



Wai Ting (Minnie) Leung

Year 11 Resilience and Innovation Award

East Doncaster Secondary College

Wai Ting (Minnie) Leung is a valued member of the East Doncaster Secondary College community, and this is reflected in her appointment as International Student Vice-Captain for 2020. Early in the school year, she needed to return to Hong Kong unexpectedly to be with her family. Shortly afterwards, Australia's borders were closed and Minnie was unable to return to Victoria.

Minnie participated in remote learning from Hong Kong, waking up early each morning due to the time difference, and continued to keep up with all her work as well as her duties as International Student Vice-Captain. Eventually, she was granted an exemption to return to Australia and begin back at school, but missed the first weeks of onsite learning.

Throughout all of this, Minnie has maintained her positivity and determination and achieved impressive results. Her emotional maturity and concern for her peers in spite of her own circumstances is to be highly commended. She hopes to continue her education in Australia by studying psychology and business at The University of Melbourne.

"It is fine to make mistakes because we all learn from errors. Being able to learn from mistakes is also a form of resilience, which is why I would like to advocate this to all international students."