

# Confucius Classroom Trip to China

Henderson Intermediate, 2018

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*"He who returns from a journey is not the same as he who left."*

23 students from Henderson Intermediate School had an exciting and memorable trip to China from 5th to 20th May. The trip has become an annual event for students to be immersed in Chinese language and culture first-hand; to foster relationships with their sister school, Ningbo Experimental School and to motivate students to continue learning Chinese.

Henderson Intermediate School is one of many schools linked with Confucius Institute in Auckland to establish and build their Chinese programme. They have access to a Mandarin Language Assistant and free resources to support their programme. They have access also to the Institute's partner in Shanghai, Fudan University to help coordinate their China trip programme that includes a number of unique experiences.

Most students felt that the whole journey was quite busy, but very interesting and exciting.

"It has been an amazing opportunity to take part in this once in a lifetime experience", said one of those students.

In the first week of their trip, the students studied for their YCT Chinese proficiency exam at Fudan University and visited some famous tourist attractions in Shanghai such as The Bund, Yu Gardens, Oriental Pearl Tower and the ancient water town, Zhujiajiao.



Three days were spent in Ningbo Experimental School to participate in their school assembly day, meet and learn with class buddies, attend Chinese calligraphy and tea making classes, dress up in traditional Chinese clothes and experience family life with homestays.

For one student: "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."

A visit to Beijing for the last days of Henderson Intermediate's journey included The Forbidden City, Beijing Zoo with giant pandas, climbing up the Great Wall and more. For many of the students the highlight of the trip was walking up to the top of the Great Wall. They encouraged each other from the top by shouting down "you're almost there, you got this!"

The students and staff had a great time in China. Each reflected on the amazing adventures they had.

"My biggest highlight was getting the chance to step into another person's shoes and become another person for two weeks, although there was a big culture shock I enjoyed every single day 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," said one student.

For one of the staff: "The experience is equal to no other in my time as a teacher with our school. The learning for us during this trip was invaluable. The sights, the sounds and the people were incomparable experiences."

Many students are keen to go back to China with one who would like to return to study Law at Fudan University. A very successful trip all round.