

Italian visit is just the job

BY BELINDA NOLAN

WHEN it comes to their Italian studies, Sydenham students prefer to learn from the masters.

About 30 students from Catholic Regional College were due to touch down in Italy on the weekend as part of the school's cultural exchange program.

The teenagers will spend two weeks touring the country visiting tourist hotspots including Venice, Rome and Florence, followed by a week at their sister school in Marche.

VCE student Anthony Lo Guarro said the class was looking forward to brushing up on their Italian skills during the trip.

"Both my parents come from Italy and speak the language at home so I can pretty much understand everything but I don't speak it much," he said.



Flying the flag ... From left, Charmaine, Stephanie and Anthony are heading to Italy as part of a school exchange program. 29126

Picture: SARAH MATRAY

Students: Charmaine Cini, Stephanie Mauro and Anthony Lo Guarro

7 April, 2009

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"That's one of the main things I'm hoping to get out of the trip."

While the students had been looking forward to the holiday all year, for Anthony the experience will be a special homecoming.

The 17-year-old will spend a precious week with his grandparents who he hasn't seen in more than six years.

"That's the part that I'm looking forward to the most because I've been wanting to see them for so long," Anthony said.

Teacher Helen Fisher said the visit was part of an arrangement the college has had with its sister school since 2007.

As part of the program, the students have the opportunity to visit Italy and stay with host families every second year.

Italian students also visit the college, with the next exchange scheduled for 2010.

"It's a great opportunity for our students to immerse themselves in another culture," Ms Fisher said.

"It's also a great adventure for them and they always have a ball."