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KATHARINE LADY BERKELEY'S
SCHOOL

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A Specialist School for
Languages

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Newsletter – 17 November 2011

Japanese Exchange Report 2011

I am a Year 13 student and I recently took part in the Japanese exchange to Hikawa High School in Yamanashi Prefecture, Japan. I spent ten days with fifteen other students from KLB School and two teachers, Ms De Silva and Mr Sturt, in Japan living with a host family, attending their school for a week and visiting various traditional heritage sites, such as Lake Kawaguchi, where we were able to see Mt. Fuji.

Whilst at Hikawa High School, I took part in English lessons with Japanese students, helping out with pronunciation of English words and with any difficulties they had using grammar. Being able to practise my Japanese by talking to the students was a little bit daunting at first. They were all so excited to have an English student in their lesson so I had to answer many questions about myself and about England. However, I really enjoyed learning new words and phrases in Japanese, at times it was difficult to understand the tasks but the students were very helpful so I could make the most of the lessons.

The other students who visited Japan from KLB were all less experienced in Japanese so they had lessons with Mr. Kawaguchi in the mornings whilst I joined in with the English lessons. These lessons provided them with a firm grasp of the sort of basic Japanese which could be used in many common situations in Japan. Some of them told me that it was lots of fun and their Japanese has advanced a lot throughout the week, so they are grateful for being able to have taken part in the lessons.

On Monday, our first day at Hikawa High School, we were able to talk with students about the devastating earthquake and tsunami which occurred on the 11th March, in the Tohoku region of Japan. The Japanese students were very interested in what we thought of the disaster, and I was surprised to see how grateful they felt when we expressed how concerned everyone was in England at the time, even though we did not know a lot about how to help at first.

The student who I was working with throughout the lesson, told me how she had to hide under the table where she was studying. Once the earthquake was over, she said that there was the same news report, repeated over and over for a few months, which was what she watched to keep up with the events as they were happening. As well as this, shops sold out of essential goods and there were huge delays getting in and out of Tokyo. Many of these things had not really been covered in our news report so it was interesting. After discussing what happened during the earthquake, we exchanged our opinions on nuclear power plants. At the end of this discussion, the conclusion was very similar throughout the class. Firstly, nuclear power plants may be necessary to supply an ever-growing population, however, in order to minimise the risks of further nuclear disasters occurring, it is essential that they all undergo stricter safety checks; where they do not meet certain standards they must be turned off and not used. Secondly, that nuclear power should not be used as much as it is; renewable energy should be made a common occurrence, and therefore the environment and human safety will be protected for the future.

It was inspiring to see that so many people have such similar beliefs, sharing our thoughts was not only insightful, but also helped to improve communication skills, bringing a new confidence to talk more with other Japanese students. I thoroughly enjoyed my visit to Japan, the lessons and talking with students were very beneficial to my Japanese studies and I learnt a lot about school life as well as getting insider knowledge about the Tohoku earthquake, which I would not have otherwise been able to know.

Bethany Boulton

A note from Ms De Silva:

There will be a meeting on Tuesday 6th December from 7-8pm in the Drama Hall for anyone interested in finding out about how the October exchange went, hosting next March or visiting Japan in the future. Letters with more information will be sent out to pupils studying Japanese in Years 9-11. Please contact me with any queries: ndesilva@klbschool.org.uk

Art Department

During the October half term the Art Department took fifty one A Level Art, Photography, Graphic Art and Textiles students to Spain.

It was a very busy trip with a packed itinerary which took us all over the beautiful city of Barcelona. The students not only enjoyed the wealth of art and architecture that this diverse and exciting city has to offer, but also the surreal and amazing Dali museum in Figueres. One key memory and experiences for the students had to be the ascent of the Columbus Monument with fantastic views over the city and port. Gaudi's Sagrada Familia, Barcelona's truly stunning cathedral, gave the students a flavour of Gaudi's creative and, at times, bizarre influence on the city.



Other highlights included; the tour of the Gothic Quarter, walking Las Ramblas, the Picasso Museum, the Miro Foundation and the Tapies Foundation.

On the back of this inspirational trip we are holding an exhibition. The Art Department's annual exhibition is this year to be held at Prema Arts centre in Uley. It will display a variety of work by all students who attended the trip. The private viewing will be held on Monday 12th December and the exhibition will run until Saturday 17th December.

