the lessons. It has been a truly fantastic experience to witness Australian education styles firsthand.

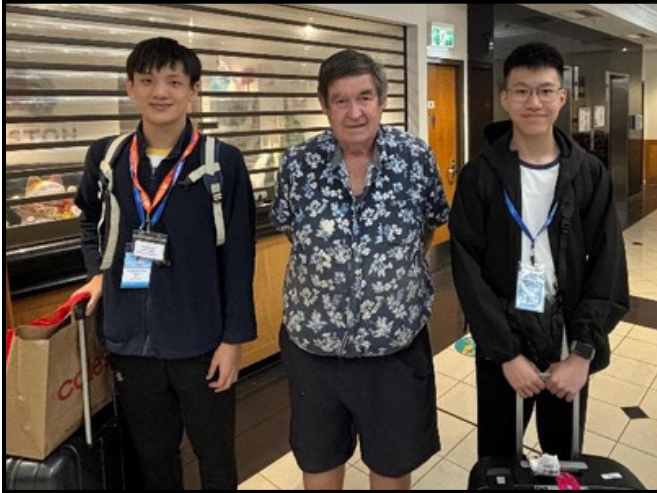
Mr. Cheong Chin To, Lawrence (the chaperone)

IMMERSION EXPERIENCE SNAPSHOTS



A TASTE OF THE HOMESTAY EXPERIENCE

What's it actually like to swap a generic hotel room for a seat at a local family's dinner table? A homestay is so much more than a bed for the night. It's an open invitation into someone's culture, daily rhythms, and community. To dive deeper, our students interviewed their host families. Here is a closer look at what they discovered and the unique moments that defined their experience.





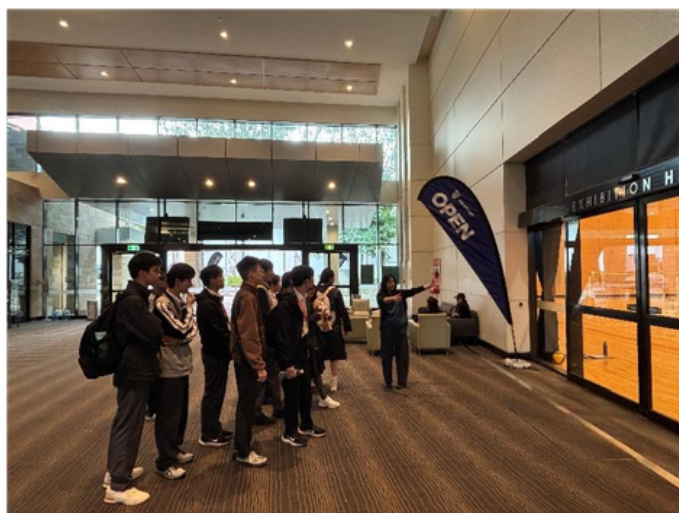
Tommy and Kevin interviewing their host mum Janelle



