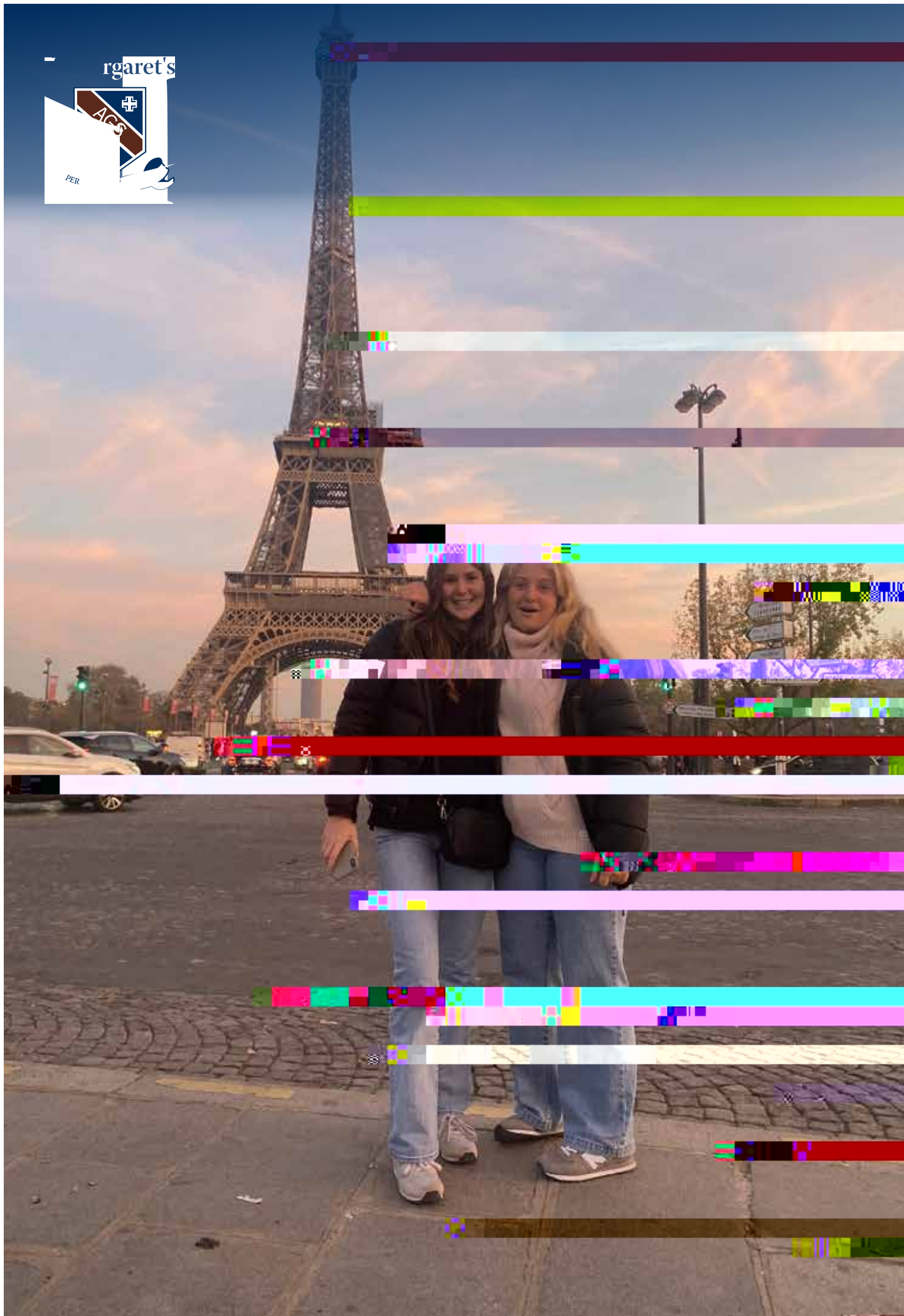






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From the Principal

I am delighted to invite our secondary students to explore the opportunity to participate in the **St Margaret's Global Exchange Program**. This exciting program will afford many girls the chance to study abroad in one of our sister schools in South Africa, New Zealand, Germany, Japan, Canada and the United States of America, as well as the rewarding experience of hosting a student from overseas.

