

Dear Sargood Bequest,

My apologies on not writing to you sooner, but I hope that you would be able to understand the amount of school work I have at the moment trying to catch up for the time I have been away.

Going away for 10months and going through all the good and bad experiences I had, has definitely made me grow. Coming back to NZ makes it easier to realise how I have grown and I know that was not possible without you. Finding passion in a different language is something I never thought I would have, yet now I love being able to speak German and I am entered to do NCEA German which I am very excited about. I met a lot of amazing people while being away who I miss terribly and who I know I will never forget. Meeting people from all around has definitely changed my views on foreigners. You cannot judge people instantly because of the language they speak, or what country they come from. Getting to know people from all around the world has actually had a huge influence on who I am today, and I am very grateful for each and every individual I met. People you met have a bigger influence on you than you realise, and I do things in my day to day life that I know I have learnt or picked up from people I met while being away.

Thinking I would have had time by now to reflect back on my exchange completely on what I learnt, how I changed and why etc., I actually have not yet. Since I have been back, I have been straight back into school and studying and therefore have had little time to reflect back. Having to focus completely on my school studies at the moment has become my first priority. I plan once I have finished studies this year to reflect back on people and places I met and gone and I definitely would love to start planning my next trip back.

There are no words that describe the appreciation I feel towards what you have done for me, allowing myself to experience something so amazing. Exchanges are truly once in a life time opportunities, and although it definitely was not as I expected it would be, I still loved it.

From the bottom of my heart I would like to say 'Thank You' for what you having given me as an individual. This year is something I will never forget, and it has opened doors to any and all possibilities offered to me. It has changed my prospective on a lot of life matters, e.g. what is important/not, and I cannot wait until next year after finishing college to start the next chapter of my life.

Yours Sincerely,

Anna Walsh

