Post-YOG, it’s back to school for NTU students

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SINGAPORE — During the Youth Olympic Games, Nanyang Technological University (NTU) students had to make detours to get to the campus, which was partly used to house the 3,600 participating athletes.

And because the opening of their school term was delayed by a few weeks, some undergraduates will have less than a fortnight’s break in December before the next school term starts.

Still, third-year literature student Nithya, 21, told Mediacorp that it was an honour for the university to have been part of the “prestigious” Games.

Other lasting — and tangible — benefits include a fresh coat of paint and air-conditioning installed at several of the university’s hostels.

Yesterday was the first day back at school for the NTU students after a term break — it was also one day after the last of the Games visitors moved out.

As the undergraduates went about buying their textbooks and notes, it seemed that the Games were far from their minds.

While she had fond memories of the Games, second-year accountancy student Yeo Wei Tsin, 20, said she was “not quite sure if the students would remember the Games in a few years’ time”.

But for some of the NTU students who volunteered at the Games, there was little doubt that the historic event had left a lasting impression.

Ms Zinc Teo, a third-year NTU mechanical engineering student, had volunteered for a week at the Kallang Tennis Centre. Recalling her interaction with some of the athletes, Ms Teo, 21, noted: “(They) liked NTU a lot. They said we had a lot of facilities to relax and enjoy, that it wasn’t just libraries.”