

Henderson Intermediate School Confucius Classroom China Trip 2018



5th May ~ 20th May 2018
REPORT

*“He who returns from a journey is not the same as he who left”
Chinese Proverb*

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***“A journey of a thousand miles must begin with a single step”
~ Lao Tzu***

BACKGROUND

Thanks to Hanban in China, Henderson Intermediate was one of the first schools in New Zealand to link with Confucius Institute in Auckland and became a 'Confucius Classroom' in 2010. We are the lead school along with Pomaria Primary and Waitakere College. We like to show progression through schooling and consequently the interest to learn the language has grown in our region. We now have every classroom in our school learning Mandarin! Being a Confucius Classroom has allowed us to develop our Chinese programme that now includes a camp to China so students can immerse themselves in the language and culture first-hand.

Fudan University, as Confucius Institute in Auckland's partner and with funding from Hanban has greatly assisted our students' learning. This is appreciated and being able to bring our students to immerse them in the culture lies a foundation for years ahead.



What a great bunch!!! Please meet our 23 students starting from
Bottom row Whaea Hera Jacobs(Teacher) Edyn Rihari, Krystal Gawn, Sarah Taia, Danika Naidoo, Ayden Collins, Rakai Smith
Middle Row: Falakese Manu, Kaitlyn Macpherson, Gabriella George, Waipuhi Tamati, Mackenzie Maiava, Ajahni Chote, Whaea Jo Carter (International Director) Mr Duan (Confucius Institute Beijing)
Back Row: Greer O'rourke, Kobe Petelo, Caprice Renata, Shaquaylah Mahakitau-Monscau, Alexia Morgan, Noah Sinclair-Pritchard, Keziah Ripley-Cowan, Azriel Lewis, Matthew Skelling, Jonathan Leiatua, Matua Clayton Smith (Teacher)

“Do not follow where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail” ~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

ITINERARY

Day 01 05 06 周日		
Morning	07:20-09:35	CA1831, 07:20/09:35 浦东T2航站楼 PVG / T2.
	11:30-12:30	午餐、Lunch
Afternoon	13:00-16:30	南京路、外滩、 the Nanjing road, the bund.
Evening	16:30-18:30	入住酒店，晚餐 Hotel check-in and dinner.
Day 02: 05 07 周一		
Morning	08:30-09:00	酒店早餐，前往复旦 Breakfast, drive to the Fudan University.
	09:30-11:30	复旦汉语水平测试 Chinese language proficiency test at the Fudan University.
	11:45-12:40	复旦大学欢迎午宴 Welcome Luncheon in Fudan.
Afternoon	13:30-15:30	复旦汉语课Chinese course at the Fudan University.
Evening	17:00-19:00	晚餐，返回酒店 Dinner , drive back to the hotel.
Day 03 05-08 周二		
Morning	08:30-09:00	酒店早餐，前往复旦Breakfast, drive to the Fudan University.
	09:30-12:30	复旦汉语课（内容待定）学校简餐Chinese course at the Fudan University, lunch.
Afternoon	14:00-16:30	游览朱家角 Zhu Jiajiao ancient water town .
Evening	17:00-21:00	晚餐，返回酒店 Dinner , drive back to the hotel.
Day 04 05-09 周三		
Morning	08:30-09:00	酒店早餐，前往复旦Breakfast, drive to the Fudan University.
	09:30-12:00	复旦汉语课（内容待定）学校简餐Chinese course at the Fudan University, lunch.
Afternoon	13:30-15:00	复旦文化体验课（内容待定） Chinese culture lesson at Fudan
	15:30-17:00	城隍庙，豫园The Yu Garden & Fake Market
Evening	17:00-19:00	晚餐，上海马戏，返回酒店Dinner, The Shanghai circus, drive back to the hotel.
Day 05 05-10 周四		
Morning	08:30-09:00	酒店早餐，前往复旦Breakfast, drive to the Fudan University.
	09:30-12:30	复旦汉语课 学校简餐Chinese course at the Fudan University, lunch.
Afternoon	13:00-16:00	.陆家嘴，东方明珠电视塔Lujiazui Financial Centre, the Oriental Pearl TV Tower
Evening	17:00-19:00	晚餐，浦江夜游，返回酒店Dinner,the Huangpu River Cruise, drive back to hotel.
Day 06 05 11 周五		
Morning	08:30-09:00	酒店早餐，前往复旦Breakfast, drive to the Fudan University.
	9:30 12:00	复旦汉语课（内容待定）学校简餐Chinese course at the Fudan University, lunch.
Afternoon	13:30-14:30	复旦汉语水平考试 YCT/HSK test.
Evening	17:00-18:00	晚餐，入住酒店休息 Dinner , drive back to the hotel.
Day 07 05-12 周六		
Morning	08:30-12:00	Bus to Ningbo Experimental School
Afternoon	13:00-16:00	Meet Homestay Families. Students go with the homestay families.
Day 08 05-13 周日		
All Day	All Day	Homestay Day

