Simon: How was life in Canterbury Christ Church University?

We went to school during the week, and we studied English. In the class, there were many topics from familiar ones to difficult ones. Sometimes, we made groups, and had a discussion or made a short presentation. Sometimes we needed to think deeply, and sometimes we studied through games. These two weeks of classes were so valuable, and we met many different students, so we were stimulated.

Simon: What about the city of Canterbury?

The streets were lined with neat rows of stores and houses. It was so comfortable to live there. There were many historical buildings, and Canterbury Cathedral – a world heritage site – was so impressive. Almost all the local people were kind, and we stayed there safely. We thought Canterbury was a nice town, and we enjoyed going to cafés and shopping there.

Simon: Did you have a chance to visit London?

We went to London to go sightseeing in the weekend, and it took about 2 hours by coach. We went to Big Ben, Tower Bridge, the British Museum, and Buckingham Palace. There were far more tall buildings in London than Canterbury, and we felt that London was full of energy. There were many sightseeing spots that we couldn't visit, so we thought that visiting only once wasn't enough. We'll certainly come back to London again sometime.

Simon: And how was your homestay experience?

We stayed with local families. Our circumstances varied from home to home, so we all had different experiences. We had to speak English in the host's house, so it was a good opportunity to study English. We enjoyed eating British meals and experiencing their culture.

★ At first, we were filled with anxiety about homestay and study abroad, but when we went there, we tried to use English to the best of our ability. We had some difficulties, but we could get over any problems by helping each other. We gained a lot of confidence from this, and when we realized that we could grow in this way, we were very pleased. These two weeks in Canterbury (and London) were very fulfilling, and we'll never forget this precious experience.