

SEIJO VISITS SNC

For two weeks in August, St Norbert College hosted 14 Year 10 girls and boys from Seijo High School in Tokyo, Japan. This was the fifth year that the College has hosted the school from Japan, and the two schools have become wonderful international friends.

While at the College, the students had English lessons up to lunchtime and often participated in a range of classes in the afternoon that included Basketball, PE, Drama and Art amongst many. In their farewell speeches the Japanese students made reference to the teachers who ran these classes and how much they enjoyed the classes.



It was a great opportunity for our College students who are studying Japanese. The Year 12 Japanese class had the great chance to have oral exam practice with four different Japanese students, each giving our students invaluable one-on-one practice prior to their final speaking exam in October. The Head Teacher, Mrs Yamada visited the Year 10 class where her students made presentations in Japanese and our students then asked questions in English, so that both groups developed their language skills.



The Year 9 classes had a special treat. Mr Shinichi Harada, from Seijo High school, taught our Year 9 students the basics of Judo. Mr Harada, a PE teacher at Seijo for 26 years is also in Judo a member of “kodokan” and within this mainstream school of Judo is at 7th Grade, seven grades higher than a Black Belt. Only three people in Japan currently hold 10th Grade so Mr Harada is near top of current ranks in Japan. Additionally, he has a Certificate of Master Judo. Dressed in full Judogi/Judo wear, he trained our beaming faced Year 9s some judo moves. Some of our students were excited to be able to throw him and escape his body locks.

The Seijo students had several outings. They rode bikes along the Swan River, walked through King’s Park and naturally loved the wildlife at Caversham Park. However, the most wonderful experience was the host families. Some 13 families and one staff member hosted the 14 visitors. They gave them wonderful meals and filled their weekends with visits to the Perth Zoo, Fremantle markets and country drives. One family had a sleepover, which was a totally new experience for the Japanese girls.

The visit finished with a farewell party. Host families, St Norbert College staff and the Japanese guests enjoyed party food prior to speeches from our Japanese guests. Julian Ramos, spoke on behalf of the school community. His speech was warmly received by everyone due to its sincerity, humour and complete appropriateness for such an important occasion.

Finally, special thanks are offered to our kind, generous and wonderful St Norbert college students and families for being host families. Our students and the Japanese students are very much still in touch, the wonders of technology.

Mr A Godden (Japanese Teacher)