The Exchange Program is an integral part of the School's Goal – *Broadening Horizons* (developed as part of the

Broadening Horizons

Broadening Horizons

The St Margaret's Exchange Program aims to:

1. Supports the school's goal of 'Strengthening the St Margaret's Experience' by ensuring a focus on developing our students' global outlook; specifically, enabling resilient and responsible engagement in a multicultural and globalising world.
2. Support the Christian ethos of the school and seek to facilitate students' knowledge from a global perspective to promote an appreciation, a tolerance and an understanding of the diversity of people and culture.
3. Support the school's goal of 'Focusing on academic excellence' through a personalised learning approach which provides opportunities for students to participate in educational environments that require self-paced and independent learning.
4. Support the integration of technology as a tool for learning and communication as student's access online learning materials to study from abroad.
5. Supports the holistic nature of education as students participate across the breadth and depth of academic and extra-curricular activities. This encourages students to learn to adapt to new environments with different expectations, thus promoting personal growth and the qualities of becoming ambassadors for their family, school and country.
6. Promote in students an inquiring mind and an appreciation of the diversity of learning by providing students with relevant and authentic experiences in the context of the globalisation of education.



1. Students are selected for the Exchange Program on the basis of

Chatham Hall, Chatham, Virginia, USA

Chatham Hall is an all-girls' private boarding and day school in Southern Virginia. Chatham Hall was established in 1894 and has 120 students of which 89% are boarders. Their innovative academic program offers Advanced Placement courses, global study and travel, as well as project-based learning and their athletic teams regularly compete at the State level and their exceptional riding program is nationally recognised. Chatham Hall fosters the intellect and character of each student and, through their Honor Code, live in a community of trust. Grounded in its Episcopal heritage, the school welcomes students of all faiths and backgrounds.

Augusta j

Konan Girls High School, Kobe, Japan

Konan was established in 1920 and incorporates the junior and senior schools. Their focus is to encourage intelligent and independent young women to have dignity and to prepare them for life in a very positive manner. The Konan school motto reads: “Be pure, be just, be gentle and be strong”. The list of extra-curricular activities and clubs on offer

Partner Exchange

Pensionnat du Saint-Nom-de-Marie, Montreal, Canada

Pensionnat du Saint-Nom-de-Marie is a boarding school that found its roots in the love and desire of Eulalie Durocher to work for the Christian education of young people. It was at the foot of Mount Royal, on former agricultural estates of the municipality of Outremont, that

Schools

Shawnigan Lake School, Vancouver Island, BC, Canada

Shawnigan was founded in 1916 as a boys' school, in a then-secluded rainforest on Vancouver Island. In 1988, the school became co-educational and currently boasts a population of 480 students. Four hundred and twenty of the students are boarders, making Shawnigan the largest boarding community in Canada. Nine boarding residences dot the 380 acre rural campus, five houses for boys and four for girls.

There is a full athletics and sporting program on offer to students, as well as a fine arts program and a leadership values-based program.

