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I apologize in advance because i am about to send to you a very lengthy email, but i felt like sharing with you the unforgettable experience of a lifetime that i had.

I am eternally grateful for the opportunity that you gave me. Had someone told me before that anyone could possibly think of selflessly presenting such an amazing opportunity to me, i would have not believed it. You made my dream a reality, i learnt at a Catholic school. I have always admired the school's devotion to their education, extra-curricular activities as well as to their religious beliefs.

During these past two years I've been under the tutorship of very fine scientists. They made Physics and Chemistry more appealing as compared to novels and art; the two things that i enjoy more than anything else in the world. There was this huge, quiet library, many laboratories and base rooms. I liked the fact that i was educated about a lot of things, even those that did not involve my subjects. There were a variety of preserved animals in the Biology lab and traditional artifacts at the culture centre, were i did my general cleaning charge. They were extremely fascinating. I ended up doing traditional dance because of that. We performed at the speech and prize giving day and several other school activities. (I'll send the pictures when i receive them)

My mission there was to get myself educated. I got that and more. I made friends from all over the country, i learnt how to play darts, a little Ndebele, and how to do a lot of farming activities; like cleaning the piggery. But of all the extra-curricular activities i found myself immersed in, i enjoyed being part of the Interact Club. I felt I belonged there. I confess, in the beginning i just joined because it seemed as if people with clubs instantaneously became friends; but in the end it became more than just about having friends. I don't know how it happened, but i enjoyed the community projects. We were moved to help out. Occasionally, we held campaigns against some forms of abuse and diseases. Annually we held a function where we would invite a variety of schools and raise money for the orphaned children at St Severino and the lepers, old people at Mutemwa. That experience alone makes you appreciate the people around you in life, makes you value everything you have no matter how small they may seem. It brought out the sentimental side of me that i didn't know existed. I came to realize that the only peer pressure i had was to dream big and work, even in my sleep.

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My sole aim was to learn, and nothing more; but i'm pleased to say that i got more than i had hoped for. I bettered my spoken English, I have exposed to a lot of places, I was taught to pray harder and I made a lot of friends, whom, I hope, I shall have for life. All of that would never had happened had you not given me that opportunity. I'm failing to find the right expressions to use to express my gratitude; but please know that I am eternally grateful for what you did, and may you be abundantly blessed for the good heart that you have.

Our final results usually come out end January. I promise to tell you all about them when they do come out. Thank you, once more.

From Thandeka