

Fiona Walker

Winning Teacher

“Are you going to Glasgow?” competition

Being chosen to take part in the final Commonwealth Class activity was fantastic. Being able to travel to Glasgow was a once in a lifetime opportunity that I will never forget. As Australia was late to become involved in the Commonwealth Class we ran a flag design competition in the school. When designing the flag the students were thinking about diversity within the Commonwealth and what the Commonwealth values meant to them. By travelling to Scotland, Arabella (student) was able to develop a first hand understanding of how diverse the Commonwealth really is. The program has confirmed the importance of global education in schools for me and the skills and ideas that I developed while I was in Scotland will inform my teaching for years to come.

As a geography teacher I have always had a keen interest in creating young global citizens. By participating in Commonwealth Class students were exposed to a wide range of cultures that are found within the Commonwealth. Working with this group of students has helped students to expand their understanding of the issues facing you people around the world. It has made my students more interested and actively involved in global issues. I am able to use many of the ideas introduced through the program in my classroom which will continue to benefit my teaching and the students that I will teach in future years.

The involvement in Commonwealth Class has made me more conscious to include ideas of the Commonwealth in a range of contexts through my teaching. Our school is a very multicultural environment, connecting with countries around the Commonwealth has allowed my students to see how they are intrinsically linked to other countries in the global community.

Our school curriculum is largely determined by the Government. However I have been able to draw links and use Commonwealth country case studies when developing student’s skills in a range of areas. This has been particularly useful in geography as we usually use a case study from Australia and one from abroad. I have begun to develop students understanding of the links between countries in the Commonwealth by doing this. Commonwealth Class has been a bonus and extra-curricular activity for my students.



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Commonwealth Class is an initiative for schools from the British Council, BBC and Commonwealth Secretariat, and is delivered in Australia by AFSSSE.