Design and Technology Project Contributions

The Design Technology Department would like to thank parents for their contributions made so far towards project materials. This system has proved very successful with a large percentage of Key Stage 3 parents kindly responding and some late contributions still arriving. If you have not already done so and would like to contribute, please submit your £5 to the Design Technology Office. The contribution enables all students to work with high quality materials during the manufacture of their products.

Thank you once again for your support.

Parents' Seminar

Suzie Smyth-Roberts, KLB's Mental Health Nurse and Pastoral Support Adviser, will be running a seminar entitled 'A Guide to the Teenage Brain' on Monday 5th December in the Drama Hall from 7pm to 8pm. Parents and carers should phone the school if interested, to confirm their attendance.

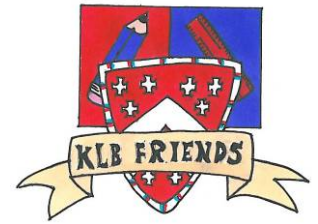
Outdoor Club

The Outdoor Club has started its training for Ten Tors 2012. Over fifty students attended the first navigation session on Tuesday and will be taking part in the training walk after school on Friday. This year the Club has successfully applied for the maximum quota of three teams. The allocation is based on former students' success during the final expedition and the school's management of the training. Ultimately the school will have to make a decision on the members of each team and this will be based on attendance, attitude and competence.

The Club would also be keen to hear from parents who are willing to help on weekend walks. Experience of walking and camping in moorland or mountainous areas would be really helpful. Interested parents should contact Miss Cruickshank by email (kcruickshank@klbschool.org.uk).

KLB Friends Update

Our annual AGM was held on 19 October with a new Chair, Mike Stephens, Vice Chair, Trudie Crumpton and Secretary, Rachel Robinson being appointed. Treasurer Lynne Aston agreed to stay on in the role. Thanks were given for all the hard work of the outgoing Chair Trudie Crumpton and Secretary Debbie Woodcraft. It has been a good year for fundraising with many of the committee working extremely hard to put on key events.



A meeting of the KLB Friends was held after the AGM. During this we looked at the school's wish list, compiled by members of staff. It was agreed to donate much of the money raised last year, a grand sum of £8843.75, to those departments which had requested equipment for use by the staff and pupils. This ranged from new hockey kit for the boys' teams to IT equipment for school clubs and a camcorder for the Drama department. We are also looking to fund a further three screens to be positioned around the school enabling pupils to keep up to date with school news. These are the reasons we work hard at our fundraising to provide the extra facilities and equipment the school budget simply cannot cater for.

We are busy planning events to help us in our fundraising this year, one of which will be to provide refreshments at key events during the school year. The Friends can be contacted at the address below for help in this way which does not involve you having to join the committee; volunteers are just as important. We will be providing the refreshments at the production of Oliver at the end of the month.

The 80/20 draw was made and the winners included Nicky Robson and Mrs J Patteson; well done to them. Please contact the KLB Friends if you require information about the 80/20 Club, which involves monthly payments to possibly win cash prizes, or any of our other fundraising schemes which run alongside our individual events.

If you wish to contact the KLB Friends for more information please email us at:

klbfriends@klbschool.org.uk

Comenius Project: "Opportunity Knocks"

The Comenius project is a European Union funded project designed to encourage pupils throughout Europe to work on a common theme. As part of the project, Year 8 pupils at KLB will be researching their local area and the job opportunities available in this part of the country. Pupils will also prepare and deliver presentations (sometimes in other languages) to our project partner schools in Poland, France, Germany and The Netherlands. This will be done by sending some KLB pupils to the other countries on an all expenses paid trip funded by the E.U. Amongst other tasks, the pupils will also be maintaining a project website, designing a project logo and creating a DVD. The project will also develop the pupils' skills of organisation and communication and appreciation of the qualities needed for future employment both locally and globally.



The Comenius Club runs on Thursdays from 2.45-3.45 in room R1 and will continue over the next two years. Any Year 8 pupil is welcome to take part.

German Christmas Market (Thursday 8th December)

The annual German Christmas Market is fast approaching and preparations are underway to bring a little bit of Germany to KLB School for the day.

During the course of the day all pupils and students will have the opportunity to visit the market to sample traditional German food and drink as well as to buy Christmas crafts and gifts. As always, there will be a visit from der Nikolaus (Father Christmas) and some opportunity to sing some traditional German Christmas carols.

Every year we ask for donations from parents for the tombola and raffle and would be grateful of any donation you could make; please ask your child to bring donations to reception (no alcohol please).