Day 09 05-14 周一		
Morning	10:00-12:00	学校安排活动School Day, School assembly, Performance, meet class buddies
Afternoon	13:30-16:30	Students will be in four groups in four classrooms
Evening	16:30-19:30	晚餐后入住家庭Dinner, Homestay. (2 students in one family)
Day 10 05-15 周二		
Morning	10:00-12:00	School Day
Day 11 05-16 周三		
Morning	08:00-12:00	G168次高铁宁波-北京、10:33/18:03 High speed rail. Ningbo to Beijing.
Afternoon	13:30-18:30	高铁上、High-speed rail、
Evening	19:30-20:30	入住酒店，晚餐 Hotel check-in and dinner.
Day 12 05-17 周四		
Morning	08:00-13:30	酒店早餐、首都博物馆 Temple of Heaven, lunch.
Afternoon	14:30-16:30	北京动物园、秀水自由购物. Beijing Zoo (with giant panda). Fake Market.
Evening	17:00-19:00	晚餐，入住酒店Dinner, hotel check-in.
Day 13 05-18 周五		
Morning	08:30-12:30	孔子学院总部访问，午餐 Breakfast, Visit Confucius Institute Headquarters, lunch.
Afternoon	13:00-17:00	长城，外观鸟巢 The Great Wall, exterior visit at the Bird's Nest.
Evening	17:30-19:00	晚餐，返回酒店Dinner, drive back to the hotel
Day 14 05-19 周六		
Morning	08:00-13:00	酒店早餐，胡同游（居民家访，午餐，学包水饺）Breakfast, tricycle tour in the Old Town (local family visit, lunch, dumpling making).
Afternoon	13:30-17:00	广场，故宫The Tian'an men Square, The Forbidden City. Dinner.
Evening	19:30-21:00	可自费参加：功夫秀（学生优惠价150元/人）Optional activity: The Kung Fu Show (The price for students: 150 RMB/Person)
	0105	送机结束Arrive Airport Beijing CA783 20MAY Beijing/Auckland 01:05/17:10
Day 15 05 20 周日 ARRIVE AUCKLAND AIRPORT 1710 20 MAY		

“The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeing new landscapes, but in having new eyes” ~ Marcel Proust

Every day two of our students were in charge of photos and making a diary entry for our family group on wechat. Here are their experiences of China ☺

Day 1 – The Journey begins by

Ajahni Chote

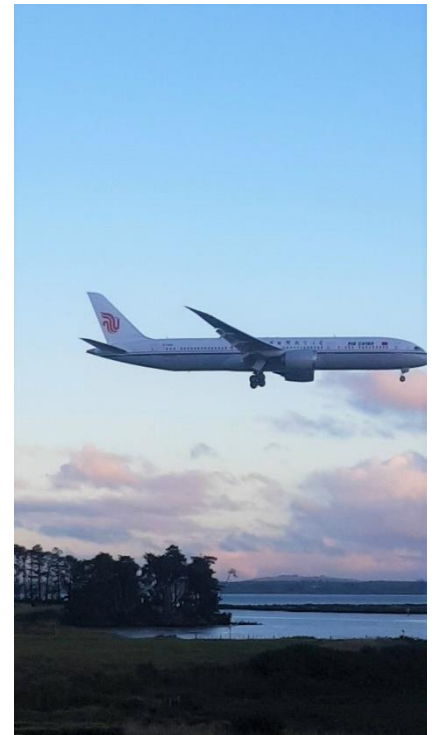
Last night we got on to the plane that was taking us to Beijing. Then we waited for our second plane to take us to Shanghai. As we arrived in Shanghai Airport in the morning we raced towards the exit like a pack of lions. As we got outside we gasped for air.



**Day 2 – In China by
Azriel Lewis & Ayden
Collins**

Our first day in China was a very crazy, awesome, and tiring day. We first flew from Beijing to Shanghai. The wait was long, but we were all relieved once we finally reached Shanghai. After that we were introduced to Ms Lin, our tour guide. As we were walking down the escalator, a flash bus, that had “VIP” written on it, stopped next to us. We all

admired the luxury of the bus, and then we sat down on our flash chairs, to listen to Ms Lin’s introduction to China. Once Ms Lin said “We are going to a market” we were all on the edge of our seats, looking at each other excitedly, “But things are too expensive, so don’t buy.” Then we all slumped back into our seats looking miserable. Finally we stopped at our destination, and gawped at the sight of tall buildings and sky scrapers. After we looked around we had lunch. Eagerly, we waited for Ms Lin to say we are going to the hotel, and she did. Everyone brought their suitcases into the lobby, and waited to be told who our partners for our hotel rooms. 6:30 struck and it was time for our big feed. Our day came to an end, but we all enjoyed ourselves in the wonderful land of China!