Cherry and Vivi interviewing their host mum Karen

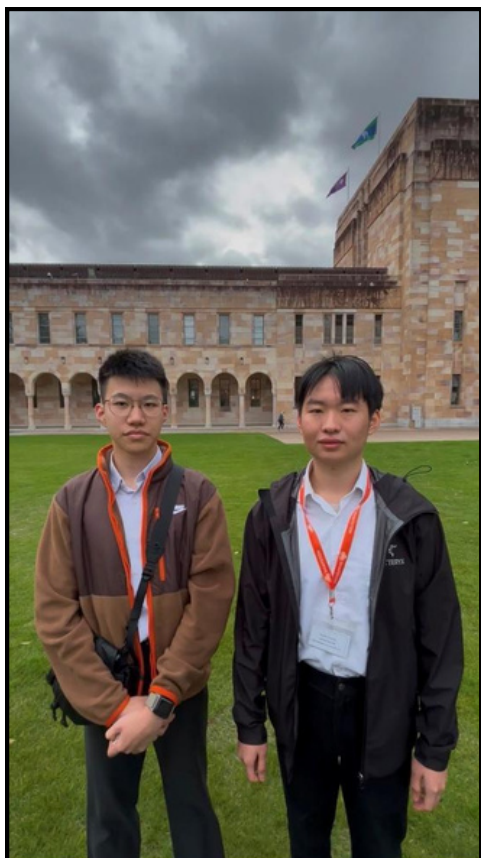
Kevin:	What does a normal day look like for your family in Brisbane?
Janelle:	Our week days vary depending on everyone's work and school schedules. My oldest son, Max, works and leaves early, waking up around 6:00 AM. Our other two kids, Finn and Lexi, attend a school in the city that starts at 9:00 AM, so they usually catch the bus a bit later—though they are currently home on school holidays. As for the adults, I head to the office around 7:30 AM and get home between 6:30 PM and 7:00 PM, while Bryn splits his time working from home or at his other job. Once everyone is back for the evening, we have dinner together, and the boys usually head to the gym.
Tommy:	What do you usually do on weekends?
Janelle:	On the weekends, we like to stay active and spend time together. Saturday and Sunday mornings usually start with exercise; I go for walks with friends, while Bryn goes for a long bike ride along the water. Afterward, we all head out to a local cafe for a family breakfast. We spend the rest of the day doing chores around the house, running errands at the shops, or going to the boys' weekend sports. We wrap up our weekends with quality family time, which almost always includes going out together for dinner.
Vivi:	What do you like the most about living in Australia? Have you hosted international students before?
Karen:	I like the weather because it's not too cold and it's not too hot. For your second question, yes, many. I actually enjoy hosting many students. You are my first student from Hong Kong. I've had some from mainland China, but mainly Japanese. My mum has some Korean students. I enjoy hosting a lot.
Cherry:	If I want to explore Brisbane, where should I start?
Karen:	To be honest, Brisbane is not as exciting as other capital cities in Australia, but there's South Bank, which has got a wheel and it's got all the art centres there. There's Queen Street Mall in the city, which I think you went to. Maybe King George Square in there where all the shopping, outdoor shopping centres are. There is the lookout, Mount Coot-tha lookout, which you can see most of Brisbane from high above. Um, and then outside of Brisbane you've got the Sunshine Coast and the Gold Coast, which has theme parks and some nice beaches.

EXPLORING THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND: CAMPUS TOUR

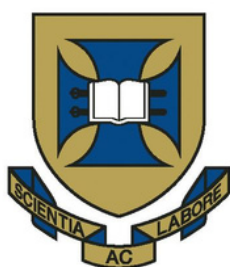


Our students spent an afternoon exploring the vibrant campus of the University of Queensland, led by two local student ambassadors who gave them a firsthand look at the university's world-class facilities and innovative energy. Walking through the historic sandstone courtyards, the group got a real sense of UQ's massive global impact. It was an inspiring afternoon that gave our students a genuine taste of campus life and left them excited about the possibilities of a truly world-class education.

Tommy Chu and **Oscar Chan** shot a video introducing the University of Queensland on that day. Let's check out what they talked about.



Oscar **Tommy**



**THE UNIVERSITY
OF QUEENSLAND**
AUSTRALIA

Oscar: Look at this massive building behind me. It is the University of Queensland, right?

Tommy: Yeah, of course! It is a university ranked 40th globally. Besides that, it is known for having teachers who have won more national teaching awards than any other university in Australia.

Oscar: I know that it is a top-tier public research university located primarily in Brisbane. It was founded in 1909, which means it is the state's oldest university.

Tommy: Besides that, it hosts a diverse community of over 55,000 students, including more than 20,000 international students, across multiple South East Queensland locations. It operates six primary academic faculties covering Arts, STEM, Law, Health, and Business. Entry requirements vary wildly depending on the degree.

Oscar: Tommy, do you know that it has world-class spaces for learning and student life? It features six large libraries open 24/7, high-tech science labs, and modern study hubs.

Tommy: Wow, really? I'm a sporty guy, so I only know that there are massive sports precincts. It has a heated Olympic swimming pool, 21 tennis courts, a running stadium, and nine big sports fields. A brand-new fitness center will also open soon in 2027.

Oscar: Oh nice, then people can keep fit while maintaining a busy schedule. For me, I think the campus feels like a small city with everything you need. It includes a medical clinic, a dentist, a pharmacy, and childcare. There are also many cafes, a food court, banks, and an art museum.

Tommy: Ok, let's stop talking. Let's head inside to have a hands-on experience.

Oscar: Ok sure, lead the way.

SIGHTSEEING ADVENTURES IN BRISBANE AND THE GOLD COAST

A study tour cannot be complete without sightseeing. Students explored different iconic sites in Brisbane and the Gold Coast. Let's find out where they went and their thoughts on the trip.

