THE WAY

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TAKAYAMA-MURA JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

The College was delighted to again welcome a cohort from one of our Japanese sister schools, Takayama Junior High School. The visiting school sends the equivalent of our Year 8 to Australia each year and this group involved 23 students. They were a very enthusiastic and energetic group for sure.

The first thing students participated in was a short welcome ceremony, with Isabella M from Year 12 welcoming the group with a speech in Japanese. Mrs Easton also welcomed Takayama and gifts were exchanged between the two schools. Students had an opportunity to interact with Years 9, 10 and 11 elective Japanese students, with an orientation tour of the College, using online dictionaries to guide their Japanese explanations of our facilities. Lunch was spent eating, playing table tennis, playing basketball and interacting with students from the Senior School.

The Takayama students enjoyed homestays with our College families visiting the Blue Mountains, Sydney Harbour, Luna Park and The Rocks. Several families took the students to the beach, enjoying fish and chips on our beautiful coastline. The Takayama teachers, meanwhile, visited Katoomba to see The Three Sisters and ride the Scenic Railway and a day touring around Sydney City, walking over the Harbour Bridge, visiting Mrs Macquarie’s Chair and the Opera House.

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The final activity with the College was a trip to Sydney Zoo, via the Hawkesbury Lookout, where the group could see how vast the city of Sydney is. Students saw an array of Australian animals, as well as some from around the world. A short workshop allowed students to hear from an Indigenous Australian playing the didgeridoo and speaking about Indigenous culture and language. With great enthusiasm, the students then enjoyed having their faces or hands painted using traditional ochre paint.

Finally, we farewelled the group as they then embarked on a tour of the city of Sydney before flying back to Japan. A huge thank you to those families who hosted. This is the first time all host families were from the College. Several first-time hosts commented on what a great time was had by all in their family. The connection when hosting is always fast and there were many tears during the farewells.

Mrs Fiona Byrne
Senior School Teacher - Languages Coordinator & Year Advisor

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