“Only he that has travelled the road knows where the holes are deep” ~ Chinese Proverb



Day 3 – In China by Azriel Lewis & Ayden Collins

Yesterday for the first time Henderson Intermediate School went to Fudan University and we all did an interview with Wang Laoshi to see how much Mandarin we know. We had lunch with Jonathan Van the

Senior Project Manager for Confucius Institute at Fudan University. Later that day we came across the twin towers to practise the school haka and then we went to the supermarket in the mall and we bought snacks and stuff like that. We went to dinner at a new restaurant that opened a week ago. Later the teachers helped us study what we had learnt that day and then went to bed



Day 4 Edyn and Fala.

Today was a very interesting and full on day. The first thing we all did was head down to the delicious buffet breakfast. After breakfast we went to Fudan University where we had a mandarin lesson with our amazing teacher Wang Lao Shi. She helped us a lot, she made sure everyone was on the same page before she moved on to the next step. She helped us introduce ourselves in mandarin. After a long mandarin lesson we got to eat lunch at the canteen. The canteen was big and had two floors and the food was delicious. We were given a card with money inside and we could buy anything we wanted. We visited the Ancient Water Town, Zhu Jiajiao. It was big, it was like we were in a fairy tale. First we took a ride on Gondolas, they call this place the Venice in the East. After we got to look around the water market, the market had a lot of great stuff. Later we went back to the hotel and got dressed for dinner. Dinner was delicious. Once dinner was finished, we went to the hotel and started our study groups. After our study groups we headed to our rooms to get ready for the next amazing day in China.



“To shut your eyes is to travel” ~ Emily Dickinson

DAY 5: GREER AND GABBY:

Today was a very exciting day for all of us!

We went to the Bund and saw a water view of the most amazing land marks of Shanghai, we spent about 20 minutes exploring around the area and then we headed out to the markets. We spent 2 hours exploring the Yu gardens and going into every



shop there was...and it was truly magnificent. 😊 After our search at the markets we headed over to dinner right next to where we were going to watch the circus! Everyone was so excited to see the acrobats and amazing tricks! There were people gasping, laughing, clapping and cheering the whole time through it! It was such a fun day and we can't wait for the next adventure!! 😊

Day 6 -Kaitlyn and Jonathan

Today was an awesome day. We all got up to go and have breakfast and met in the lobby in the morning (5 people singing on the bus because they were late.) We had our 2nd to last Chinese lesson at Fudan. After our lesson we walked down to the canteen and bought our food and drinks. We then got on our bus



and drove to the Oriental Pearl TV tower. When we got to the tower we were all amazed at the height of it, we walked through security and then got in a lift up to the glass floor part. So many of our students walked right up to the glass and laid face down on it with no fear, but others, to Mr Smith's enjoyment,

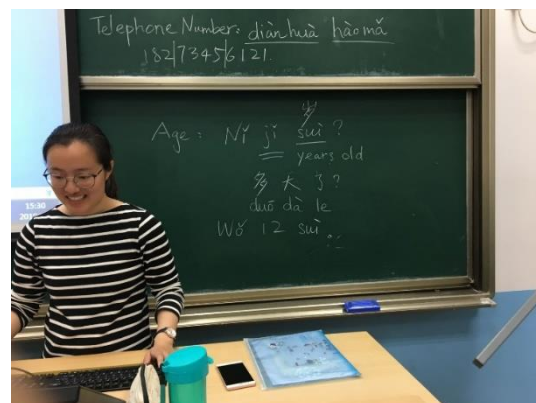


were not as confident, so he had the pleasure of trying to push them on to the glass. After the Tower we drove to a famous dumpling restaurant and had some delicious dinner. We then got on the bus to drive to the boat that took us around the Bund, the colours were so bright and beautiful! After that we drove back to the hotel, had a quick study session, and then went to bed.

“I was not born for one corner. The whole world is my native land” ~ Seneca

Day 7 Keziah and Kobe

On the 7th day of our trip we did our normal routine, meet in the lobby at 9am and made our way to Fudan University. After that we made our way to our classroom and revised for our YCT Exam. After that we then made our way to the canteen to have a feed and relax. We made our way in front of the Huang Gu tower to go over some of the things for the YCT test. We went back to our classroom for the YCT Exam. As soon as we started the test everyone sat quiet. Afterwards Jonathan and Keziah stood on our behalf to thank our teacher for what she had taught us. We then went on the bus and made our way to a Museum where we learnt about different currencies around the world. After that we went back to the hotel to practice our performance for Monday at Ningbo. That night we went to a restaurant to celebrate our last night in Shanghai.



