

## Overseas Leadership Training Programme (New Zealand)

<b>Name of Programme:</b>	Reconnecting Horizons: A Kiwi-Chinese Soaring Eagle Expedition
<b>Targets:</b>	The program reconnects with alumni, Chinese culture, and nature. It deepens our understanding of the Belt and Road Initiative, fosters belonging, and inspires future global leaders to contribute to the project.
<b>Destination:</b>	New Zealand (Auckland, Dunedin and Christchurch)
<b>Period:</b>	28 June 2023 – 10 July 2023
<b>Participating Teachers:</b>	Ms. Lee Wai Sze and Ms. Lai Lok Yi
<b>Participating Students:</b>	20 F.1 – F.4 students
<b>Organizer:</b>	Youth Development Commission

### (1) Reasons for joining the programme

The travel restrictions of the past four years have limited our cultural experiences, hindering our ability to explore other countries and broaden our horizons. However, as the world recovers, opportunities like a leadership program with international travel emerge. Such programs not only enhance leadership skills but also expose participants to different cultures and perspectives. By taking part, we hope to gain a new understanding of the world, appreciate diverse perspectives, and foster personal growth. As travel becomes feasible again, we eagerly anticipate the chance to immerse ourselves in new cultures, connect with people from around the world, and expand our global outlook.

## (2) Itinerary

Date	Activities	Place / Remarks
30 June 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• School visit</li><li>• School exchange</li><li>• City exploration with local students and teachers</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• John McGlashan College</li><li>• St. Hilda's Collegiate School</li><li>• Baldwin Street</li><li>• St Clair Beach</li><li>• Signal Hill</li></ul>
1 July 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• City exploration with local students and teachers</li><li>• Guided stargazing trip</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• University of Otago</li><li>• Otamo Farmers' Market</li><li>• Lake Tekapo</li></ul>
2 July 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sightseeing</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lake Tekapo</li></ul>
3 July 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hop-on Hop-off bus city exploration</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• New Brighton Sea</li><li>• Willowbank Wildlife Reserve</li></ul>
4 July 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A technical visit to International Atlantic Centre</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• International Atlantic Centre</li></ul>
5 July 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Attending workshops about tourism industry, Belt and Road Initiative and Maori culture</li><li>• Exchange with local students</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• International Travel College</li></ul>
6 July 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Guided art gallery tour</li><li>• Guided walking tour</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Auckland Art Gallery Toi O Tamaki</li><li>• Auckland Central Business District</li></ul>
7 July 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• University Visit</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Messi University</li></ul>

- Tree planting volunteering work
- Rosebank Peninsular
- Dinner with locals and Chinese

**8 July 2023**

- Guided tour
- Hobbiton Movie Set
- Waitomo Glowworm Caves

**9 July 2023**

- Church service and tea party
- St Luke's Methodist church
- Gathering at alumni's family

### (3) Most impressive moments

A standout memory was our visit to St. Hilda girl's school. Ruby, a student from St. Hilda, joined our group of six. She gave us a tour, showcasing the school's facilities. Together with the vice principal, Mrs. Joint, we made delicious sausage rolls. We savored our creations while chatting with international students. Later, we braved the challenge of Baldwin Road, the world's steepest road. Despite the 350-meter climb, we reached the top, gasping for breath but exhilarated. To top it off, the principals took us to a mountaintop where we marveled at the breathtaking view of the Pacific Ocean and Dunedin. Unforgettable moments indeed.

We also visited the Willowbank Wildlife reserve and had a remarkable encounter with the endangered kiwi bird. We also saw other captivating animals such as the tuatara, kea parrots, and the playful New Zealand fur seals, deepening our appreciation for the country's unique wildlife.

### (4) Reflection and Learning

Our journey provided us with insightful reflections on life, self, and the world around us. Learning about Māori culture and their tattooing tradition emphasized the significance of preserving and respecting diverse cultures. We

discovered that each tattoo carries a profound historical meaning, deepening our appreciation for the richness of cultural heritage.

Facing challenges like unpredictable weather highlighted the importance of effective communication within our group. We realized that our lack of communication skills resulted in missed opportunities and wasted time. This experience taught us the value of clear and open communication, fostering teamwork to overcome obstacles and make the most of our experiences.

Overall, our overseas trip served as a transformative learning experience. It broadened our horizons by exposing us to different cultures and their unique traditions. We gained a deeper understanding of the world's diversity and the importance of preserving and respecting cultural heritage. Moreover, the challenges we encountered taught us valuable life lessons about adaptability, collaboration, and effective communication, shaping our perspectives on personal growth and navigating future endeavors.

## (5) Photos



Photo 1: Capturing the beauty of Lake Tekapo, we pose for a lovely photo against the stunning backdrop.



Photo 2: The Vice Principal and local students from St. Hilda's Collegiate School graciously guide us on a tour of the University of Otago.





Photo 3: At St. Hilda's Collegiate School, the Vice Principal demonstrates the art of making delicious sausage rolls.



Photo 4: We prepare a mini presentation on the unique school life of students from Hong Kong, sharing it with our peers at St. Hilda's Collegiate School.



Photo 5: Our time spent with the alumni family is filled with joy and meaningful connections.



Photo 6: At Auckland Art Gallery Toi O Tamaki, our guide enlightens us on how artists incorporate Maori culture elements into their artworks.





Photo 7: Engaging in a role-play activity at the International Travel College, we step into the shoes of flight attendants, gaining hands-on experience



Photo 8: The International Atlantic Centre offers us an immersive experience, simulating the sensations of being in the Atlantic.





Photo 9: With excitement, we attempt to feed the animals at Willowbank Wildlife Reserve, immersing ourselves in their natural habitat.



Photo 10: We find solace and harmony as we come together to share the hymn "As the Deer" at St. Luke's Methodist Church.