



at this school, and it is almost impossible to immerse yourself in all of them, but to try, is to put your best foot forward.

The service opportunities I have been a part of, I believe have been where I have truly learned the most about myself. In year 9, I fully immersed myself into the Friday Night School program. Located at St Ignatius Richmond, the program is held every Friday night during the school term, and is designed to allow senior school students to tutor younger students of refugee backgrounds, to take some of the pressure off their parents who may not have the same ability to help them with their work. Unlike many, I never had a "regular" tutee that I would tutor each week, instead, my role was to sub in for those whose tutors were away. Although this meant at the start of each session, I was faced with the challenge of earning their respect as a tutor, this was easily overcome, and I believe I was able to get so much more out of the experience. I had the opportunity to tutor a variety of kids, each of different ages, abilities, and nationalities with a range of different stories, and personalities, allowing me to deeper understand the diversity of our community in Melbourne. Finishing at 6 o'clock, there was still plenty of time to spend my Friday night how I wanted to, so making the sacrifice of a few hours each week, to genuinely better the lives of others, was a truly awesome experience, and one I would strongly recommend.

In Year 9, I signed up for the World Challenge expedition to Costa Rica. As the name would suggest, the experience was undoubtedly, a challenge. I raised the money to fund the trip through movie nights, garage sales and online selling, and was off to Costa Rica at the close of the first term of Year 10. I had signed up with just one other close mate and had just come off the back of a significant surgery, so was nervous to travel overseas with a group of people that weren't my family for the first time in my life, but I was determined to put my best foot forward. And let me tell you, this trip was one of the greatest experiences of my life. I struggled with home sickness at times, and the places we stayed were far from glamorous, with nothing but a cold face washer to keep cool at night in the boiling heat. The 44-kilometre hike across 4 days in the Costa Rican incline and forest terrain caused several to faint or throw up, and it didn't help that a bunch of native ants decided to set up shop down my hiking boot and form large itchy puss-filled bites that I would have to walk with for the following days. But thanks to the team spirit and pre-downloaded Inbetweeners episodes being played on low brightness to conserve charge at night, everyone continued

to push through and make it to the end, where we got to swim in one of the most beautiful beaches and enjoy a cold sprite at the final destination. Some of my best friends were made on that trip, and equally, some of my best memories were formed, which if I had



