

## Japanese Taster Sessions in 2012

If you would like to arrange a Japanese Taster Session at your school, please email [info.language@jpf.org.uk](mailto:info.language@jpf.org.uk) for more details.

> **William Brookes School, Shropshire** – One volunteer held taster sessions for students from Year 7 to Year 12 in September. She first gave an overview of Japan via a Japan Quiz, and then demonstrated basic Japanese greetings with bowing. She also introduced the Japanese numbers 1-10 and the Japanese writing system. Mrs Crowther, the subject leader for MFL at the school, said that the volunteer was *“wonderful and worked extremely hard to promote Japanese and Japanese culture. All of our students responded really well to the taster session they delivered and got a lot out of the day.”* The school is now investigating starting Japanese classes as an extra-curricular activity.

> **Fort Pitt Grammar School, Kent** – Two volunteers held a Japanese language taster in July as part of the school’s enrichment programme for all years. After introducing Japan through a quiz, the volunteers introduced basic Japanese greetings, followed by how to count from 1-100 in Japanese. The students practiced how to introduce themselves in Japanese with each other, and then learned how to write simple *kanji* characters. Finally, the students enjoyed seeing how to put on a *yukata* (a type of casual kimono often worn in summer). Mrs Gordon, a senior languages teacher at Fort Pitt, commented, *“It was a very successful session, well planned and delivered and thoroughly enjoyed by staff and students.”* The school are now investigating funding opportunities through our [Japanese Language Local Project Support Programme](#) to continue Japanese as an enrichment course.

*Below: Pictures from the Fort Pitt Grammar School visit*



> **Gaynes School Language College, Essex** – One volunteer visited this school to hold a Japanese taster in July as part of their “Around the World in a Day” cross-curricular day. The taster began with an introduction to Japan, including the sporting events that Japan will take part in in the London 2012 Olympics. The volunteer then introduced the Japanese writing system *hiragana* using the “Hiragana Rap.” The students then learned the Japanese *kanji* characters and pronunciation for the numbers 1-10. Finally, the students learned how to introduce themselves in Japanese. Ms Malakouna, the Assistant Headteacher and Director of Languages, commented, *“It was a fantastic experience for the students. Lots of them were very excited and had learnt to count 1-10 in Japanese.”*

> **Wilson’s School, Surrey** – One volunteer visited this school to hold a Japanese taster in July as part of the school’s Activities Week. The volunteer began by teaching the students some basic facts about Japan, and then introduced some basic Japanese greetings and phrases. Finally, the taster session ended with origami, in which students made paper cranes and frogs. Mr Winstone, the Head of Modern Languages, commented, *“[The volunteer] proved to be a hit with the boys: he had exactly the right delivery and style for our pupils, who enjoyed the session. The content was very good being not too demanding but sufficiently interesting to engage the boys for an hour and a half.”*

> **Sale Grammar School, Cheshire** – One volunteer held a Japanese taster at this school in July as part of the school’s International Arts Week. After briefly introducing Japan through a short quiz, the volunteer taught the students Japanese greetings using Japan Foundation’s resource, [Ready Steady Nihongo](#). The students practiced the words they had learned through the game “Fruit Basket,” before going to learn about the three Japanese writing systems of *hiragana*, *katakana* and *kanji*. Finally, the students enjoyed making origami rabbits and dogs. Mrs Branch, the Assistant Head Teacher at the school, praised the taster session for its *“varied range of activities enjoyed by all who participated.”*

> **Lampton School, London** – One volunteer held a Japanese taster at this school in June as part of their “Japanese Day”. She first introduced Japanese phonics via a “*Hiragana rap*,” and then taught basic Japanese greetings (with bowing!) via song. She also introduced Japanese numbers, which then enabled students to say their age in Japanese. After a break, the taster progressed with introducing directions in Japanese, *origami* and the story of the *Tanabata* Star Festival. Miss Ezekew, an MFL teacher at the school, described the volunteer as “*wonderful*” and said *“The pupils thoroughly enjoyed and gained a lot from the sessions.”*

> **Our Lady Queen of Heaven Roman Catholic School, London**– One volunteer held a Japanese taster at this school in June. Tying in with London 2012, she first introduced Japanese sports and Japan’s presence at the Olympics. She then taught the pupils basic Japanese greetings, Japanese phonics and self-introductions in Japanese. Finally, the pupils enjoyed making *origami* cups, cats, boats and bears. The school was “Very satisfied” with the taster, and are now investigating starting a Japanese club using Japan Foundations’ [Ready Steady Nihongo](#) resource.

> **Lydd Primary School, Kent** – Two volunteers performed a Japanese language taster at this school in June, as part of the school’s initiative to deepen pupils’ knowledge of other cultures. After briefly introducing Japan and holding a Japan quiz, the volunteers introduced the three Japanese writing systems (*hiragana*, *katakana* and *kanji*) and taught basic Japanese pronunciation. They then taught basic Japanese greetings, followed by the numbers 1-10 incorporating movements to aid memorisation. Finally, Years 5 and 6 had a go at writing their own names in Japanese, while the younger years enjoyed making origami. The school commented, *“The children enjoyed the day and commented about what they had learnt. They particularly enjoyed learning to write their name and learning to count. Many children said they would like to learn more about Japan.”* Lydd Primary School is now exploring the option of opening a Japanese club.