Brisbane Square Library



Walking into the Brisbane Square Library always brings us a sense of joy. Located right in the heart of the city, it's a stunning, spacious building. Inside, we are surrounded by countless books and treated to breath-taking views of the Brisbane River. Thanks to the massive windows, the entire space is flooded with bright, natural sunshine—perfect for studying. It is incredibly quiet and peaceful, making it our absolute favorite spot to read, wander around, and relax together.

Richard Li and Tim Deng

Our visit to King George Square and Brisbane City Hall beautifully demonstrated how a city can blend profound history with vibrant daily life. We were deeply impressed by the century-old sandstone City Hall and its iconic clock tower, which offered us a stunning panoramic view of Brisbane's central business district. Far from being a rigid, symbolic tourist spot, this historic landmark serves as a lively public space for weekend markets, concerts, and student picnics. Ultimately, stepping out of the classroom allowed us to touch the real local culture, shifting our perspective and giving us a much deeper, more vivid appreciation for this warm and inclusive city.

Vivi Huang and Cherry Tai

King George Square & City Hall



We spent an afternoon touring the Queen Street Mall in central Brisbane. Being a pedestrian-only street, it offers a comfortable environment free from traffic. Numerous international shops and local boutiques line the street together with small cafés. Tourists and residents stroll about or enjoy street shows under shade trees. The multicultural atmosphere struck us deeply. Traditional buildings mix perfectly with modern malls. We experienced local city life here and gained more than just enjoyment from shopping.

Wendy Liu and Yankie Tang

Queen Street Mall



Surfers Paradise



I used to think Surfers Paradise was just a loud, touristy playground, but my time there completely changed my mind. Walking along the shoreline at dusk, watching the city's neon lights slowly flicker to life against a bruised, purple sky, I felt an unexpected wave of peace. There is something deeply surreal, almost magical, about being sandwiched between high-rise luxury and the raw, untamed Pacific. It forced me to slow down and find quiet in the chaos. I realized it's a place of beautiful contradictions, leaving me feeling energized by the city's pulse yet entirely grounded by the sea.

Oscar Chan and Bob Cai

Visiting Movie World on the Gold Coast really brings movies to life. Walking down Main Street genuinely feels like stepping onto a Hollywood set, especially with DC superheroes walking around everywhere. If you love rollercoasters, the rides here are incredible. The DC Rivals HyperCoaster is a major highlight, with a vertical drop and high speed that honestly scare you in the best way. The live stunt show is another awesome part of the day, featuring crazy drifts and loud explosions. It is basically a non-stop mix of nostalgic movie themes and high-energy thrills.

Tommy Chu and Kevin Liu

Movie World



Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary



This trip to Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary was a wonderful learning experience with my classmates. Through our conversation before visiting, I gained basic knowledge about koalas, local wildlife and Australian animal protection culture. Spending lovely time getting close to cute animals and hanging out with friends brought me great joy. Practising English dialogue helped me improve my oral expression. I also realised the importance of protecting native wild animals and will cherish every chance to combine outdoor trips with language learning.

Vivi Huang, Cherry Tai, Wendy Liu and Yankie Tang

Visiting South Bank was a wonderful experience. It is a very beautiful and relaxing place right next to the Brisbane River. I loved walking along the riverbank and looking at the tall city buildings. Everything felt so new and exciting! I also saw the big, colourful Brisbane Sign and took many photos to send to my family back home. The park was very clean, with lots of green trees and beautiful flowers in the Grant Arbour to enjoy. I had a great time eating ice cream and relaxing in the sun. It was a perfect day, and it made me feel very happy.

Tommy Chu, Kevin Liu and Tim Deng

South Bank



Queensland Museum (Spark Lab)

