

Exchange Student from South Africa

My name is Sonaly Ambelal, I am from Johannesburg, South Africa and I am 16 years old. My favourite things to do are traveling, drawing and listening to music. I love to experience different environments and cultures to broaden my view of the world. I have a younger brother and my whole family is always encouraging me to aim for what I truly want. I would like to become a pilot when I am older and explore the world. Observing people interests me and makes me want to learn more about the differences in our lives. I love the company of good friends and like to have a good time. I am adventurous and willing to try new things and I care a lot about the people I love.



■ My Exchange Experience:

I can never express accurately how amazing this experience was for me. Although I had to face some uneasy times and pull through being home sick I'll never be able to forget the people I have met on this exchange programme. Ananya's family has been absolutely lovely in hosting me, they have been nothing but caring and welcoming and made sure I'm always comfortable. I have made such amazing friends and I'm very sad to have to leave them behind. This exchange has pushed me to open and put myself out there and all the people around me have made it very easy to feel like I fit in. Everything about this exchange has changed me for the better, I feel like I have opened and come out of my shell. I thoroughly enjoy the school days where I have been free to involve



myself in activities I enjoy and explore what the school has to offer such as Kathak, guitar and art. Being in an all-girls school in South Africa has showed me how different the environment can be with both boys and girls in school and it has made me enjoy school more. I would like to thank the school for making sure I enjoy my time here and allowing me to do what I enjoy. I would also like to say a huge thank you to the Sharma family for hosting me and making me feel part of their family, I will without a doubt come back to visit. I will definitely miss everyone I have met on this exchange programme and I am truly grateful to everyone who had made this life changing experience possible.



■ About Roedean School:

Roedean School is an extremely hard-working school which provides us with lots of opportunities to excel. Roedean offers us with lots of activities to develop our learning and open us to the real world. We have lots of Round Square service learning projects and involve ourselves in lots of community service. Roedean offers a variety of cultural, sport and academic activities to ensure you are an all rounded person. I take part in Squash and Hockey and learn Guitar outside of school. Our academic day is very full, and we are always working hard to make sure we are on top of it. Roedean inspires a life of significance in every girl that attends the school. Without Roedean I wouldn't have been able to come on exchange and I am extremely grateful for that.

