

# Melanie Venet, graduate of Shanghai Community International School (SCIS), Pudong Campus, is going to Pitzer College in Claremont, California to study environmental analysis.

First of all I feel relieved to have finally completed High School, it's nice knowing that part of my education is done and now I can move on to study other things in college. I'm also really nervous about having to start a new chapter in my life, leaving behind High School friends and my family for new destinations. Of course it's exciting knowing that everything is going to change in the next few months, and I look forward to it all, but a part of me knows I will miss High School a lot.

I have studied at SCIS for three years in total. Coming from Europe, moving to Shanghai has been an extraordinary experience, and I'm so thankful for my parents to give me the opportunity to discover China at such a young age. When I first moved here, I experienced a huge culture shock, and it took a while for me to adapt to such a different lifestyle that was a bit of a challenge, but it was definitely worth it. Entering SCIS was also somewhat challenging at first, as I was joining an international school for the first time, and the system is very different from what I was used to. SCIS is a very welcoming community, however, and making friends was a lot easier than I had expected. I think my time at SCIS has taught me a lot about school spirit and life in a community, and I will really miss being part of such a kind and warm environment.

It seems almost impossible to pick one best memory at SCIS, because there are just so many amazing memories I have made there. One of my fondest memories would probably be a bus ride during China trips in 11th grade, where the entire grade was sitting in the bus, getting to know each other, exchanging food, showing each other music, and sharing personal experiences. In only a few hours sitting together at the back of the bus, I became close to so many people I hadn't really talked to before, and got to know so much about them and their background. I thought it was amazing that although we didn't know each other that well, we were able to share so much, and in such a short amount of time we all started to build a friendship which has lasted until now.

I did take IB, and I think it is a great program in preparing students for college. I've been able to improve not only in the courses I took but mostly in the way I handle my work. It is definitely a difficult program to complete, and it requires a lot of work and commitment, but I think it really isn't as awful as some people make it out to be! Of course we all had to work hard to finish IB, and at some times it was a lot to manage, but I think it provides students with a huge advantage when entering college, as we already have a strong foundation of knowledge from IB classes.

Keeping balance in my life really helped me enjoy High School, by taking some time away from studying to participate in after school activities, or to spend time with friends to escape the workload for a while. I think High School is about more than just academics, although we attend it for our education, we should also take advantage of it to meet new people, try out different activities and figure out what we like and dislike.

Managing your time is one of the most important parts of succeeding in High School. There is quite a bit of work to complete sometimes, and being



on top of things really helps to get it all done in time. We all procrastinate a lot, but setting deadlines for yourself and deciding ahead of time what work to do at what time really helps to reduce how much time we waste procrastinating in my opinion. Usually saving something for the last minute is never a good idea, and nobody likes having to finish an assignment in a rush at 3am the night before, and managing your time really helps prevent that from happening. Another important part of success is determining what study technique works best for you. Everyone learns differently, and it's important to figure out early which method is best for you to save time when studying.

SCIS was the first international school I attended, so in total I have spent 3 years studying in an international school. I think international school education is a privilege, and I feel extremely grateful to have had the chance to experience this sort of education. I don't think it necessarily