Over 40 of our past international students attended a reunion at ELTHAM College City Campus in August. Reunions are a wonderful opportunity for past students to reconnect and share their experiences after leaving ELTHAM College. Some of the past students who attended the event are currently undertaking courses in a wide variety of fields from a Bachelor of Commerce, Bachelor of Science, Masters of Accounting, through to Interior Design and Pastry Chef. It was great to see so many young people pursuing a variety of different passions and careers both in Australia and overseas. Some students travelled down from Sydney where they are currently studying at University of NSW, and one student who is currently living and studying in New York, was able to attend with his partner. The reunion is also an important opportunity for our current international students to make connections with our alumni base, so these links can continue to grow as students leave ELTHAM. Current Year 12 International Captain, Venus Yeung, gave a heartfelt speech thanking Judy Rothacker for her contribution to the International Program at ELTHAM. We look forward to sharing more experiences with our past students at the 2016 ELTHAM College International Student Reunion.
AMICUS and Yan’An Visits

During Term 3, ELTHAM resonated with the diverse accents of our visitors from schools in Okinawa, Beijing, Montpelier and Shanghai. Students from AMICUS International School and Yan’An Middle School spent time in the Junior and Middle Years, building connections with their buddies. These schools have both signed agreements with ELTHAM to share educational knowledge and foster links between campuses. These visits strengthened the ties between our schools and provided an opportunity for our local students studying French and Chinese to both practice their language skills and gain a greater cultural understanding of other countries. Students from both the AMICUS and Yan’An groups visited various landmarks and enjoyed the spectacular sights of Melbourne, expanding their understanding of Australian life.

Here is an extract from speeches delivered by both teachers and students from the Yan’An Middle School:

“The way of teaching and learning here is absolutely different from China. There is no doubt that these experiences will broaden the student’s horizons and improve their English. ELTHAM College is so beautiful, the students could study happily and comfortably here. During the period, all the students exchanged languages, ideas and cultures, and also tried to seek common ground while understanding differences. A proverb in the National Gallery of Victoria impressed me a lot, that is “We hope you discovered what you love”. I think the students have discovered what they love here during their learning and travel”.

Lucy Huang – Teacher at Yan’An Middle School

“I am Sunny Sun, a Year 6 student from Shanghai Yan’An Middle School, China. I’m honoured to stand here to share my experience and to be a representative to express our gratitude to all the homestay families, teachers, students and other officers who make great efforts to take care of us, to help us and to guide us. In ELTHAM College, we have some intriguing classes, which amaze us by the totally different teaching approach and various campus activities. To me, the huge excitement in my heart is the friends I have made in the school. I hope we all have a good school life and a bright future. I think we really had a great time in Australia. Every day is a new and unimaginable challenge. I’m sure we’ll remember this ‘different’ and ‘stylish’ life in ELTHAM College.”

Sunny Sun – Year 6 Student at Yan’An Middle School
Captain’s Reflection

The life of an ELTHAM student is often beautifully simple. We flood the heated corridors at around 8.30am each day, filling the College with vibrancy. As the day nears 4.00pm, the classrooms empty and we make our way back to our homes or to the many sporting grounds, recital halls or workplaces where ELTHAM students spend their free time. Consequently, we are often oblivious to the comings and goings of those that make ELTHAM the amazing place it is. Whether it is the teachers who work tirelessly to make us strong, independent learners or the cleaners who help make the school a comforting, warm and homely environment, ELTHAM College is filled with passionate people who live and breathe ELTHAM. I count myself so lucky to have not only been given the opportunity to be a student at ELTHAM College for the past six years, but also the opportunity to be a College Vice-Captain.

My name is Darcy and I am one of the six College Captains for 2015. When asked to write a reflection of my time at ELTHAM, I was unsure of what I had that’s worth saying. I am not the top of the class student, I am not the elite sportsmen and I am not the prodigious musician. However, I believe this is exactly what I have that’s worth saying: ELTHAM College is not a school where only the best are celebrated, and it is not a school where we are taught that being the best is our goal. ELTHAM celebrates the individual, and all that encompasses every student, from the youngest at ELC to the Year 12s who will be ending a large part of their ELTHAM journey in the not too distant future. ELTHAM has opened every door for me I could have ever thought possible, and as an outgoing student I feel, for lack of a less cheesy expression, ready to tackle the world head on.

In my role as Vice-Captain, I’ve been able to experience parts of the school that not every student is lucky enough to experience. The work that goes on behind closed doors, and outside the regular school hours, is phenomenal. I’ve come to realise that no event simply happens; no assembly magically comes to fruition. It is the staff, parents, students and alumni of ELTHAM that make this, in my humble opinion, an amazing, amazing place to live and learn. When I think of 2016 and beyond, I have no doubt that ELTHAM will continue to grow, and will continue to push the boundaries and concepts of traditional education.

I look forward to witnessing this from a new perspective!

Darcy French
ELTHAM College Vice-Captain 2015

AFL Excursion

Approximately 20 international students and staff attended the Fremantle vs. Richmond match held on July 25 at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) on a beautiful Saturday afternoon. The day proved to be a dynamic introduction for the students to the Australian Football League (AFL) at its best in Melbourne. Some students were perhaps more interested in the pies and sausage rolls than the actual match however their enjoyment in the outing was readily apparent.
Homestay Dinner

On Monday 31 August the annual Year 12 Homestay Dinner was held at our very own Swipers Gully restaurant. This is an important event in our graduating students’ calendars and is an opportunity to both congratulate the students on their achievements, as well as thank the homestay families for their support and care of the students during their final year of study at ELTHAM. Current Year 11 student Iris Liu played a traditional Chinese instrument called the Hulusi, as well as the piano, to entertain guests throughout the evening. ELTHAM students currently undertaking Hospitality as part of their coursework provided the service both waiting on and preparing high quality meals for the guests. It was a wonderful evening with great food, service and memories for the students and their homestay families to share.

Right Top: Some of the graduating students with teachers Clare Sansom and Nick Grant
Right Bottom: Iris Liu playing the Hulusi

Farewell Judy

We would like to say farewell to Ms Judy Rothacker who completes her time at ELTHAM College this term. Judy has been on the staff for the past 25 years both as a teacher and as Director of International Students. Judy has built the International Program into a strong and caring experience. She is kind and a great supporter of students, parents and the ‘adoptive’ homestay families. We will miss Judy and we wish her all the best for the years ahead.

In recognition of the respect the College has for the International Student Program, the Principal, Simon Le Plastrier, will be taking responsibility for the ongoing relationship with our partner agents and Schools. Mr Le Plastrier, together with our dedicated International Team, looks forward to further enhancing the International Program at ELTHAM College, while continuing to provide positive and meaningful opportunities for students to study abroad.