

REPORT from Jamie De JONG of St Margarets College

I had a wonderful time in Kurashiki. The trip was extremely well organised by Cheryl, Newton, and our Japanese guides, so that we got to see as much as possible in our time there. My host family were extremely welcoming, and treated me as an honoured guest in the two weeks I stayed with them.

They made sure that I experienced as much of the Japanese culture as they could in the limited time available. Eating Japanese food and sleeping on a futon are just some of the traditional Japanese cultural experiences I had while staying with them. For me, the highlight of the exchange was the day trip to Hiroshima and Miyajima Island. Although visiting the Peace Museum, and seeing the thousands of cranes people had brought as a sign of peace was very sad, it is an experience I will never forget.

Since returning from Japan, I have a better understanding of the culture, and I have found that a lot of the language comes more easily now that I have heard it being spoken properly. This exchange was an amazing experience, and I can't wait to go back to Japan in the future.

Jamie de Jong

