YEAR 11 STUDENTS RETURN FROM INDONESIAN TOUR

As Christians, God calls us to love Him by loving and serving others. As a response to this call, Navigator College has worked closely with the Lutheran Church in Indonesia (GKPS), building a partnership with one of its schools and orphanages. A pivotal aspect of this partnership is the opportunity for Year 11 students to visit the school (SMA GKPS) and the BKM Orphanage as part of the Service Learning program.

This year, 15 Year 11 students travelled over to North Sumatra to take part in the Service Learning trip. They experienced first-hand the living conditions that many Indonesian people live in, and the culture that they live by. They were confronted with issues such as Palm Oil plantations, transport, cold showers and squat toilets. Not to mention some slightly exotic food!

The obvious focus of the trip is service. There were many ways in which this manifested itself, but a significant amount of time was dedicated to teaching English in the school, a skill which for many Indonesian students is their ticket for employment other than farm work. Each Navigator student taught English to the SMA GKPS Yr. 10 and 11 students, as well as themselves learning some Indonesian language and cooking. Everyone grew in their music ability as well, with a daily dose of singing and dancing!

The students also had the opportunity to visit the BKM Orphanage. This certainly was a highlight of the trip, as students built and developed relationships with the children there. It was certainly a blessing when the Navigator students were presented with an Ulos (a formal hand-woven garment worn at celebrations) from the children at the orphanage – a valuable gift from those who have so little.

A TRULY UNIQUE AND LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCE FOR STUDENTS

“I think it really confirmed for me just how underserving I am of being more privileged than other people in the world and fuelled a passion to contribute to better distribution of resources and just general love, like they do, wherever I can. I've got a lot to work on.”

Sarah Murchison

“A highlight of this trip was definitely teaching. Interacting with the students and helping them to learn is rewarding in so many ways.”

Stacey Hier

“The Service Learning Trip to Indonesia was an amazing and life-changing experience. Not only was I given the opportunity to connect and inspire those living in the places we were lucky enough to visit, but the loving and generous nature of the Indonesian culture helped me see how incredibly fortunate I am.”

Michaela Webb

As Jesus says: “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for the least of these… you did for me.” Matthew 25:40