Danny Lee came to Sydney with his older sister to study at a NSW government school and started in Year 9 at Ryde Secondary College.

“I chose Ryde Secondary College because it is not far from my house and because the school has selective classes,” he said. “I wanted to come to Australia because I really wanted to learn English and I think Australia has a really great education system.”

It took Danny some time to adapt to his Australian school because it is very different to his Korean school. “The class sizes are much smaller here in Australia, so it is a lot more personal. In Korea, you have more people in one class and, in the middle school, you cannot choose your own subjects. You stay with the same class the whole time.”

Changing classes for different subjects has helped Danny make new friends in his Australian school. “I have made many friends at Ryde Secondary College, especially with other international students, local Korean students and also some Australian students. All the students at my school are kind and friendly so it is easy to make friends.”

Danny found it hard to study in English at first but slowly learnt to adapt. “I came to Australia to learn English, but my English was not very good when I came here. Learning to study in English and having to communicate in English was definitely the biggest challenge when I first arrived,” Danny said.

“It has also been the best thing about coming to a NSW government school. The improvement that studying in Australia has made to my English language skills has been really good for me.”

Danny also likes the fact that once a week, Ryde Secondary College has a designated sports day. “I really enjoy that we have a weekly sports day, and that there is a wide variety of sport you can participate in,” Danny said. “I am now doing ice-skating for sport, and I think it is really advantageous to me as it is teaching me a skill which I wouldn’t have learnt if I hadn’t come to Australia.”

Outside of school, Danny is very active. “I play soccer, basketball and other sports and games, and I enjoy watching a good movie.”

Danny plans on studying at Ryde Secondary College for the next few years. “I want to finish my Higher School Certificate at this school, and then I hope to study aviation at an Australian university.”