

## **Ilia's Diary**

### **(27/10 to 02/11 2017 Blog)**

27/10/2017

Day 25 - Friday - I think the students are becoming more accustomed to a resident Westerner here at their school. Many are quite chatty, and are certainly not as shy as when I first arrived. I also believe that listening to a Briton's accent and a different way of speaking English will be beneficial to them, as most of the students are more used to an American accent than a British one. I also helped my host brother with his English homework again, of which he had a lot. However, he worked extremely well and we got it all finished in about 2 hours.

28/10/2017

Day 26 - Saturday - This morning I left the apartment at 8am and got a lift with Kate and some college friends to Danshui. In the morning we went to a church meeting and saw the supposedly 'ancient' Oxford college (135 years old = ancient here), and afterwards we took a walk along the coastline through the market with a group of really lovely people from the meeting. We bought a variety of snacks, including fried mushrooms, fried squid, some smoky candy, Turkish delight and pineapple cake, of which I bought a batch to bring home to my host family. Since all of the labels were in mandarin though, I actually ended up buying mochi cake instead, which was an odd surprise when they opened it later that night.

29/10/2017

Day 27 - Sunday - At the beginning of the day I went to a cooking competition with my host family since some of their family relatives were competing in it. They actually ended up doing excellently and won NT \$10,000. Afterwards, when all of the prizes had been handed out, we drove to my host brothers' primary school, where a PTA welcome gathering was being organised for all of the new PTA members. We had a delicious lunch at the school, and then I looked after one of my host brothers by playing badminton with him and his younger friends. I was definitely cheating, just by being double their height, but even so they were all good natural players.

30/10/2017

Day 28 - Monday - I basically just sorted out a presentation on Germany this morning, and at 2 o'clock I was reminded by some of the ninth graders that I had promised to take a photo with them for their yearbook photos. The boy who came to remind me was extremely confident in his English and spoke it almost fluently, and I later found out he had lived in Australia for 2 years, which is pretty cool to know! Once I had taken the photo with their class, Kate and I went into Taipei on the MRT, and had dinner at Ding Tai Fung, near Taipei 101, before going to a display on the history behind the Church and significant events that influenced or were influenced by it, with a large focus paid towards its development in China and Taiwan.

31/10/2017

Day 29 - Tuesday - This morning I again gave my presentation on Scotland, and later, after the school day was over, I went shopping at NET for some new clothes. A new thing I love about Taiwan is how cheap the stores are here. I will probably need to buy another suitcase for my return journey from Taiwan in February.

01/11/2017

Day 30 - Wednesday - After the school day, I worked with teacher Kate on my Mandarin, and found that I am unable to tell the difference between 子(zi) and 子(ci), or 止(zhi) and 子(chi). They just sound the same to me! I guess I simply have to keep practicing.

02/11/2017

Day 31 - Thursday - Up until this moment (12 o'clock) I again introduced Scotland and Dollar to another grade 7 group, and then again to teachers from other schools at a CCOC meeting at 9am. I found it really interesting to share my presentation with an older audience, and I did notice that more people understood my English this time around. But honestly, I've been promoting Dollar Academy so much, I feel like my old school should be paying me for doing it! And currently I am late for handing in this new copy of my blog, so I apologise for any mistakes in the latest version. I rushed it.