

## St Patrick's College – Wellington

Matthias

After 35 hours of travel time including layovers in Abu Dhabi, Perth and Auckland. I arrived here in the beautiful capital city of New Zealand, Wellington. I stayed in the northern suburb of Khandallah with my host family the Garners: Kore, Sophia, Steve and PJ. I spent a lot of time with my family; we had some amazing trips together through the North Island for example to Wanganui and Mount Ruapehu. I really enjoyed staying with the Garners they are a lovely and very kind family and I now call them my second family on the other side of the world!



I was very excited for my first school day at St. Patricks College in Kilbirnie. When I arrived here PJ was in Australia with Steve. However good school friends of PJ's called Daniel and Finn met me at the bus stop in the Khandallah village early in the morning of my first school day and we caught the school bus together. At school I met Maria the international student coordinator who took me to get a school uniform and timetable. It was a unique experience for me to get a school uniform as I had never worn one before. Everyone I met at school was very friendly towards me which made it very easy for me to settle here in New Zealand. I have enjoyed all of my lessons with my

teachers at St. Patrick's College. I studied Economics, PE, English, Maths, Science and RE. My teachers were all very approachable. It was a great experience to see how school is in New Zealand. It is quite different to school in Germany. The German school day starts and finishes much earlier and we do not have assemblies, tutor groups and such long lunch breaks.



I also had a good time with Maria and the other international students from Hongkong. We went on a few excursions to Staglands, Read Stones, Botanic Gardens, the Weta Studios in Miramar and Te Papa. With Maria and one other international called Titi we went to Mount Victoria to see one of the Lord of the Rings location.

In a very short time I was accepted into a school football team as a goalkeeper for the U15's 4. We trained twice a week and played inter-school matches every Saturday. My team was very successful and we won the final in an very exciting game against Otaki 2:1. I really enjoyed playing with my team and I will never forget the spectacular final.

I was very fortunate that I also played two games as a right and centre-back in PJ's football team the 5XI. I know I have made lifelong friends in both football teams.

On my 4th weekend in New Zealand I went to my first rugby game, St. Pats

vs Scots. After school, on some Fridays PJ's and my school friends would come to our house to play Fifa.



On my second last weekend my host family and I went skiing on Mount Ruapehu. I really liked this lovely place and I enjoyed being away skiing with my family. We also went to Lake Taupo where PJ and I went jetboating.

All in all it was an awesome experience to stay in New Zealand with a lovely host family and I know I will enjoy lifelong friendships as a result of my time at St. Patrick's College. I have also learnt that New Zealanders are the friendliest people I have ever met!

Thank you for the experience!