Day 8 Mackenzie and Rakai.

Day 8 had begun. We all boarded the bus as it was our last day in Shanghai. We travelled to our destination which was Ningbo, but first we had lunch at Dicos, which is a fast food restaurant. As we got to Ningbo school we got picked up by our home stay families, they were very kind, now we are home, yay!



“It is better to travel than to arrive” ~ Buddha

Day 9 students were busy with homestays.

Day 10 Mackenzie and Rakai.

This morning we woke up in our lovely home stay's house and got ready for school. When we got to school, Ningbo Experimental School we went to class with our buddies. We were all excited for school and to see our friends. We then went to the usual flag raising assembly that occurs on every Monday morning. All our students from Henderson Intermediate School went up the stairs to where the microphones were to introduce ourselves separately. We got the microphone and said, 'Ni hao, wo jiao'. After the assembly we had a tour around the school and got an introduction to their school. They showed us around their computer room, table tennis room, staff room and so much more. We went to two classrooms and split into two groups. The two classes were Chinese calligraphy and tea making. In calligraphy class we learnt about the history of Chinese calligraphy and practised a few movements of the brush. At the end of class we all wrote our names on a big piece of paper with a wolf skin brush and real ink. Our students dressed up in traditional Chinese clothes which was really enjoyable. All though the boys all did rock, paper, scissors to decide who was going to wear it. In tea making we were taught to make tea and the proper way to hold a tea cup. After those wonderful, fun filled classes we made our way to lunch. For lunch we had peach yogurt a banana and a tray with a mix of chicken and potatoes , shrimp salad , chops and a carrot and celery soup/salad . After our delicious lunch we had a stroll around the school venturing to different parts of the school. Some people found the basketball court and the athletics track, others had a rest chatting to friends. After we went to class we had 2 different subjects to do. We then went to the auditorium for a special ceremony to welcome us to the school. The English drama club prepared a short version of Mulan. After we went back to class together to get our bags and go home with our buddy's.



“If you can’t live longer, live deeper” ~ Italian Proverb

Day 11 Matiu and Noah.

Today we woke up and went to Ningbo Experimental School to wait for our bus to take us to Ningbo Railway Station. When we arrived Whaea Jo thanked the home stay parents, Mr Li (Principal) and the teachers. We did the school haka and went to the Railway Station. The Station was like an Airport and we had to put our luggage through security then we waited in a long line to get our tickets scanned. We got on the bullet train and left for Beijing. When we arrived at Beijing we went on our bus straight to dinner and then went back to our hotel



Day 12 Krystal and Sarah.

Today was a very busy day. The hard time for breakfast was 720 am and we had to meet in the lobby. There were 14 girls and 2 boys late for breakfast. We brought all of our luggage and put it on the bus and headed to the Tiananmen Square, the largest square in the world. We explored around there for a bit and then we went to the Forbidden City. We had a treasure hunt in the Forbidden City to find a few artefacts. After that we went to Beijing old town and had lunch. We had a rickshaw tour. During the rickshaw tour we were shown around the old town. We all ended up racing each other and it was very fun and crazy. One of the pedals fell off. We all got a lucky charm and drove on the bus to the fake market. The fake market had 7 floors in total and we had 2 hours to explore and buy things. We had a raffle at the end and we all won prizes. Some of them were fridge magnets, bottles of water and cutlery sets. We all were laughing at what we got while we drove off to the Kung Fu show at the Red Theatre. When we arrived we had 5 minutes to get some snacks before we went inside the theatre. The Kung Fu show was amazing and full of excitement. After the show we went back to the hotel and had a good night sleep. We all enjoyed another great day in China.



“The world is a book, and those who don’t travel read only one page” ~ St. Augustine

Day 14 Shaqualah and Stella

Today we started our day by having a buffet breakfast at Qianmen Hotel. When we had finished breakfast we went up to our rooms to get ready for our big adventure. We then headed down to the lobby where we met up with the rest of the group. As a group we hopped onto the bus and headed to Confucius Institute who provided us with our Mandarin teacher in NZ and all the expenses here in China. After that we set off on an hour and a half bus ride towards the Great Wall. When we arrived, we went to lunch close to the Great Wall. When we finished we made our way to the entrance of the Great Wall. We then began our journey up the Great Wall. It was a long and hot journey but it was worth it in the end. As we were walking down some of the students walked to the other side to carry on. The rest of us finished and went to a seating area where we had ice cream and relaxed. We got onto the bus and went to the Birds Nest (where the Olympics were held in 2008). We walked and admired the environment around us and played races. We then went to dinner at Ramada Hotel where we had some delicious authentic Chinese food. After we drove back to the hotel we got ready for bed and ended our big day



“Wherever you go, there you are” Confucius

Day 15 Fala and Waipuhi.

