

LONG TAN AWARD

Congratulations to **Charles McElvogue**
Year 12 Japanese Beginners
Teacher: Eri Kato Morcom



Leadership: Charles is currently involved in various leadership roles at his home school St Pius X College. For example, he is the head of the trombone section in the school's orchestra, jazz band and concert band. He has been a patrol leader in the Scouts and Venturers, in which he has organised numerous hiking expeditions and camping trips. He is also a member of his school's robotics team, where in addition to completing his own projects, he coached teams of junior students entering into robotics competitions. As a senior student, he acts as the kind of role model that he looked up to when he was a younger student himself.

Teamwork: When others are struggling, whether it be with a concept related to school work, an issue related to his coaching or a personal issue, he has taken the time to help them sort through their problems. Charles also tries to account for the strengths and weaknesses of each individual when helping others. He believes that all people have a specific set of skills that when recognised, can be utilised to contribute to the greater wellbeing of everyone.

Values: Charles genuinely enjoys helping others, whether it be with school work or just general advice. He claims that he has met what are now some of his closest friends at NSL, and most of these friendships began through either him asking others for help or thoughts on schoolwork, or these people coming to ask him. He is passionate about the process of learning languages, and thinks the more people he can help experience this, the better.

Problem Solving: Charles believes that the key to understanding or teaching any difficult concept, whether it be in languages or a different subject entirely, is to have patience and empathy with the person you are helping. By properly understanding the perspective from which that person is viewing the problem, you can then try to account for and address the issues that may have caused the

misunderstanding in the first place. This is a method of problem solving he tries to apply in all aspects of his life, from school to friends, family and his part time job.

Resourcefulness:

Charles aims to complete his HSC, as well as working a part time job. He is resourceful with not only his time management for study but also with how he spends his time recreationally. This has been critical to maintaining a healthy balance between school, sleep and fun. Charles keeps to a schedule for study, but he also thinks that allocating time to do things that he enjoys, such as playing the piano, practising trombone, bushwalking or just spending time with friends is key to staying healthy both physically and mentally.

Communication: One of the greatest opportunities Charles has had to develop his communication skills was during a two month exchange in Japan in 2018. At this time, he had no prior experience with speaking Japanese, and so learning how to communicate with other people almost from scratch had a deep impact on his perception on the ways people interact with each other. While he was able to learn a great deal about Japanese culture and the differences between the typical Japanese and Australian lifestyle, he also discovered how fundamentally similar all people are, in their needs, humour, passions and relationships.

Co-operation: Charles believes that listening and understanding are the most important part of any cooperation, whether it be with a single other person or an entire group. He has found cooperation like this to be most important in the school bands. In a band, if you want to play music, then everyone has to be on the same page regarding what the music will mean.

Community Involvement: Due to the nature of studying with NSL, helping to establish a community within the students has been something Charles has seen as very important to the group's success, so he has often assisted with organising group meet-ups outside of lesson days. Apart from school, since he was 10 years old he has been involved with the Scouts and Venturers, in which he has done volunteer work such as door-knocking for the Salvation Army, helping run fundraiser barbecues and helping with community bushland clean-ups.