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Miss Surrest  
Year 5/6 Teacher  
Brookvale Public School  
2 Old Pittwater Road  
BROOKVALE NSW 2100

30<sup>th</sup> March 2014

Dear Miss Surrest

I have almost completed my first term of high school at Northern Beaches Secondary College - Mackellar Girls Campus, and I am writing to let you know about the school and about my experience here.

Mackellar Girls is a school with very high expectations, both academically and in relation to our uniform and behaviour. I believe the focus on high standards is a good thing, and helps the students achieve excellent results. In the 2013 HSC, Mackellar Girls ranked number 3 out of all the comprehensive schools in NSW, and number 1 on the Northern Beaches. I believe the emphasis on uniform and behaviour is really important, as it helps to maintain the image of the school in the community. It also helps us students take pride in our appearance and understand what behaviour is and isn't acceptable, preparing us for the workforce and the real world.

I was initially worried about going to a really big school (of 1300 girls) after being at a very small primary school (of 165 students), but I had nothing to worry about. The girls at the school are very friendly and welcoming. I have made many new friends in my year, and have even found the girls in the older years very approachable. One day when I was at the Mall after school, the School Captain came up to me and asked me how I was finding the school. I was amazed that a student in Year 12 would go out of their way to be friendly to a Year 7 student. It is these little things that make me feel really comfortable and happy, and make me really proud to be a part of this school.

I am also impressed by the teachers and the range of subjects. I am really enjoying the novel work in English (we just completed a project on Blueback by Tim Winton), doing experiments in Science, and learning foreign languages (we are studying French this term, followed by Japanese and German). The teachers are very enthusiastic and motivating, and even though they give us a lot of homework (compared with primary school), the work is really interesting and enjoyable. I am fortunate enough to be in the Academic Program, and having additional opportunities. We are currently doing a 5 day Academic Project on Equality, where we investigate the concept of equality, discuss different aspects of equality and inequality, and work on a group presentation. Our group is working on a short film about Poverty (the greatest inequality in the world), and on the weekend we filmed with the backdrop of the beach sand representing the sand dunes of Afghanistan. There is also a large range of extra-curricular activities available to all students (in music, sport and other interests). I have joined the school choir, and will be representing the school in a Futsal competition this term.

Overall, in the short time I have been at this school, I have been extremely impressed by all aspects of it – from the high standards of work and behaviour, to the friendliness of the students, to the schoolwork and the teachers, and to the opportunities available. I would highly recommend this school to any girl looking for a high school that will help them achieve their best in a friendly and caring environment.

Yours sincerely

*Ebony-Ella*



Ebony-Ella