As we woke up in our luxury hotel beds we all got ready and dressed and made our way down to the delicious breakfast buffet. After an amazing breakfast we made our way upstairs to start packing. Once everyone finished packing and ready I noticed that I lost my room key but thank you to Krystal Gawn, being a great friend she paid off my room key for me.

After we checked out of the hotel we rolled our bags into the bus, thank you for the help of the boys for putting it in the bus for the girls. Once everyone was on the bus Miss Lyn our beautiful tour guide talked us through our schedule like she did every day.

As we arrived at our destination the shopping centre we did window shopping for about a 1hour. It was really hot but everyone was fine.

We finished window-shopping and made our way to a dumpling restaurant for lunch. The dumplings were amazingly delicious.

When our dumplings were finally finished we got on to the bus and drove to the museum where we got to learn more about the people of Beijing. It was an amazing experience to learn the difference between Shanghai people and the people in Beijing.



We went to the zoo and enjoyed our time with the Pandas and other animals. After we finished a tour around the Zoo we headed to a roast duck restaurant. The roast duck was soooooo delicious we had to eat in a special way, the way people in Beijing eat roast duck because it is a traditional food they love to eat. After our beautiful dinner we drove 1hr to the airport by bus. It was really funny because our tour guide finally sang us a song, also Whaea Hera and Whaea Jo also sang us the muppet song.

As a strong proud school all the students sang Miss Lyn a song our school song.

We then boarded our plane, ready to see your beautiful faces in Auckland.

“Look at the stars lighting up the sky: not one of them stays in the same place” ~ Seneca

RAKAI AND AZRIEL

We all took our last step in China trying to recap all the amazing events and thinking about our wonderful 14 days in China. When we had all settled into our seats on the plane we readied for take-off. About a minute later half of the group was asleep, while others watched movies and played games. After our long doze we woke up to find Mr Smith had been taking pictures of us, and that they were going up at assembly in front of the whole school! Overall, China was an amazing experience and we are all grateful.



“If you think adventure is dangerous, try routine, it’s lethal”
Paulo Coelho

THANK YOU'S

Ni hao ,

I'd like to thank Confucius Institute for providing me with the things I needed to enjoy my trip.

My experience in China 2018 was overall the best yet, as it was the first time for me travelling away from family to represent my school. Throughout the trip my favourite thing was experiencing life of the Chinese people, to stay with a family of Ningbo Experimental School, to learn with the students and to enjoy and play soccer with the students.

I'd like to thank you for providing us with the adults, teachers, transport, the luxury hotels, and most importantly the food. From our days at school, to our days at famous landmarks, to our relaxing nights at our hotels honestly it's been a privilege and honour to be able to represent my country.

Xiexie

Kobe Petelo



“A ship in harbour is safe, but that is not what ships are built for ” John. A. Shedd.

Ni hao,

My China trip experience was crazy, fun and exciting. My most favourite things were the fake markets, Yu Garden, the Pearl Tower, Fudan University and the Great Wall of China.

This was such a good experience for me to travel around China with friends and teachers. Even though it's real different than New Zealand, I still had a great time experiencing the culture, the food and the great landmarks.

In Shanghai I was really scared but excited to do the YCT test because I didn't know much Mandarin but at the end of the day we all passed the test.

I would like to say thank you to all the people who made this possible for all of us and paying for all the activities that we did on this trip. It was an amazing opportunity for all of so xiexie for all the stuff that you have done for us.

Xiexie zaijian.

Ayden Collins

Ni hao,

My China trip experience was amazing! I personally, loved the Great Wall because of the challenge it produced and how its history is still engraved into the walls after all it's been through.

I also loved the fake market, how can so many items be sold for so cheap? The food was also a highlight of the trip, so many selections and flavours to choose from, Chinese food has so much history in it.

Ningbo Experimental School was definitely one of the greatest things about the trip, it was so amazing to see how other students learn, and play soccer against them.

My homestay was so loving and caring, the child's English was amazing and she always looked after us, we were very sad to leave her.

Thank you to the teachers and tour guides that looked after us on this trip. This trip was amazing and I thank you for giving me this opportunity and experience that I will never forget.

Xiexie Kaitlyn MacPherson



“Take only memories, leave only footprints” Chief Seattle

My China 2018 Trip Experience

My experience in China was truly magnificent because of the fun and exciting activities that each and everyone on us participated in.

Travelling to China and being able to stay in someone's home was absolutely spectacular, they provided me and my buddy (Stella) food, shelter, warmth and I am really grateful for that. The many things we did were so fun.

A few of the things we did were going to Ningbo Experimental School, Fudan University, Markets, The Great Wall Of China and so much more.