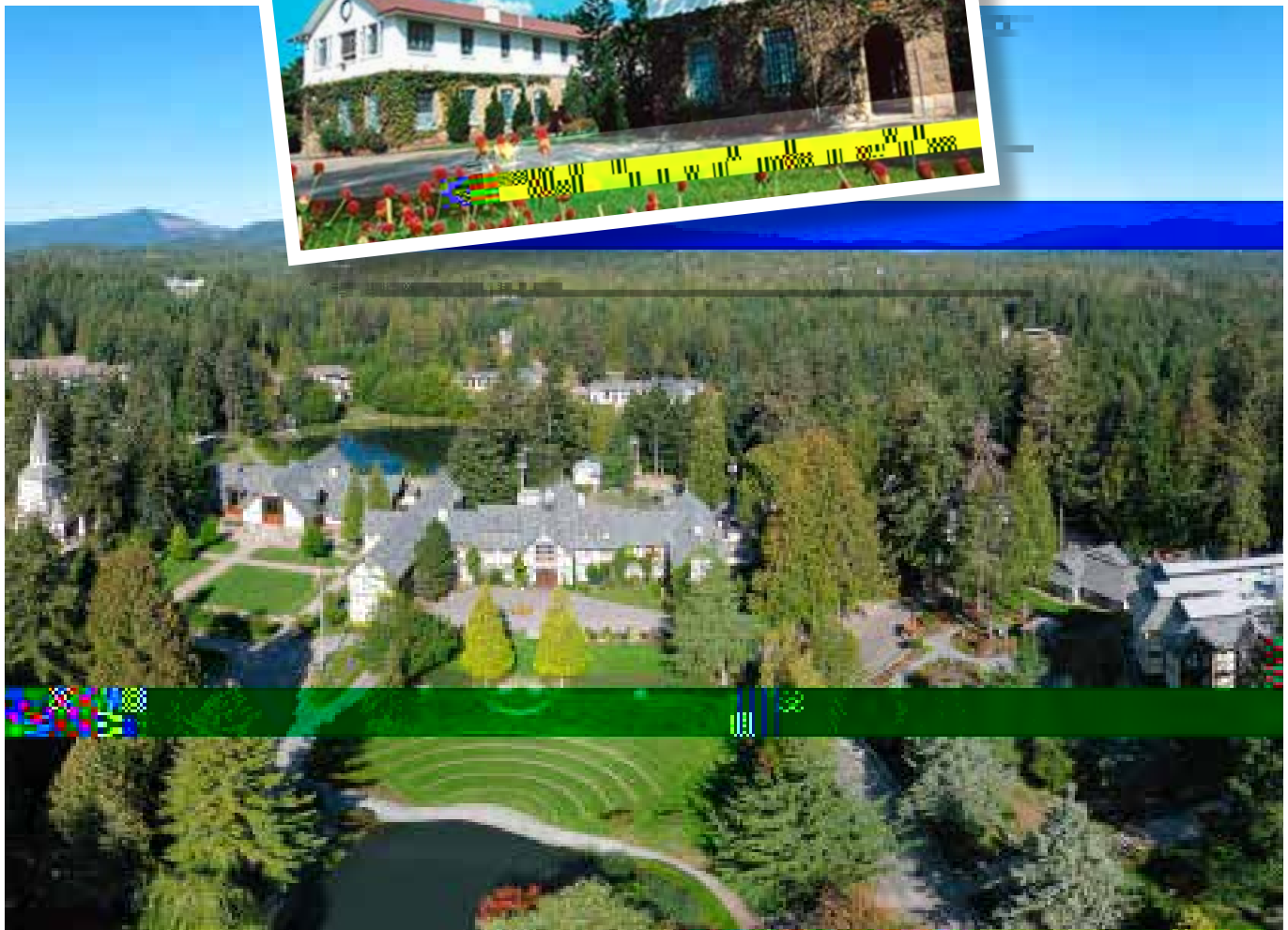
Students from Shawnigan Lake come to St Margaret's in Term 1, and St Margaret's students go to Shawnigan Lake in Term 2. The most convenient flight path is: Brisbane/Vancouver /Vancouver Island.

St Mary's Diocesan School for Girls, Kloof, South Africa

St Mary's was founded in 1906 and is an independent Christian girls' school incorporating the junior and senior schools from Grade R to Matric. The school is day and boarding school of about 965 students, offering boarding from Grade 8.

The school's motto is 'The curiosity to think, the character to thrive,' and their approach is for students to have an all-round education underpinned by the principles of emotional intelligence and a growth mindset. Their teaching philosophy is to equip students with skills for the 21st century, including offering an extensive music and sports program, nurturing participating in the classroom, on the field, the stage and in the community, and encouraging students to embrace their successes and failures to grow in character and confidence.

St Margaret's students go to St Mary's in Term 3, and St Mary's students travel to St Margaret's in Term 4. St Margaret's students fly to Durban and then travel for about 30 minutes by road to St Mary's in Kloof.



