



WESLEY COLLEGE

MELBOURNE AUSTRALIA

SINCE 1866

A True Education

An International Student's Reflection

Living in a foreign country is not an easy task, especially for international students who have left their home countries and have come to Australia alone. They are used to the easy life created by their parents and, all of a sudden, they have to do everything by themselves. It is critical therefore, that schools provide support and connections to assist with the transition into this new environment.

Wesley College helps connect us to a country widely known for its multiculturalism, and this connection definitely makes it easier for international students, especially with its culture of welcoming students and friendly staff.

Wesley is a warm community which provides us with a sense of belonging. My first impression of Wesley was its unique purple uniform. I instantly realised that this was a school where students show their unity and international students really notice the strong connection between all students and staff, created through various activities and events. I was also overwhelmed by the range of cocurricular opportunities which many of us do not have in our home countries, such as the wide variety of sports, drama performances and music ensembles. The International Club, made up of local and international students, organises events such as Cultural Diversity Week, Chinese New Year celebrations and the International Dinner, and these all help international students become part of the Wesley community and their cultural identities acknowledged.

Australian students are easy-going and friendly. There might be some language difficulties when communicating, but they are keen to listen and learn about our culture. It is always a delightful experience to teach Australian students some Chinese! Some international students feel more comfortable in their cultural groups, but events such as house activities (eg house swimming), after school sports and camps, also provide an opportunity for us to mix with a wide range of students.

The teachers and administration staff are always helpful and patient. Teachers take into account that language may be a barrier to learning and they offer help whenever it is needed.

When asked why I chose Wesley College, I say I love the colour purple, but deep down is a real pride of being a part of this school's culture.

Thomas is currently a first year Commerce student at Melbourne University majoring in Actuarial studies.

Thomas Shi
International Prefect, Class of 2010



Thomas Shi preparing Chinese Tea for Cultural Diversity Week