> **Harlington Upper School, Bedfordshire** – One volunteer gave an interactive lecture on Japan and the Japanese language to the Sixth Form students for this school in June. After giving an introduction to Japan, the volunteer taught basic Japanese greetings and numbers. She also introduced the three Japanese writing systems and gave the students the opportunity to try writing themselves. Mrs Symonds, the Assistant Headteacher, commented, "[The volunteer] had thoroughly prepared for the session and had produced some excellent resources. She also engaged the students with lots of interactive activities. It was a fantastic presentation."

> **Kyson Primary School, Suffolk** – One volunteer visited the school in June, as the school is looking to start Japanese classes an extra-curricular activity. The volunteer introduced basic Japanese greetings, daily expressions and self-introductions. She also taught the students the Japanese numbers from one to ten. After introducing Japanese culture through a quiz about Japanese primary schools and a session on origami, the volunteer finally ended the session by singing the Japanese version of "Mary Had A Little Lamb." Miss Ranson, a senior teacher who organised the taster, said that the taster was "...very well run, the right level and enjoyed by all pupils. [The volunteer] was professional, confident and able to support the children well with their learning."

> **Falconbrook Primary School, London** – Two volunteers visited the school across a two day period in May to hold Japanese taster sessions. After giving an introductory presentation to Japan, the volunteers introduced Japanese language including numbers, greetings and the Japanese version of "Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes." The volunteers also introduced how to wear a *yukata*, a traditional Japanese robe. Miss Johnson, the administrator who organised the visit, commented, "*The children thoroughly enjoyed all the activities that took place. The volunteers were really confident and did an excellent job.*"

> **Applemore College, Hampshire** – One volunteer held a Japanese taster session as part of the schools' Multi-Cultural Festival day in May. After presenting basic information about Japan, the volunteer introduced Japanese self-introduction and numbers. The students then learned how to write the numbers 1-99 in Japanese *kanji* characters. Finally, the students practiced their new kanji knowledge by completing a fun code-breaking game. Miss Eskriett, Assistant Headteacher at Applemore College, commented, "*It was excellent. Our children really enjoyed learning about Japanese culture and some basic language. The teacher was very good.*"

> **The Hazeley Academy, Milton Keynes** – One volunteer held a Japanese taster session at this school as part of their Global Citizenship Day for KS3 students in May. The volunteer taught Japanese greetings, self introductions and "I like..." The students then had the opportunity to introduce themselves to their classmates using their newly-acquired Japanese. Miss Cope, Head of Languages at the Hazeley Academy, said that it was "*a very successful day. All the students enjoyed their taster of Japanese and [the volunteer] was fantastic with the students.*"

> **Wandsworth Borough Council, London** – Two volunteers performed a series of Japanese taster sessions over two days in April as part of Wandsworth Borough Council's "Easter School" initiative for pupils of all schools in the Wandsworth area. The sessions covered basic facts about Japan, basic Japanese greetings and self-introduction, Japanese onomatopoeia, origami, Japanese numbers from 1-100, an introduction to Japanese writing and singing Japanese songs. The council described the volunteers as "*excellent*" and "*a delight to work with.*"

> **The Academy Home Educators, Buckinghamshire** – One volunteer performed a Japanese language taster in March for this group of home-educated children in order to support their studies of Japanese culture and martial arts. The volunteer taught basic Japanese greetings and the numbers 1-10 in Japanese. The Group Co-ordinator for the Academy Home Educators described the volunteer as *“an extremely talented and enthusiastic teacher, the children loved her lesson and are enthusiastic to learn more.”* The Academy Home Educators have since requested the volunteer to teach a series of Japanese classes.

> **IntoUniversity Brent, London** – IntoUniversity is an education charity that runs interactive and aspiration raising education weeks for primary schools. In February, IntoUniversity Brent ran a “Round the World” week for the Year 6 class of one of their partner schools. Four volunteers from our JTS programme held a Japanese language taster session as part of this topic. After introducing general facts about Japan, the volunteers taught Japanese greetings and the numbers 1-10. They then introduced the Japanese writing systems of *hiragana*, *katakana* and *kanji*, which the pupils practiced writing with paint. The pupils then listened to the story of the *Tanabata* Star Festival using the traditional Japanese story-telling method of *kamishibai*, and finally had a chance to enjoy making their own *origami* animals. IntoUniversity Brent’s education worker who co-ordinated the visit commented, *“The students really loved it, and when I tested them on Friday they remembered how to count up to 10! Most of them put the workshop down as one of their favourite parts of the week on the evaluation forms. On the Wednesday we did an art workshop at the Barbican. They had the chance to paint with water on a special slate and they were all practising writing the calligraphy they had learnt with you guys! The people running the workshop were very impressed with how much the children knew about Japan.”*

> **Sir William Robertson High School, Lincoln** – One volunteer visited this school in February as part of their International Day. After introducing the Japanese writing system, the volunteer gave each student a name card with their name written in Japanese, which they used to practice writing their name. The students then learned how to introduce themselves in Japanese, and finally watched a presentation about Japan. The Head of MFL at the school commented that the volunteer had *“prepared some lovely resources - the name cards she did for each pupil was really appreciated by them.”* The Japanese taster was mentioned in the school’s newsletter [here](#).

**If you would like to arrange a Japanese Taster Session at your school, please email [info.language@jpf.org.uk](mailto:info.language@jpf.org.uk) for more details.**