



## The William Colenso College Hong Kong connection

Following are comments from former Colenso students from Hong Kong.



### JACK CHENG – *a real success story.*

I spent four and a half years in a Chinese school in Hong Kong before completing two years at William Colenso College in New Zealand. It was here that I gained the most success I have had since I began my education. As I remember it, I didn't do particularly well when I was studying in Hong Kong. I wasn't near the top of the class. I decided to leave half a year before the HKCEE in order to catch the start of the academic year at Colenso. I selected Napier because of the seasons and the best weather is in Napier. I chose Colenso because I found a wide range of subjects I could choose from and because it is not a big school. Because the classes are small the teachers can respond to our questions quickly. I had some difficulty with both English and academic subjects when I first started at Colenso, but the teachers helped me a lot. They helped me throughout the year and I got on pretty well.

Apart from the academic work, I joined the school badminton team and won some prizes. After the first year I became the International Student representative on the Student Council and the captain of the badminton team. I didn't do the HKCEE exam in Hong Kong, which means I didn't have any qualifications from my Hong Kong education. So I kept studying hard during Year 13 at Colenso and at the end of the year I was awarded the DUX prize. The school DUX is the top academic prize for the year. I think the teachers and my host family helped me a lot – especially the teachers in the science department. They all helped me to become DUX. My host parents always supported me and helped me adjust to an English speaking environment.

*(Jack has since graduated in Aero-Engineering from Hong Kong University).*



That's Jack on the right with his 'DUX' trophy.



## Ada Chang

I came from Hong Kong to study in New Zealand when I was sixteen years old. I studied at William Colenso College in Napier for two years. After I had finished high school I went back to Hong Kong and worked for half a year to get more experience in customer service. I wanted to focus on the airline industry, therefore I decided to come back to New Zealand again and study an airline course in Auckland for three months. I learned a lot of airline knowledge and finished the course successfully. I met a lot of people when I was studying overseas. My homestay and friends were all very kind and friendly. I really enjoyed my life and had a good time in New Zealand.



I still remember the Rotorua trip and the ski trip to Taupo while I was at Colenso. I tried a lot of new things that I never did in Hong Kong and learned the culture of other countries. I remember the hot spa, sky ride and skiing. I had many good experiences and became more independent. The other main thing was that I learned to communicate with people in English.

I now have an unforgettable memory for the rest of my life.

*(Ada is now a senior flight attendant for Dragon Air flying out of Hong Kong)*

## CHERRY LEUNG

I have been in New Zealand for nearly a year. I found it a bit strange at first, but teachers at William Colenso College helped me a lot to get through the difficulties. William Colenso College offers students a diverse range of subjects. Students can choose some basic subjects like Maths, English and Science; but also Classics, Hospitality, Photography, Lifestyles, Art, Outdoor Education and Film. Art is my favourite subject because we get to design what we want. This is different from Hong Kong where we don't have that freedom to develop our own design ideas. The school also provides an extra subject called ESOL specifically for International Students to improve their English.



I had a good time with my host family. My host parents care about me as if I was their own child. I really feel a part of the family when we gather around the fire and watch our favourite TV program every evening. I have also met a lot of supportive and accepting friends. They always include me in activities at school and outside school. I never thought that I would be able to have the chance to experience this type of education system. It has been an enlightening and rewarding year.

*(Cherry continued her education in England)*

## ELAINE SO

I came to New Zealand to study English. I was full of expectation and excitement for this travel because I was hoping to study abroad. There were many choices for me to go overseas to further my studies. I knew a little about New Zealand before. New Zealand has little pollution and is famous for dairy production and wool. It is where the sport of Bungy Jumping was invented. The main reason I chose New Zealand is not only because they use English. It is also cheaper than other countries. The education in New Zealand is similar to that of Britain. There are many things that are different from Hong Kong – such as culture, habits and food.



The houses in New Zealand are big, but not tall or multi-storied. The residents here have their own cars. It feels friendly when they say 'Hi!' and smile at me. At school I have met some new friends who can improve my English and exchange cultures. The area of the school is large and I often got lost at first. Teachers are willing to help us at school. Napier is very tidy – it doesn't have much rubbish although there are not many rubbish bins. I find it quiet here and there are not many people walking on the streets.

I think I will get used to being here