South Africa

St Anne's Diocesan College, Hilton, South Africa

I and three other girls were privileged to go on the South African Exchange to Hilton, SA, in Term 3 of 2022, and it is fair to say that it was the best experience I have yet had. During my



St Anne's Diocesan College, Hilton, South Africa

One of the highlights for me would have had to be playing in the St Anne's first basketball team, allowing me to truly immerse myself in schooling life and culture and become fully connected to the community of the school, always feeling overwhelmingly supported by the student sections war cries at every game. Exchange also provided me with the opportunity to make lifelong friendships and connections, some of which were so strong I actually returned to South Africa at the end of the year to visit them again! Inevitably, there were many cultural differences in South Africa compared to Australia. It is allowed me to

New Zealand

Nga Tawa Diocesan School, Marton, New Zealand

All we have to say is how much of an amazing time we had! We went far and wide through New Zealand (even though there wasn't much land to cross). In the first week in Nga Tawa, Marton, even with a few tears in the first couple days, we managed to settle down into the little school very quickly, with the help from all the lovely students, staff and exchange families. When just settling down, we had to quickly pack up for the weekend and head off to Adelaide's (Margot's exchange partner) gorgeous dairy farm in Taranaki. With very limited knowledge of milking cows, Margot and I managed to get the hang of it – although coming across a large amount of cow dung. We followed up that day with early rises and a quick kayak on their lake, finishing off the weekend with a big sleep. The following weekend, we spent at Napier, which is north-east from Palmerston North, where we watched Ashley's mum, Alison, run a half marathon. All throughout school and the weekends, we grew closer to everyone we met. Everyone was so lovely, and very welcoming to us in the new school! The change in size was very drastic and a little weird to be honest, but it was a great experience.

By Margot Behrend and Lily-Kate Charles



St Margaret's College, Christchurch, New Zealand

We were lucky enough to spend 12 weeks at St Margaret's College in Christchurch, New Zealand. Since this was primarily a rowing exchange, we spent our first week on a rowing camp in Twizel, where we spent most of our time at Lake Ruataniwha. Compared to our Brissy River, it was like rowing on glass. When we got back to Christchurch, we were overwhelmed at how quickly everyone welcomed us and soon we got into the rhythm of being SMC girls. Athletics days, pastoral care days, excursions to beaches, a quick trip to Queenstown, numerous Macca's visits, and of course LOTS of rowing: there was so much to do to keep us occupied. Our exchange was such an eye-opening experience. Both of us being day girls in Brisbane, we were able to get a taste of boarding life and we gained a newfound love for home-cooked meals. Being away from home was tough at first, but we opened our arms to this experience and honestly gained so much from it. We are so thankful for being given this wonderful opportunity and would recommend this exchange to anyone who is considering applying.

By Izzy Cox and Lily Devereaux, Term 1, 2017

We are two Year 10 students who participated in the St Margaret's College rowing exchange over in Christchurch New Zealand in Term 1. Liv and I had the most amazing time being a part of the rowing team at the school. We got to participate in many regattas all over the South Island, including the Maadi Cup, which was the big competition we had been training for right at the end of our time there.

We participated in the Maadi Cup, which is a national rowing competition that included every rowing school and rowing club in New Zealand. Maadi is the largest sporting event in the southern hemisphere so the fact we got to experience that with all the girls we had met over on exchange was pretty memorable. Margot and I were both boarders in New Zealand so it was good to experience as Margot and I are both day girls here in Brisbane. The major difference between the New Zealand St Margaret's and our St Margaret's was the school grounds. Most of the buildings were very new and updated. This is due to the 2011 earthquake (img A7 0 Td()Tj06 (ha) (or)-

Canada

Shawnigan Lake School, British Columbia, Canada

Before being given the privilege of going on exchange to Shawnigan Lake School during Term 2 in 2018, I had never stepped foot in another school, let alone a boarding house with sixty other girls. If I didn't say that I found this a massive change to begin with, I would be lying. Nonetheless, it was one I quickly settled into and grew to love over my ten weeks attending the school. Unlike St Margaret's, 95% of the school population are boarders and every day student is still allocated a bed. There are nine separate boarding houses. The boys are split into Duxbury, Lake's, Lonsdale's and Ripley's and the girls are Groves', Kaye's, Renfrew and Strathcona. I was placed into Groves' and, despite my personal bias, it is definitely the best out of the nine.

