



BUNDAMBA STATE SECONDARY COLLEGE

16th March, 2013

Dear Sir Richard Branson,

I am the Principal of Bundamba State Secondary College. We are a state high school located in Ipswich, Queensland, Australia. Our school is identified as being “low socio-economic” (amongst the lowest in Australia). In addition to this, we have some of the best and brightest students you are ever likely to meet.

In 2013 we are taking a group of these students to the Johnson Space Centre in Houston during the September school holidays to participate in their Space School. To be eligible to participate in the trip the students must be in grade 11 or 12, and study one of the following subjects – Maths B, Maths C, Physics or Chemistry.

We have decided to take on this challenge as a means of showing our kids that anything is possible. We work hard to inspire our students and to help raise their aspirations. This trip will be of great benefit not only for the students involved, but the younger members of our school and wider community as they see the possibilities of success in school. As I said earlier, we have some of the best students you are ever likely to meet, and their potential is limitless. Unlike other students however they are not able to rely on family members to simply pay for the trip.

As a school we are working hard to support the students. We have a raffle which is building momentum and have undertaken a number of community sausage sizzles to help raise funds. We have also been able to source support from some of our local universities. The reason I am writing to you however (and I’m sure you would have already figured this out) is to see if it is possible to get support for the airfares with Virgin Australia.

The expense of the airfares for the group of twenty is our most significant cost. I have already tried the Virgin sponsorship process; however the request was

assessed as not meeting the requirements. I figured however I would try the direct approach, safe in the knowledge that a knockback leaves me no worse off than where we are now. I don't mean to be placing pressure on you (we will go, and your company will be successful regardless of your decision I understand), but figure there is no harm in asking.

We have a varied group of students coming on the trip. We've got a great mixture of males and females, Indigenous students, Pacifica students, students with ASD. The thing that brings them all together is a love of learning, an interest and ability in Maths and Science and a fascination with Space.

I realise how many requests of this type you must receive and understand completely if you are unable to support our kids on this occasion. If there is a way however you may be able to assist I would love to hear it. If you would like more information please don't hesitate to contact me at any time.

Thank you for your time.

Regards,

Andrew Peach
Principal



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