The highlight of my trip to China was the Shanghai circus. There were so many acrobats and other stunt-men and stunt-women that had performed. Our guide, Miss Lin was really helpful because she gave us a bit more of China and its rich history. We will all miss her so very much.

A little downfall for me was the walking. There was just so much of it. Another thing was the toilets, but overall my time in China was spectacular and I am thankful for that opportunity.

Xiexie, Gabriella



***“There are no foreign lands. It is the traveller who is foreign”
~ Robert Louis Stevenson***

Ni hao,

I just want thank you for making this trip possible for me and my fellow students, I am grateful for what you have done for us. The activities you planned out for us, the food all of that was all because of you.

I never thought I would ever actually make it to China and come back with many experiences. This trip really helped me build my confidence and my role as a leader.

My biggest highlight: Getting the chance to step into another person's shoes and become another person for 2 weeks was a privilege, although there was a big culture shock I enjoyed every single day at Fudan University and everywhere we went. I would love to go back to China for more experiences and I would love to see more of China's many amazing landscapes.

Great Wall of China: Well first of all I did not walk the whole thing because I got really tired halfway and stopped. It was really really HOT!!!! As I was walking I noticed how beautiful China really is, the amazingly beautiful landscapes and how the people are just so kind. They always have their phones ready to take selfies. I will treasure that day because to be able to tell everyone I stepped on the Great Wall of China is an achievement it was also on the top of my bucket list for China.

Thank you for the meals we got every day and for the rooves over our heads. It was a pleasure to be able to enter your beautiful country and to study at one of the best universities in China.

I would love to go back and study Law at Fudan University when I am older but thank you very much. Also thank you Fudan University.

Xiexie Your sincerely Falakesi Manu...



“Ones destination is never a place, but a new way of seeing things ~ Henry Miller

Wow!..what a RUSH! All the activities, the schools, the shopping and the homestays!

It was all too much for me BUT.... the best experience was the homestays, did you know that my homestay buddy could play the piano and ukulele? She was kind, caring and always making sure that we were all good for the day even though she made a few mistakes. My other experience that was pretty good was Fudan University's canteen food. The food that was there was pretty alright but some choices of food were pretty unique for me but it was a good experience for me though. Thanks for what you've done for us Confucius.



Xiexie Caprice Renata

My China trip experience has been one of a lifetime, many people cannot do. I'd like to thank all kaiako and staff for all that you've done for us H.I.S students.

I experienced so much in two weeks that there is too much to explain. I've had the most amazing time that I hope China and New Zealand would become best buddies in the future.

The thing I liked the most out of the whole trip was that all of us at H.I.S enjoyed and experienced the culture and living of people in China.

The thing I didn't like much was shopping because it was boring, because there were way too many people.

My homestay family was nice but they were trying too hard to spoil us, but they still made me happy. Everything else on the trip I liked.

Thank you for everything.
Xiexie Alexia Morgan



"A journey is best measured in friends rather than miles" Tim Cahill

My China trip experience was full of excitement and joy. It was a trip of a lifetime. I loved every second of this trip.

My highlight of the trip was going to live with our homestay families. They had the best food I have ever tasted. They were very caring and generous. They were great people with big hearts.



I also loved the Great Wall of China, it was challenging but it was so worth it.

Overall this experience was amazing. Everyday we learnt something new.

Xiexie for everything
Sarah Taia

My favourite part about this trip was climbing up the Great Wall, not only that but the sights, food, activities, hotels and well the whole trip!

I was so grateful for our homestays for taking us in for a few days as their own.

I would like to thank everybody involved in making this trip happen, not only for myself but for the whole group.

My whole life I have wanted to travel the world and now I have a beginning to my story.

Xiexie
Thankyou! -Greer O'Rourke.



“I always wonder why birds stay in the same place when they can fly anywhere on the earth. Then I ask myself the same question.” Harun Yahya

My China trip experience was interesting, fun and amazing. Filled with lots of fun stuff.

My favourite part of the trip was shopping, the food and the Great Wall. It was a very big culture shock for me when we were at school for 9 hours. The food was very delicious especially the food I had never tried before.



Another highlight for me was all of the hotels, they were all luxury and had delicious breakfasts.

My experience with the homestay was very different but interesting. They helped us with anything we needed. My highlight of when we were with the homestay was learning Mandarin with our buddy.

I would like to thank all of you that made this trip happen.
Xiexie Edyn Rihari



My favourite day was when we left to go to the Yu Garden and the Fake Market. The Yu Garden was very beautiful, extremely old and culturally eye-opening.

The market was fun and bargaining was fun and easy. Some of the bad stuff was the smog, it sometimes ruined a view but that is something I can't change.

I would also like to thank Fudan University, the Confucius Institute, Ningbo Experimental School and the homestay families for taking care of us for all of our experiences in China. I hope this relationship stays for students in the future for our school and your schools in Ningbo and Shanghai.

