

Richmond School



Press Release

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TITLE: Trip to India leaves lasting impression

In July, 24 students and staff from Richmond School travelled to live and work at Amala Children's Home in Tamil Nadu, Southern India. This was the first time that Richmond School have been involved in this project, and a huge amount of time and effort has been spent over the past 12 months fundraising to enable the trip to go ahead and to give financial support to the home and its adjoining school. Pupils, staff and parents from Richmond School have taken part in raising money, and there has been a huge amount of support from the local community.

The children's home is situated in an extremely rural and impoverished part of southern India; quite a contrast for the Richmond team! It was set up in 1995 to provide a place to live, an education, and a family for boys and girls of all ages, many of whom come from families who are unable to care for them, or have no family at all. While there, the Richmond students and staff helped out around the home, played with and cared for the children, taught lessons in the adjoining school, and spent their evenings helping to train the teachers and sharing information about each other's cultures.

As Tracey Higgins, a Year 12 from Richmond School commented, *'My favourite part was teaching science to Standard VI; every day we walked into the classroom to a sea of excited faces. All the students were desperate to learn, and when they understood what we were teaching them you could see the delight spread across their face. But it wasn't just the students, the high school science teacher was desperate to see what we did with the class and how we taught difficult concepts such as weight. Our lessons in the high school caused excitement with lots of teachers visiting to see what we were up to, whether it was cutting up plants to learn the parts, or throwing water bombs to show weight. I wished I could have brought every member of the class home, as they were all delightful and intelligent individuals.'*

In addition, the money raised by the Amala Action Team has gone towards helping the school to purchase a new school bus, and those involved in the trip would like to pass on their thanks to all who supported them in the fundraising.

This is an experience which has had a profound effect on all involved in the visit. As Eleanor Papadimos, also a Year 12 student, reflected, *'My time in Amala is definitely one I will always remember, and I know that along with the others I had such an amazing time that I will always think about going back.'*



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