If any parent would like to run a craft / gift stall at the market from 9.30 am until 1.30 pm on Thursday 8th December, please contact Mrs J Godfrey for further details (jgodfrey@klbschool.org.uk).

KLB Careers Convention – Thursday 24th November 6.30 – 8.30pm

The school is holding its biennial Careers Convention during the evening of 24th November from 6.30 pm – 8.30pm. This year we have over fifty different organisations attending and, as ever, our aim has been to cater for as wide a range of students' ages, abilities and aptitudes as possible.

The event is an excellent opportunity for students from Years 9 to 13, and their parents, to talk to representatives of training and education providers as well as to employers and professional bodies. A large number of experts will be available who will be able to offer information and advice about a vast range of jobs, career ideas and courses. Students have already been provided with a booklet providing further information about the organisations attending.

The arrangement is informal; parents and students have the opportunity to walk around and visit as many stands as they wish. There will be hundreds of leaflets and information sheets available as well as a great deal to just look at.

Although not every possible career area can be represented, it should usually be possible to get valuable advice. The colleges, for example, will be happy to discuss any career field in which they run courses. Also this year, many of the exhibitors are companies that offer apprenticeships or help students to find apprenticeships and students may wish to explore the range of openings that this route to employment offers.

In addition to the organisations detailed in the booklet, we are pleased to announce that representatives from Stroud District Council, Treetops Children's Centre in Dursley and Wotton Children's Centre will be attending. We do hope you are able to join us on at the Careers Convention and take advantage of this superb opportunity to research career options. We also extend a huge thank you to all the representatives who will be taking part and without whom the event would not be possible.

Music

On Tuesday 8th November, parents, staff and students were treated to some wonderful performances from the Training Orchestra, Senior Orchestra and Jazz Band. In a range of styles on show there were many "stand-out" performances - notably Michael Lin (Year 11, violin) and Callum McAllister (Year 12, piano). Many of our musicians will be involved in the school production of Oliver and can also be enjoyed performing at the forthcoming Carol Concert.

Physical Education News

Year 7 and 8 Girls' Football

The Under 13 girls' football team entered a 6 a-side tournament organised by Cheltenham Town FC, at the University of Gloucestershire on 18th October. The girls played extremely well and showed great skill and team spirit. They won all of their group games, finishing top of their group. They then progressed to the semi-final where they drew 0-0 with Lakers School, but made it through to the final after a dramatic penalty shoot out that went to sudden death! Despite playing very well, they eventually lost the final 2-0 to a competitive side from Archway School. Each player received a certificate for their achievement and also won a Cheltenham Town match ticket and programme! The squad: Sophie Wilson, Sophie Jones, Beth Butcher, Aimee Collins, Danni Mawle, Mirrin Thomas, Cora Maddock, Ellie Stimpson and Lucy Donald. Well done to all the girls!

Year 8 and 9 Indoor Hockey Festival

On Monday 7th November, the girls took part in an indoor hockey festival at Rednock School. They took a couple of games to get into the swing of things but, by the third game, they looked much more skilful and started to take control of the game. The girls enjoyed themselves and it was a fun event. Well done to Elena Azcona and Beccy Chalmers who were voted the players of the tournament by their fellow team mates.

Year 10 and 11 Indoor Hockey Festival

The team really improved throughout the tournament and was a credit to the school. The win over Wycliffe ended in an impressive 2-1, but the best performance was saved for the final game against Deer Park (0-0). Beth Priday was awesome in goal, Miriam Thurlow made some excellent tackles and Eilidh Rogers made some impressive runs in midfield. The girls were happy and upbeat about the result and are looking forward to playing together again during term 3.

A reminder that hockey club will begin in term 3 for all year groups.

Recent Netball Results

Year 7

- Vs Maidenhill = won 13-0
- Vs Farmors = won 6-4
- Vs Sir William Romney = won 11-1

Year 8

- Vs Deer Park = won 12-1
- Vs Farmors = won 11-8
- Vs Sir William Romney = won 9-7

Year 9

- Vs Deer Park = won 22-0
- Vs Maidenhill = won 22-4
- Vs Sir William Romney = won 17-4

Year 10

- Vs Deer Park = won 33-5
- Vs Sir William Romney = won 25-2

Year 11

- Vs Deer Park = drew 10-10
- Vs Maidenhill = won 17-9
- Vs Farmors = won 20-5

6th Form

- Vs Cleeve = won 28-13
- Vs Farmors = lost 17-12 (although it was a really competitive match!)

