

THANK YOU TO OUR HOMESTAYS!

Study Links offer a number of services to students studying in the UK with one of the most rewarding being matching students with homestays who offer students accommodation, support, encouragement and a great family atmosphere to come home to during their stay. Although host families start hosting for many different reasons, being able to help a young person develop and succeed whilst in the UK and offer their own families a unique cultural experience are the main motivations for signing up with Study Links. Many of our host families have had such a positive experience that they become long term hosts after their first student visit. 'Homestay Veteran' Jane O'Byrne from Leeds has been working with Study Links to accommodate students for over 13 years. She has hosted 3 long term students and says the most rewarding part of hosting is: "the opportunity to develop a sense of humour and meet people you would never have met under other circumstances".

This edition of our Newsletter is dedicated to our homestay hosts like Jane; thanks for helping us to make our students' stays in the UK truly unforgettable!

BIRTHDAY SURPRISE

Sandra Scully and her husband Peter have hosted several students for Study Links over the years. One of their most memorable experiences was hosting student Andy Poon from Hong Kong studying at Woodhouse Grove School. The couple hosted Andy for over 5 years and now consider him to be one of the family.

Recently Andy coordinated with Peter to surprise Sandra by turning up for a visit without her knowing, travelling all the way from Bristol University where he is studying. Andy arrived at 12 midnight when it had just become Sandra's birthday. Sandra has no shortage of great stories like this about her family's and Andy's time together. In a recent update with Study Links, Sandra told us about how much Andy loved her lasagna. Andy asked Sandra to teach him how to make it so he could then buy ingredients to take back to Hong Kong so he could make her recipe for his family for Christmas dinner.

The Scully family had such a great experience hosting Andy and eventually meeting his family that Sandra said; "I would absolutely host another student; as long as I have room for a student I would take them". Many thanks Sandra and Peter, we know that the next student we place with you will be very lucky to have you as hosts.



Sandra Scully, her family, and Andy Poon's family

INDONESIAN IMMERSION AT RISHWORTH SCHOOL



Recently a group of 30 students from Indonesia travelled to Rishworth School near Halifax to take part in an Immersion course and daily lessons with local students.

The students asked to stay in Study Links' homestay accommodation as they wanted to experience 'real' British culture and family life.

The trip ended up being a great success with both visiting and host students having learnt a lot from each other. Watch this space for more news on Study Links' Immersion Courses.

STUDY LINKS OCTOBER STAR STUDENT

Angelica from The Mount School, York, has been under Study Links' guardianship since 2014 and always stays with our homestay Karen Wreglesworth and her family during school holidays. Angelica's efforts to adapt to a new culture and new family and maintain this relationship, has resulted in her being accepted as part of the family. Well done Angelica - we are very proud of your tremendous efforts to make this homestay-student match an ongoing success.

Every student receives a Study Links certificate for their outstanding achievement.