As a day student, I was slightly apprehensive about transitioning into boarding life, but the acceptance and sense of community within the house was astounding and allowed me to settle in seamlessly. Each girl is placed into a sister group with girls across the grades in the house, and this is used to allocate chores and acts as a closer, tight-knit support group. They are always there for each other and willing to give and share whatever is needed to help another house member. I found this part of the experience to be the most rewarding.

Student Testimonials

Crofton House School, Vancouver, Canada

For two months, we had the incredible opportunity to attend Crofton House School in Vancouver, Canada. The experience was full of fun, excitement and provided countless life lessons along the way. Located in the beautiful neighbourhood of Kerrisdale, just 15 minutes from downtown Vancouver, Crofton House boasts incredible facilities, teaching staff and lovely, intelligent students. We had the chance to get to know many of the girls during classes (including English, Social studies, PE, French, Science, Drama and Film) as well as choir, band (for Sophia) and rowing (for Olivia).

Over the multiple weekends during our stay, we were lucky enough to have been shown around Vancouver by our host families. From the forests, beaches and wildlife to exploring Granville Island, Steveston, Downtown Van and Whistler, it's safe to say we had a wonderfully authentic and well-rounded tour of a city we came to call home for seven and a half weeks.

Thank you to the leadership team for your countless efforts coordinating and making this exchange possible.

By Sophia Colledge and Olivia Garland



USA

Augusta Preparatory Day School, Martinez, Georgia USA

I was fortunate in Term 4, 2022, to spend nine weeks at Augusta Prep School in Georgia, USA. I had such a wonderful time there, and it was a truly amazing experience that I will always cherish. I would highly recommend all girls to apply for the exchange because you can learn important life skills and have great experiences that are once in a lifetime. During my exchange, I was lucky to have many great experiences, including Friday night American football games travelling around the south. I went to Hilton Head Island, Charleston, and Atlanta. All of the places were so different to home, and I am so grateful for the opportunity to be in a new place and surrounded by a different culture. Augusta Prep was a kindergarten to Year 12 co-ed school. I made so many lifelong friendships I hope to return one day and see them all again. I will be forever grateful for this experience,

Japan

Konan Girls High School, Kobe, Japan

As you can probably imagine, Japan was a lot different to Australia. It was so cold there for a Queenslander. We had monsoons and earthquakes (in Okinawa) but nothing to worry about!

The first week for me was difficult because my Japanese was terrible and I was pretty much mute for the first couple of days. I felt sorry for my host family because all I said was Hai (yes) to everything. But saying yes to everything was actually good, because in the first week I had a lot of food I usually wouldn't eat which was a surprise. I lived in Kobe, a town about an hour's train ride from Osaka. Probably the thing that was most different at Konan is that we didn't have morning tea, only lunch, so Claire and I were starving by the time lunch came around. We also had indoor and outdoor shoes and there were sliding doors.

I went to Kyoto and saw a Gold Palace which was absolutely beautiful. I also went to Osaka and Nara, where I was attacked by a deer! Japan was so eye-opening. I think the whole aura of being in a country like Japan was awesome.