Thanks for this great experience of the Chinese culture.
Xiexie Matthew Skelling

***“He who does not travel does not know the value of men”
Moorish Proverb***

It has been an amazing opportunity to take part in this once in a lifetime experience.

We are all very thankful for everything that you have provided for all of us.

The experience has been amazing throughout this journey. From taking part in crazy fun activities, to sitting at a table full of food three times a day! The activities that have been provided have been amazing and it has been a privilege to take part in this trip.



Shanghai was amazing, we loved going to Fudan University to study and then travelling to Ningbo to go to Ningbo Experimental School, ending our trip in Beijing was all amazing. The shopping was something that really blew our minds.

I would like to thank you for everything you have done with us and for all the organisation you have put into this trip.

Xiexie Keziah Ripley-Cowan



My China trip has been the greatest experience of my life. Learning about how Chinese people live and how Chinese parents sacrifice everything for their kids just so they can succeed in education and in life.

My favourite part of the trip was when we climbed the Great Wall of China which had a lot of history. I also enjoyed the tour around the streets in the rickshaws.

I would like to thank all the people who made this trip possible because without you, this trip would not have been possible.

Xiexie Jonathan Leiataua

“Travelling leaves you speechless, then turns you into a storyteller” Ibn Battuta

The best experience I had was when we went to the Great Wall of China. We climbed up it and we took lots of group photos. After all of us climbed up the wall some people were quitters and they walked to the bus but I still enjoyed the Great Wall very much.

Arriving at Ningbo Experimental School we got to meet and go with our homestay families straight away. Our homestay families took us out to shops to buy lollies and spoilt us until we and our taste buds were happy.

On the Monday, our homestays took us to school at 7am. It was a very long and very exhausting day. It was amazing to see how hard they work and study.

We had our school leaders showing pride and leadership but with all of us we were represented strongly. I was a bit worried when we went to the Water Town as I got lost.

We all want to thank Fudan University, the Confucius Institute and of course all of our loving teachers and dads.

Xiexie
Rakai Smith



China has been a great experience for me. My favourite part was shopping and learning Chinese but the main part of this trip was thanking the people that did all the organisation and arranging for us.

I have come away from this with more friends, I got to know a little more about everyone and also more about our teachers. I got to know Mr Smith and he calls me Ajax. We have laughed with each other and talked a lot to each other.

Xiexie Ajahni Chote

“As the traveller who has once been from home is wiser than he who has never left his own doorstep, so a knowledge of one other culture should sharpen and appreciate more lovingly our own”

Margaret Mead

The first day we started was the first time I'd experienced the Chinese culture, country and what they do in China. What a cool day it was to learn what I have never experienced before. Leaving family members behind is not always easy but just thinking about having fun and learning different stuff in China was my focus. The highlight of my two weeks was meeting my homestay family and spending time with them for four nights which was cool.

Another highlight of the trip for me was walking up the Great Wall of China, saying to myself "*you got this*" but actually I thought I wouldn't make it this far, but the encouragement from my friends really pushed me from top to bottom saying "*you're almost there, you got this!*"

For the past two weeks I would like to say thank you to Mr Smith, Whaea Hera and Mrs Carter for taking care of me in China. I really had a good time here and I hope that I get to visit China again in the future.

Xiexie MacKenzie Maiava

Going to China was an experience I will never forget. Their way of life and how they live makes me much more appreciative of my life back in Aotearoa, New Zealand.

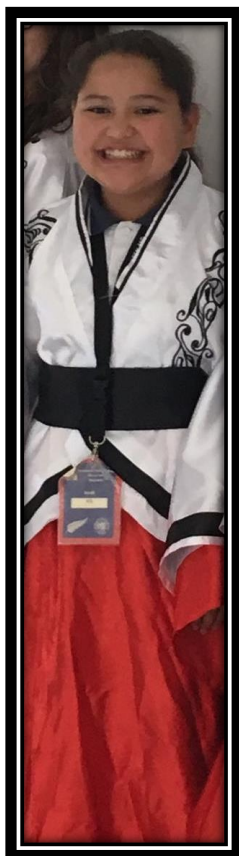
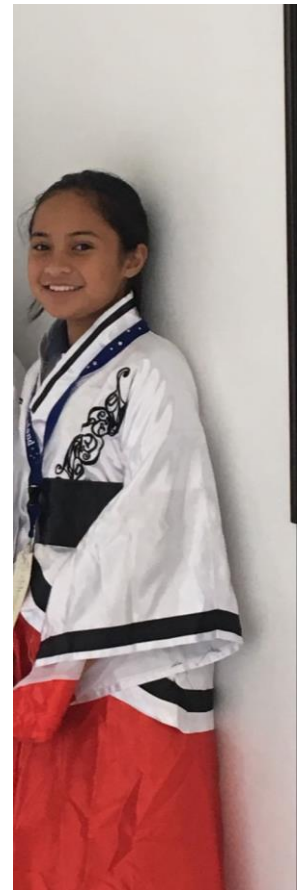
The fake market was one of my favourite things. Having to bargain and 'argue' for what you wanted was exciting and at times a bit scary. I didn't like the museums as much because I could not understand anything on display. The short time we spent at Fudan University and Ningbo Experimental School was so different to school in NZ and makes me appreciative of how we live our lives in our country.

