



Student Ambassador

Mathieu Ryckbosch

Mont Saint Guibert, Belgium



“I am learning a new language, learning about a new culture but most importantly I am learning about myself.”

Pemberton
Secondary
2015

Mathieu Ryckbosch from Belgium was very intrigued when he heard friends talking about doing a study abroad experience. He realized this would be the best way to learn English and experience personal growth by living in another culture. Mathieu knew this year would benefit him and his future plans for university.

Mathieu wanted to study in a small community and really enjoys his new home in Pemberton. He likes that it is a family community and that it is so welcoming. As he said “The town of Pemberton is really quiet with only 2000 people and so everyone knows everyone which is why it is so welcoming.”

Mathieu has made many friends at school and is really enjoying school life and his classes. He likes that the classes are small and very accommodating to each of the individual students. He finds that the education system is more

flexible and he has had lots of opportunities to experience different classes. “Pemberton Secondary is a small school so it is easy to make friends with the Canadian students and we all know each other. There are other exchange students also in the school and everyone is really welcoming.”

Mathieu joined the soccer team and enjoys the camaraderie and team spirit in Pemberton.

Mathieu is very happy in his new Canadian family. He has fit in well and his home feels like it is a second family. He has a host sister who is his same age and they are both active and involved in the community. He also loves the healthy food his Canadian family prepares for him. “My mom is a really good cook so I eat for two every night!”

Mathieu will be going back to Belgium to study when he completes the

program. He has plans to enter into Bio-engineering in university but has discovered so many new opportunities here in Canada that he has decided he will need to do more research once he returns home before he makes a final decision.

We asked Mathieu how he might feel when he has to leave. He replied; “I will probably feel very sad. It is such a great experience here! But I will be going back to Belgium much stronger than when I left home.”