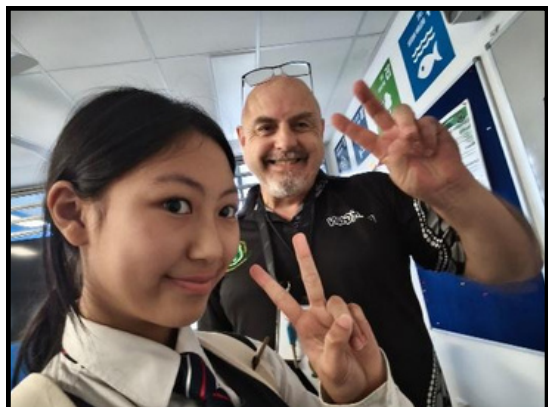


Our visit to Spark Lab's Sound Studio was an incredible, hands-on learning experience that perfectly combined scientific curiosity with creative fun. Experimenting with interactive exhibits like the "Thong-o-phone" gave us a vivid, real-world understanding of how sound waves travel and how altering pipe length changes the frequency of air vibrations to create high and low pitches. Beyond discovering the physics of music alongside my classmates, the lively discussions and collaborative experiments provided the perfect opportunity to practice our English in a dynamic, practical setting. This immersive trip made us realize that science isn't just confined to textbooks—it is all around us, waiting to be explored through curiosity, language, and play.

Oscar Chan, Bob Cai and Richard Li



THE LEARNER'S JOURNEY: STUDENT REFLECTIONS

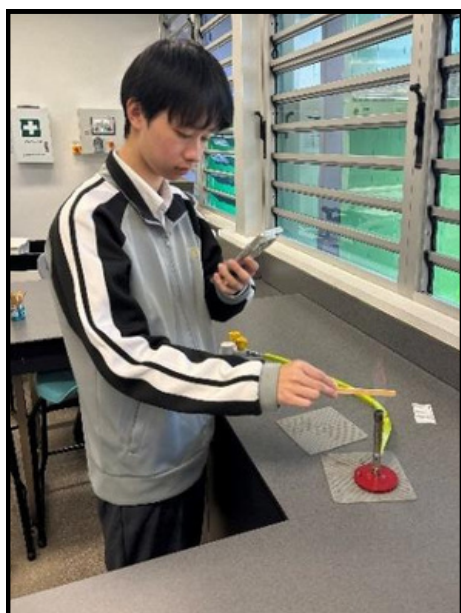


This study tour was an interesting experience that helped me integrate into the Australian lifestyle. At first, I wasn't used to it, but I gradually adapted. My favourite activity was attending a local Australian school, where I enjoyed spending time with the students, made a lot of friends, and improved my English. Staying with a kind and helpful homestay family also taught me self-discipline, which was the biggest difference from living at home. While my own family usually helps me with laundry, tidying, and studying, at the homestay I had to do everything myself and respect rules like not singing loudly at midnight! However, chatting with them in English every day was great practice. Overall, this fun trip broadened my horizons, and I really hope I can go again.

Tang Yan Yan, Yankie (from Class 1A)

Overall, this study tour was an amazing and unforgettable milestone in my life. Living in a country I had never been to before was a big challenge, but the local students and my host family helped me adapt to an English-speaking environment. The highlight was studying at Ferny Grove State High School, which opened my eyes to a whole new way of learning, alongside visiting great places like Queen Street Mall and the Brisbane Square Library. Beyond school, staying at a homestay pushed me far out of my comfort zone, as the single largest difference from home was navigating completely new daily routines, meal times, and household rules. This forced me to be more observant, respectful, and independent. Ultimately, managing my own schedule and solving problems on my own broadened my horizons and made me much more confident in my ability to handle big changes in life.

Deng King Tin, Tim (from Class 3A)



During this study tour to Australia, I gained valuable insights by experiencing a different culture, improving my teamwork skills, and seeing unforgettable views I had never seen in China. My favourite activity was the time spent with my local school buddies, which perfectly complemented my experience living with a host family. The largest difference from living with my own family was having to adapt to completely new daily routines, meal times, and household rules. Stepping far out of my comfort zone taught me to be much more observant and respectful of how others do things. Ultimately, managing my own schedule, communicating entirely in English, and solving problems on my own greatly boosted my independence and cross-cultural awareness, making me much more confident in my ability to handle big changes in life.

Li Yu Ho, Richard (from Class 4A)

To be honest, I didn't expect to like Brisbane this much. The classes were actually fun—people talked and shared ideas instead of just sitting there taking notes—but my absolute favourite parts were holding koalas and chilling at South Bank with friends. Beyond the sightseeing, the experience made me grow up fast. The biggest difference from being at home, where my parents do almost everything for me, was that I had to wake myself up, do my own laundry, and figure out how to ask for things in English. My host family was so nice and patient, which helped me stop being so shy about speaking up. Between the active classes and managing on my own, I'm leaving Brisbane much more independent and open to different cultures.

