



At Camberwell Girls we welcomed Year 10 German student, Ariane Janssen into Dr Reid's form. You can read about Ariane's experience at Camberwell Girls below.

The last semester at CGGS has been a great experience for me! Everybody is open and friendly and it was a very exciting and interesting experience for me. Not only because it was my first time attending a girls' school, as single-sex schools aren't very common in Germany, but also to dip into the Australian school system, which is in fact quite different to the German one.

The main difference between Australian and German schools is probably how much technology is involved at school. I was amazed to see that every girl at CGGS has either an iPad or a laptop and that every classroom has a digital projector, which is used in almost every lesson and of course SEQTA where I could find all the assignments and information to previous lessons easily. I thought it was very handy, also since the technology used at the school helped me to contact my teacher any time if I had a question. This advanced technology at school is definitely one of the main things that I will miss when I go back to school in Germany, since we don't use any digital technology. Our classrooms consist of a blackboard and an overhead-projector and we study with books and paper.

Something else that I was very surprised about was how many different - and also fun - subjects/electives CGGS has to offer. I had the opportunity to take part in Creative Cuisines, Visual Communication Design, and Business Communication & Marketing, all of which I really enjoyed. This large range of subjects is definitely something I will miss when I go back home, because the German school system has few elective subject choices. Most subjects are compulsory and the only subjects you can choose are which foreign languages you want to take.

Another negative aspect of the German school system is that at the beginning of every lesson the teacher almost always picks any student out of the class and asks questions, on which the student is then marked. The teacher can also set the students a surprise test in any lesson, meaning that every student has to be always prepared for each subject every lesson. This is actually quite difficult, especially since most Year 10 classes have about fifteen different subjects per week.

A few other differences between the two countries are the school hours, the dress code and the house system. The school hours at German schools are from 8 am until 1 pm, and depending on what year level you are in you will have some classes in the afternoon after a lunch break, once or a couple of times a week. This enables school kids to have a lot of spare time for extracurricular activities or to catch up with friends. Regarding the dress code, almost no schools in Germany have a school uniform or any form of dress code at all. This was quite an adjustment for me when I came to CGGS, but also a relief, since I didn't have to think or worry about what to wear to school in the morning and it also spared me quite a bit of time. The last difference to Germany is that German schools have no house system at all, meaning that there is also no House Athletics, House Dance or House Music. So I found it quite enjoyable to experience what it is like to belong to a house and to take part in house events!

I will miss my classmates and teachers and hope that there will be an opportunity to meet again in the future.

Ariane Janssen