The Great Wall was fun, exciting and exhausting all at the same time. It was amazing walking on such an ancient path.

Thank you to the people who made China as amazing as it was. The food and the sights were things I will always remember.

Xiexie Stella Tia

"Better to see something once than to hear about it a thousand times" Asian Proverb



On behalf of the 23 students and 3 staff that travelled to China from Henderson Intermediate School, I would like to thank you so much for your supreme generosity and hospitality. This is truly a life changing experience for both the students and myself. Special mention and thank you must go to the staff at Fudan University and our friendly, knowledgeable, professional and welcoming guide and host Lin. Without these amazing people this trip would definitely not have been the success it was. Finally to the Confucius Institute thank you so much for making this all happen for our students, the organisation was outstanding and the opportunities provided to them during our stay were superb.

Before leaving for China this group had limited opportunities to learn the language and knew very little about the country and its history. They left with real appreciation for the language and definitely with a far deeper knowledge and understanding of the way of life in China.

Personally and professionally, this experience made me aware of the need to build links between our two countries and our schools.

Thank you for the opportunity and for your generosity.

Clayton Smith (Teacher)



“Travel makes you realise that no matter how much you know there’s always more to learn” Nyssa P. Chopra

Ni hao, Kia ora,
I had the privilege of
helping chaperone 23
students from Henderson
Intermediate to China in
May. The experience is
equal to no other in my
time as a teacher with our
school. To the Confucius
Institute and Fudan
University 'ngā mihi -
many thanks' for everything. The learning for us and our students during this
trip was invaluable.



The sights, the sounds and the people, such a humble people, were
incomparable experiences. Fudan University was awesome. Wang Laoshi was
extremely helpful to our students in their preparation for the YCT test. I was in
awe of the university and everything about it.

Many thanks also to our generous hosts from Ningbo Experimental School, I
was truly humbled by everything that was done for us. My humble thanks for
allowing me the opportunity also to teach students and to share my own Māori
'reo - language' as well as English with them.

The cultural acceptance of everyone from everywhere in all places that we
went to in China was something truly unique. I was fortunate enough to be
able to challenge myself and be successful. I achieved a couple of 'bucket list'
moments, climbing part of the Great Wall and getting to experience the
'wairua - spirit' within the Forbidden City.

Last but by no means least, my heartfelt gratitude to our guide Miss Lin. Her
focus was only ever on us and ensuring that we were comfortable and nothing
but absolutely satisfied with everything, going the extra mile for our
group. The food was beyond outstanding as was the accommodation.

Xiexie, Ngā mihi - Hera Jacobs (teacher)

***“Man cannot discover new oceans unless he has the courage
to lose sight of the shore.” – Andre Gide***

A special mention to Jonathan Van; Project Manager Confucius Institute, Shanghai we have worked together now for many years and have successfully completed the organisation of another trip to bring our students to learn about China. Jonathan, I realise is an extremely busy person in his position at Fudan but is always helpful and co-operative and without his guidance the trip would be difficult to organise.

Also thank you to Will He, Project Director at New Way Education I enjoy the way we can always work together to bring groups to each other's country this has benefited so many students from both sides to learn about each other's culture. Ningbo Experimental School was fantastic and our students were looked after so well. Thank you to Mr Li, Principal and his staff for all the organisation and arrangements of the homestay, also the special classes they organised. I look forward to you all coming to visit us in 2019.

As always, the food for our students is more than enough. We are all well fed with healthy, nutritious meals. The hotels and arrangements are once again appreciated. I always feel at ease with having Lin as our guide and being under Mr Zhou's company. I know our students are always well looked after.

The quality of teaching for our students at Fudan University is amazing and to see our students learn so much in a short amount of time is a credit to the teacher. I hope the students we bring will continue through their secondary years with Mandarin and might one day attend Fudan!!

Thank you to Hanban for allowing this all to happen and to enable the teaching of Mandarin and the learning of the Chinese culture in New Zealand. I look forward to continuing our relationship.

Warm regards
Joanne Carter
Principal's P.A.
International Student Director



***“Twenty years from now
you will be more disappointed by the things you didn’t do
than by the ones you did do.” – Mark Twain***