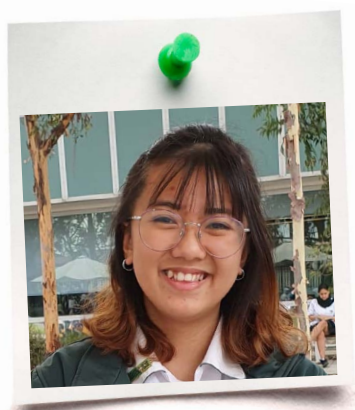


DE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT STORIES



Name: Andrea Tung Linh Ha
Year: 2020
School: Beverly Hills Girls High School
Program: International Students Program



Leaving my family and coming to Australia for high school was the biggest decision of my life. Australia has always been attractive to me due to the beauty and harmony of cultural and racial diversity. And so, at 14 years of age, I ventured into an independent life in Sydney.

My journey began at Beverly Hills Intensive English Centre (IEC), where English was not the only thing I learned. Meeting new friends from a variety of cultures widened my perspective of the world.

In 2017, I enrolled at Beverly Hills Girls High School. As a ninth-grader, the vast array of subjects, extracurricular programs, and support staff that differed from many high schools were eye-opening. I confess that I was shy at first due to the limitations of my vocabulary and accent; however, a weekly meet-up with our International Student Coordinator during Monday

lunch helped me to overcome those barriers and fostered the confidence to start conversations and make friends.

What surprised me most about the subjects offered was their focus on practicality, which gave rise to an eagerness to try out new things. Information and Digital Technology (VET) has certainly equipped me with the necessary skills to contribute to the school during Online Learning time and for that, I won the NSW VET Award in Information and Digital Technology.

I took part in numerous leadership programs with a single goal in mind: to inspire other people to lead. In reward for my service, I received the Service to Other Trophy and was named the winner of New South Wales International Student of the Year 2020.

I'm currently studying Computing Science at the University of Technology Sydney with a goal to use knowledge of technology to improve the lives of others.

To all future NSW international students: It is scary to step into a new phase of your life at a young age, not knowing for sure where it will lead you; but always make your decision without regret and follow my motto of "Be nice, be kind and be the best you can be."



Andrea Tung Linh Ha, 2020 NSW International Student of the Year – Schools category, with Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley, Governor of NSW