Our Trip to Japan

When departing for the Japan trip I was a little nervous, but also really excited. Though it's what made me most anxious, looking back on the trip the two homestays were definitely my favourite parts. Not only did they take me to castles, theme parks and shopping centres, they also welcomed me into their families as soon as I arrived, which made my worries disappear. During my homestay I learnt quite a lot about how the Japanese live, such as how they shower, how steep the stairs are in their houses and how overly polite they are. Leaving the homestays was extremely heart breaking as I became close with my host sisters in such a short amount of time, but it meant I got to be with the group again and travel to new, exciting places. Part of what made the trip as fantastic as it was were the girls who I went with. Even though I knew the majority of them, I became closer with everyone and still maintain those friendships. Unlike a lot of the other girls, I had never travelled overseas without my family before, so I gained a lot of independence and responsibility, as I was constantly checking to see if everything was in my travel wallet. Apart from a lost rail pass, a broken suitcase, a lost suitcase and a dislocated knee, every one arrived home in one piece, taking away so many life-long memories from such an amazing trip.

By Alexandra Croft Year 11.

What a way to spend our Easter holidays! Japan trip 2015 was both a cultural and educational experience for all eighteen students who were lucky enough to attend.

With the supervision of Mr. Dunn, Ms. Saigo and Ms. Parry, we all stepped out of our comfort zone and experienced unusual foods and activities distinct to Japanese culture. The homestays at both Fukuoka and Osaka opened their arms and heart to us, and exemplified the generous nature of the Japanese culture. Each student gained a unique experience of a Japanese lifestyle, and gained life long memories and friends. Between homestays, we visited historical landmarks such as the Kumamoto Castle and the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, where we learnt of the ancient and modern history of Japan. In particular, our one night stay at the remote village of Gokanosho was a significant contrast from the bustling cities of Osaka and Tokyo. The stay gave us a rare perspective into rural Japan, as well as historical knowledge on the Heike Clan’s legacy. Japan trip 2015 was a fantastic holiday opportunity, however, what made it so enjoyable were the friends and teachers who we shared the experience with. The memories we created as a small St Hilda’s community will never be forgotten, and we look forward to returning to Japan soon!

By Mimi Aarons Year 12