

## Good Morning Vietnam!

During the recent term break a small group of Sale College students accompanied by two teachers flew to Vietnam for a Study Tour. It was ten excited and slightly nervous Sale College Students that met at Melbourne International Airport to embark on their tour.

The group flew into Ho Chi Minh in the late afternoon and were transferred to their hotel in the middle of District 1. The first thing the students noticed out the bus window was the amount of scooters on the road and the number of people that were squeezed onto one scooter. At first they found the traffic, smells and chaos of Saigon were a bit overwhelming, but adjusted to their new surroundings quickly. Some of the cultural highlights of Ho Chi Minh City they experienced were the Cu Chi Tunnels, Reunification Palace, Notre Dame Cathedral and the War Remnants Museum.

After three nights in Ho Chi Minh City they flew to Hoi An where the differences were immediate. As Hoi An has a UNESCO listed 'Old Town' which is closed to motorised traffic for a period over the day, this allowed students a lot more freedom than Saigon to wander around and take in some of the sights of the town. Whilst there, the students participated in a traditional Vietnamese cooking class.

The ancient capital of Hue was the next destination with a bus ride over the famous Hai Van Pass and the students were impressed by the old citadel. An overnight train trip from Hue followed to the capital Hanoi. For the students it was a special experience sleeping on a train and arriving in the capital at 4:30am and seeing the city wake. An incredible day was spent taking in all the sights of Hanoi before they flew home to Melbourne.

A big thank you goes to Sale RSL Club for their kind donation toward the study tour. The Study Tour enabled the students to learn about and experience, a culture very different to that of Australia.