B. J. D. B.



Germany

Ursulinenschule Hersel,



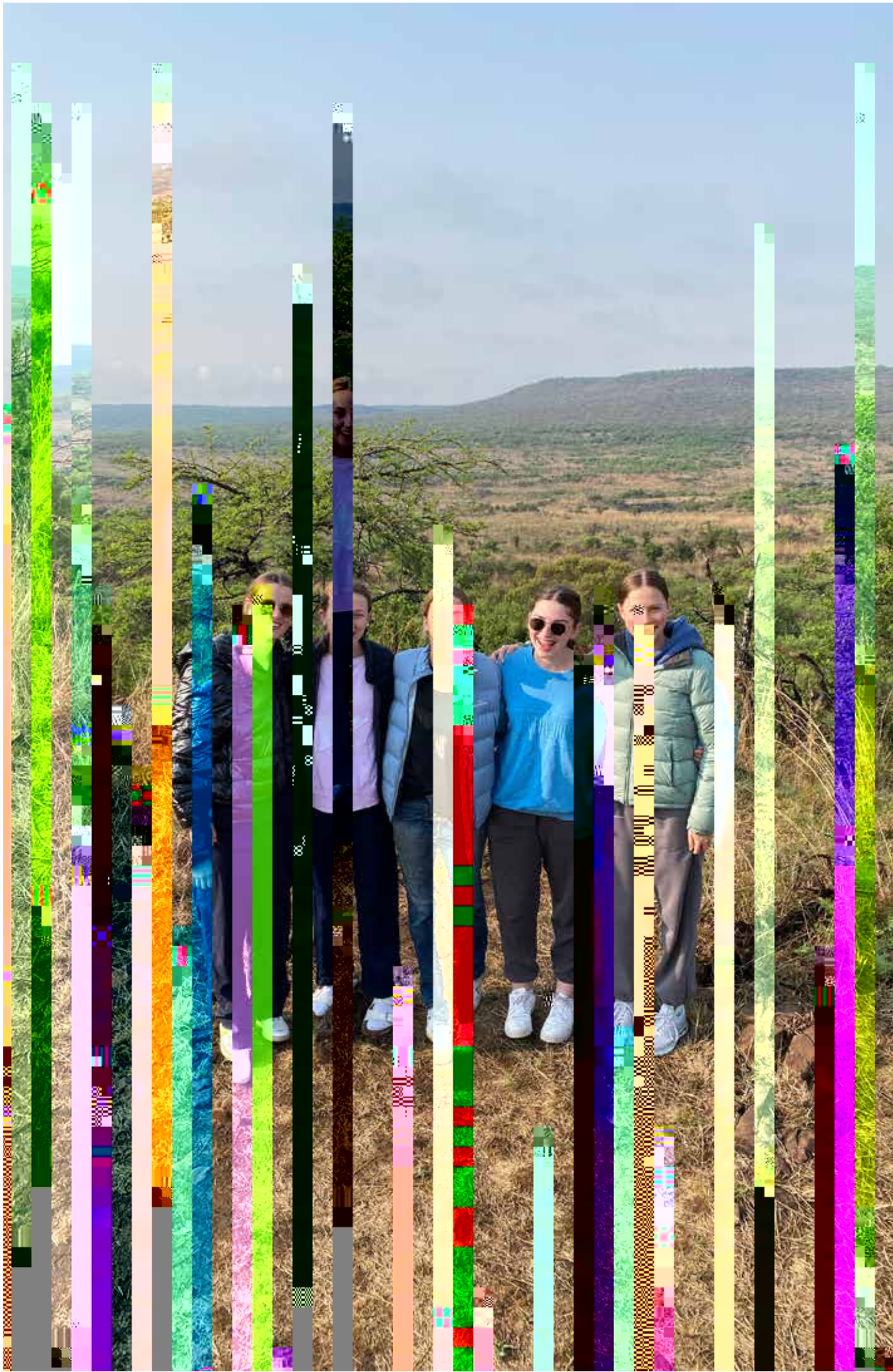
Australia

Exchange Experience at St Margaret's

Exchange has been an inexplicable experience. Words cannot describe how amazing our time has been. From weekends at the beach to numerous adventures with each other and our exchange partners, it has all been worthwhile. The St Margaret's community has not only welcomed us into their family but also into their Year

Both our family and our daughter benefited from this program. It was a positive experience all round, and created opportunities for our daughter in language, personal development, and pushing her boundaries. St Margaret's and the host school, Pensionnat du Saint-Nom-de-Marie in Montreal were well prepared and the exchange went very smoothly. We feel very lucky to have been a part of the program and to have made new friends in a beautiful city.





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