Some fantastic results – well done!

District Netball Tournaments

Here is a quick reminder of the dates for the netball tournaments, which will soon be upon us. Please ensure you are available to play!

- Year 7 – Wednesday 30th November
- Year 8 – Wednesday 23rd November
- Year 9 – Monday 28th November
- Year 10 – Monday 5th December
- Year 11 – Wednesday 7th December

Success at the Gwent County Shoot Competition

Chloe Ball-Hopkins (Year 11) recently took part in the above competition. Despite having a puncture and a brake that did not work, Chloe scooped the silver medal. Well done!

Years 7 and 8 Girls' Football Club

We are introducing a girls' football club, which will be on Wednesdays, 3pm – 4.15pm. All abilities are welcome and it would be good to see lots of you there. See Miss Corfield for more information.

Years 9, 10, 11 Girls' Football Club

We are introducing a girls' football club, which will be on Wednesdays, 3pm – 4.15pm. All abilities are welcome and it would be good to see lots of you there. See Dr Thomas or Mr Newall for more information.

Girls' Running Fitness Club

We are introducing a running fitness club for Years 7, 8 and 9. It will run on Wednesdays, 3pm - 4pm, in the gymnasium. All abilities are welcome and you can work at your own pace during the session. See Miss Bennett for more information.

Miss Upton

Boys' Rugby

KLB 41 v 17 Archway

KLB were on top form against Archway with hard running resulting in tries from Dan Riggs and Perry Milan. Five tries came from Tom Freer who had a superb game. A well-worked blind side move between Tom and fly-half Chris Colston, was by far the try of the match.

Jake Quinnell played well, winning many scrums and mauls for the team with excellent ripping and hooking. Solid running and strong tackles made Sam Skelton Man of the Match. Ryan Bates debuted for the team on the wing and made a good first impression. Overall it was a strong performance by the whole squad and they should be looking forward to the district final.

On Topper the world

Nick Williams (Year 11) has made it into the ICTA (GBR) Topper National Youth Squad. Last year Nick took part in the Topper National Championships in North Berwick and the Topper World Championships in Ireland. He will be participating in many national events throughout the course of next year and hopes to be taking part in the Topper National Championships in Pwllheli and World Championships in Holland.



And finally....Movember



During November each year, *Movember* is responsible for the sprouting of moustaches on thousands of men's faces in the UK and around the world. The aim is to raise vital funds and awareness for men's health, specifically prostate cancer and other cancers that affect men. Staff and sixth form students have been doing their bit, with hundreds of pounds raised for charity so far. The funds raised support the number one and two male specific cancers - prostate and testicular cancer - and are directed to programmes run directly by The Prostate Cancer Charity and the Institute of Cancer Research.

Dates for your diary

The school calendar for 2011/12 can be accessed from the front page of the school website or directly at: <http://calendar.klb.org.uk>

The calendar for PE events and fixtures can also be viewed directly at <http://pe.klb.org.uk>

22 Nov	Year 12 Parents' Evening – 4:30 to 7:30pm
24 Nov	Careers Convention (Years 9-13)
28/29 Nov	School Production 'Oliver'
1/2 Dec	School Production 'Oliver'
8 Dec	Year 7 Parents' Evening – 4:30 to 7:30pm
13 Dec	Carol service – St Mary's, Wotton
16 Dec	Last day of term 2
4 Jan 2012	First day of term 3
12 Jan	Year 10 Parents' Evening – 4:30 to 7:30pm
17 Jan	Year 9 Parents' Evening – 4:30 to 7:30pm
1 Feb	Year 11 Parents' Evening – 4:30 to 7:30pm
7 Feb	GCSE Music Concert
9 Feb	Parent Focus Group meeting – 7:00pm
10 Feb	Staff training day (4) – last day of term 3
20 Feb	First day of term 4
21 Feb	Year 9 Options Evening
8 Mar	Year 8 Parents' Evening – 4:30 to 7:30pm
20 Mar	Parent Focus Group meeting – 7:00pm
22 Mar	Year 13 Parents' Evening – 4:30 to 7:30pm
28 Mar	Year 12 Parents' Evening – 4:30 to 7:30pm
30 Mar	Last day of term 4
16 Apr	First day of term 5
7 May	Bank Holiday
1 June	Last day of term 5
11 June	First day of term 6
19 July 2012	Last day of term 6