

Arabella

Winning student - “Are you going to Glasgow?” competition

I was thrilled to be selected to participate in the Commonwealth Class finale in Scotland. We had a jam packed two week program. The first day we went to the Commonwealth Games Opening Ceremony. We had the best seats in the house, only five rows from the front. The atmosphere was amazing and it was not like anything I'd ever experienced before. The whole stadium felt like it was buzzing with anticipation. I loved watching Australia come out and even got to see my favourite netballer.

One of the activities that we participated in was the festival at Glasgow Green. It was at the end of our program so we (the students) all really knew each other well and were happy to hang out and play the games. UNICEF had organised a range of different sports games from around the Commonwealth. They were sports that are traditional but they aren't played in the Games themselves. It was a beautiful day and I just loved getting out and playing with my new friends.

There were nine other students from around the Commonwealth participating in the program. Lots of days we had to spend hours on the bus, during this time we got to know each other really well. For me it was really interesting to learn, from my friends, about cultures that were different to Australia. Scotland is similar to Australia in a lot of ways and the number of photos other people were taking of things that I would not normally think were that important made me realise how different my country is to others in the Commonwealth. At the start of the trip I really noticed how different we all were. However towards the end the differences were less noticeable once we knew each other and we were all just friends. I still keep in touch with lots of the kids from Commonwealth Class and want to for years to come.

Commonwealth Class was a great experience as it brought people from different countries together. It was the trip of a lifetime and something that I will never forget.



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