Principal’s update
FROM THE HEAD OF SENIOR SCHOOL

"There are many benefits of travel abroad for Senior School students."

Mr Stewart Ross

In the upcoming term break, I will be taking a group of students, parents and staff on a trip to Peru and Bolivia visiting such places as Cusco, part of the Amazon, Machu Picchu, Lake Titicaca and its floating islands and the highest capital in the world, La Paz. I have been conducting such trips for decades with features including the experience of a different culture to our own (in this case Incan and Spanish), a physical challenge (the famous Inca Trail) and importantly a social service component or interaction with local people.

This will be the second time All Saints’ has visited this region and we have conducted similar trips to Nepal. The College values overseas experiences and you would recall our recent academically based venture to Rome, London and Paris. We plan to do a similar trip in 2016. All Saints’ has also conducted sporting trips overseas and we have visited Japan in the past. It is likely that we will have a tour to Japan in the future visiting our sister school within a few years.

There are many benefits of travel abroad for senior school students. Such experiences have a huge impact on their lives by expanding their horizons and changing the way they see the world. Almost all students return from their time abroad with a much larger and in-depth understanding of the world and its many cultures. During their experiences, they are able to grow as individuals and receive an education that they cannot from other sources.

Other benefits include:
- Increased independence, maturity, confidence and self-awareness
- Enhances social competence through confronting challenges beyond their familiar environment and comfort zone, and
- Opportunities to be ambassadors for the College.

We as teachers can also benefit as being part of the tour (depending on the exact nature of the trip and itinerary) with insight into and professional engagement with different education systems and opportunities to develop rapport with colleagues and students outside the everyday school community. There are also benefits for the college community which could include a college that promotes a sense of belonging for students, supports students’ personal growth and prepares students for success in an increasing globalised and connected world. It also enhances connectedness between participants, their families and the College.

Many families realise that travelling overseas is expensive. It is true - with rising airfare costs, accommodation and meals, travel can come at a high price tag. We endeavour at All Saints’ to give a good lead time so families can plan in advance. A particular idea I like is for parents to match dollar for dollar for what their son or daughter can raise through working part time. I believe students will value their trip even more if they have had to raise some of the money themselves.

Most importantly, investing in travel is like investing in education - the results can be intangible but extremely valuable. You can learn much more than you do from a textbook or a class lecture - and perhaps remains in your mind for much longer.