

Johoku – Highcliffe Friendship Exchange Programme 2015

A friend for the future ...

Some background...

Johoku High School

Johoku High School for Boys is a private high school in the city of Hiroshima. It contains some 1800 students and is academically achieving. The school also performs to an extremely high standard in the traditional martial arts of Kendo (a kind of sword-fighting) and Shorinji Kenpo. Highcliffe School is always a popular destination for Johoku Boys and so the boys who come are carefully chosen. (Of course, where human beings are involved there are no guarantees, but this has been our experience so far)

The Programme

This is a long-standing relationship now. Johoku first visited us in 2002 and we have been to visit their school in Japan seven times. Johoku School is very keen on ensuring that its students have an international dimension to their character and the visit to Highcliffe is one of the ways in which they do this. Furthermore, having been the first city to suffer the consequences of an atomic-bombing, the people of Hiroshima are very keen to forge friendships so that war is less likely in the future.

Highcliffe School, too, is keen for its students to develop an international dimension to their character. This Friendship Exchange Programme is an excellent way to develop a relationship with someone from a very different culture. We have found that families who host, really enjoy the experience – and tend to want to do it again!

Please note: Johoku School can make some contribution to the expenses of hosting.

Whilst they are here ...

- Arrive on Tuesday 17th March and depart on Sunday 29th March (Times to be confirmed).
- Two weekends.
- Spend time in school attending lessons and being involved in activities
- Trips to Salisbury and Stonehenge (TBC)
 - Trip to Christchurch - The Priory and an audience with the Mayor (TBC)
 - At least one organised evening activity for Johoku boys
 - Visit local schools (TBC)

Possible Activities To Do With Them...

The boys will send their profile and we will match as best as we can, but this is far from a perfect process. We do our best to match according to interests etc., but given the small numbers participating this is not always possible. A spirit of good will is the best quality!

The boys will be expecting to participate as fully as practically possible in school and home-life. That said, it's a good idea to try to do some things that don't depend hugely on verbal communication. Some things that have worked before include quite simple things: bowling, shopping, going for a walk in the local area and sightseeing. It's as well to remember that the sights that we take for granted are in many respects new and different for them. It's also good if you have one or two card games up your sleeve, too!

Some comments from boys who have stayed before

"The most impressive things for me is that all English people are cheerful. I was very nervous when I arrived at Highcliffe School. However, everyone in the corridors says "Konnichi-wa" to me and everyone who I met in class spoke to me so I was not nervous. I would like to say "Thank you" to these great manners and customs. In the first two days, I regretted coming to England, because I can't understand and speak English. But now, I am really glad to have come here. Many students speak to me and I can understand English a little. I am very happy to come here."

Keichiro Kuwamoto

First I couldn't understand Highcliffe students' English. But, after a few days past, I could understand English a little. I'm glad to join this program and proud of spending a good time with my host family.

Masashi Kodama

I feel the people in England are very warm. They show a lot of care for other people in small ways and even to strangers. English are expressive, smile often and are very friendly. I will never forget English kindness.

Masahiro Hiramatsu