Tai Chui Wan, Cherry (from Class 4B)



This study tour successfully pushed me out of my comfort zone, helping me become far more confident, outgoing, and independent. My favourite activity was attending real classes and campus events with my local school buddies, which showed me that practical experience brings a much deeper understanding than books. This lesson extended to my homestay, where the biggest difference from home was that I was no longer just someone being looked after. While my parents usually handle almost all the chores, living with a host family required me to help with housework and communicate politely with hosts. Learning to cooperate with teammates on the journey and get along well with strangers built my self-reliance, taught me to be more considerate, and made me truly cherish my own family's care.

Huang Qin, Vivi (from Class 4B)



I had a wonderful and unforgettable nine-day trip in Australia, where we took part in a school exchange programme, visited the science museum, explored Queen Street Mall, and saw koalas and kangaroos at a wildlife zoo. While sharing school stories with local students improved my oral English and watching the animals taught me about wildlife protection, living with a local host family provided my biggest lesson in personal development. Life there was quite different from my own house; I had to make my bed every morning, clean my room regularly, and help with housework. Although I wasn't used to these rules at first, I slowly learned to manage my daily schedule and improve my self-care abilities. Both exploring Brisbane and learning to be self-reliant at my homestay broadened my horizons and made me more independent.

Liu Wen Le, Wendy (from Class 4B)





This study tour to Brisbane left me with precious and valuable takeaways, broadening my horizons and supporting my personal growth. First, I gained authentic exposure to Australian education, where the focus on discussion and independent thinking taught me to voice my ideas bravely instead of staying quiet. While I loved visiting the breathtaking beaches of the Gold Coast and getting close to wildlife at the zoo, living at a homestay for seven days provided a deeper lesson in adaptability. The biggest difference from home was the daily meals; I initially struggled to get used to the local food and deeply missed my parents' Chinese cooking. However, this challenge pushed me to become more independent, forcing me to express my preferences in English to communicate with my hosts. Ultimately, learning to accept an unfamiliar lifestyle trained my patience, strengthened my language skills, and made this an unforgettable journey.

Cai Pok Wan, Bob (from Class 5A)

Overall, this study tour successfully pushed me out of my comfort zone, forcing me to adapt to a foreign country, improve my independence, and communicate with people from diverse backgrounds. My ultimate takeaway was experiencing the local culture firsthand, with the absolute highlight being my time at the local school, where my kind and patient buddies helped me integrate smoothly into the campus environment. This warmth extended to my homestay, which felt so welcoming it genuinely felt no different from my own home. For me, the single largest difference was simply the subtle variations in lifestyle and household technology, such as relying heavily on cars and living in a highly efficient house fully equipped with modern appliances like a dishwasher and clothes dryer. Ultimately, actively using English every day, adapting to these new habits, and experiencing my host family's immense kindness made me far more mature, adaptable, and confident in navigating unfamiliar environments.

Chu Yau Shun, Tommy (from Class 5A)





During this study trip, I visited various scenic spots across Brisbane and the Gold Coast, which helped me gain real insight into Australia's culture and daily lifestyle. A major highlight was experiencing campus life at a local school, where I attended classes with my school buddy, boosted my English communication skills, and learned about both local school culture and Aboriginal culture. This immersive learning extended perfectly to my accommodation, where I lived with a local host family and experienced authentic Australian home life. Listening to their life experiences taught me firsthand about their family culture and local living customs. Ultimately, combining these exciting excursions with my two favorite aspects of the trip—experiencing Australian campus life and sharing a home with my host family—provided me with a truly valuable understanding of Australia.

Liu Zhenye, Kevin (from Class 5A)

During this study tour, I enjoyed going to school the most because it gave me more opportunities to speak English and deepen my understanding of Aboriginal culture, including their weapons, lifestyles, and instruments. This trip was a major milestone for my personal growth, forcing me completely out of my comfort zone to build true self-reliance. The absolute largest difference from home was the shift in independence; instead of staying in a permanent comfort zone where family accommodates you, living at a homestay required me to step up, respect someone else's rules, and communicate like an adult. Experiencing my host family's immense warmth and adapting to these new habits made me more mature, adaptable, and confident. Ultimately, this journey greatly broadened my horizons, teaching me to solve real-world problems independently while forming international networks with travel peers and professionals that could open doors for future collaborations, internships, or global careers.

Chan Pak Hong, Oscar (from Class 5B)





SNAPSHOTS



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