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Newsletter

Spring 2019

Globe-Trotter

In April Mr Hewings went on a terrific 10 day trip to Tokyo, Japan.

During the trip, Mr Hewings visited several landmarks and cultural icons. Read on to view beautiful photographs of Japan and hints and tips for travelling here...



Beautiful Views!
Tokyo Skytree

The tallest structure in Japan & the tallest tower in the world, Tokyo Sky tree is predominately a television & radio broadcast tower. The photo below shows the view from the observation level near the top.

Amazing Architecture!

Sensoji Temple

An ancient Buddhist temple & the oldest in Tokyo. The temple was originally founded in the 7th century. The temple adorns an image of the Buddhist Goddess Kannon, who was said to have been rescued by two fishermen from the Sumida river in Tokyo.



Tokyo Imperial Plaza Garden – Belongs to the main residence of the Emperor of Japan. Built on the original site of the Edo Castle, the plaza is made up of the palace, museum & large park.



Meiji Shrine

A Shinto shrine dedicated to the Emperor Meiji & his wife Empress Shoken.



Hamarikyu Gardens

An example of a Japanese style garden, which sits in the mouth of the Sumida river.



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Iyashi o Sato Historical Village

A replica village based on a former farming village, which was destroyed by a landslide in 1966.



Mount Fuji & the surrounding 5 lakes area

At 3776m, Mount Fuji is the highest of Japan's mountains. It is notoriously "shy" & is often covered by clouds but we were lucky enough to have good views. The 5 lakes have been formed by previous eruptions.



Ryoanji Temple

A Zen temple renowned for its garden, which features a dry sand landscape with large rocks & smooth pebbles.



Kiyomizu Temple

A 16th century Buddhist temple where the Hondo's veranda offers a view of the surrounding hillside.



Kinkakuji Temple (Golden Pavilion)

A beautiful Buddhist temple covered in gold leaf.

Other Historical Places of Interest Visited:

Itchiku Kubota Art Museum

Revived the lost art of Tsujigahana silk dyeing, used to decorate elaborate Kimono's during the Muromachi Period (1333 – 1573).

Oshino Hakkai

A set of 8 ponds in Oshino, a small village located near mount Fuji.



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Hiroshima

An atomic bomb was dropped over Hiroshima on 6th August 1945. The bomb obliterated nearly everything within a 2km radius. There is now a Peace memorial park & museum.



Miyajima

A small island less than 1 hour outside of Hiroshima. Officially named Itsukushima, the island is more commonly referred to as Miyajima. Japanese for "Shrine Island" because of its well-known giant torii gate.



Himeji Castle

Widely considered as Japan's most magnificent castle. The well-preserved castle is both a national & world heritage listed treasure. It has never been destroyed by war, earthquake or fire & survives to this day as one of the country's 12 original castles.

I asked Mr Hewings about his trip and his advice for anyone thinking of a similar trip abroad. Read his interesting replies...

Why did you want to go on this trip?

My interest in Japan has developed over a long time (probably from watching too much anime & old samurai movies!).

What was the most enjoyable part of the trip?

Seeing the sakura (cherry blossoms). They only bloom for a week or two a year so I was very lucky to catch them.

What was the least enjoyable part of the trip?

13 hours on an aeroplane.

Would you go again and why?

Yes I would go again as I really enjoyed the experience. Next time I would go in Autumn to try & catch the maple leaves turning colour & visit some of the places I didn't get to see this time.

What would your advice be to anyone planning a trip abroad?

My top three tips would be:

1. Do your research, investigate different places you'd like to go. Have a look at the different attractions that place has & what the weather will be like at that time of year.
2. Try to learn some of the local language before you go. Learning a handful of words like "yes, no, please, thank you, excuse me, 1, 2, 3" etc usually comes in handy.
3. Talk to your GP & double check if you need vaccinations or anti-malaria tablets for your country of choice.

Thank you Mr Hewings for sharing the experiences of your exciting trip with us



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March Belt Test

On 16th March 2019, Region 1 held two belt tests. The Tiger's one was held first at 1pm – 2:30pm, the Dragons/Adults was held immediately after from 2:30 - 4:00. They were both very successful gradings that ended with many achieving the next grade.

Tiger's Test



Feedback on this test was very positive. The judges told me that the Tigers displayed immense energy which they could feel from behind the bench! They felt that the Tigers rose to the challenge in tremendous fashion.

Well done to everyone who passed, you deserved it!

Dragon's Test



Once again, I received good feedback about this belt test. Although not quite as vocally expressive as the younger Tigers, it was felt that everyone performed really well to make the grading a success.

Well done everyone.



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Superb Sportsmanship



On the morning of 31st May, Kai Bevan (age 11, 4th gup) was awarded a trophy for good sportsmanship in his football club.

This is a school-run football club, which he has been going to for a year now. The school in question is Bilton Primary School. They usually run this after-school, however they decided to keep it running through the half term as well. He feels really happy and very proud of his achievement.

And so you should feel proud Kai. Well done!

Turbocharged!



On the 11th May, 6th Gup Joshua Sammons (10 years old) went Go karting at Walton Mill activity centre in Daventry, Northamptonshire.

This has been something he has wanted to do for a while, so he was delighted to actually go. He said he really enjoyed it and would definitely go again. He was there for about half a day and rested for the other half. Fair enough!

Glad you had a great time Joshua!

Medieval Mayhem



On Friday 21st May 2019, Nikilan Kuruparn (6th gup) went on a residential trip with Rokeby Primary school to St Brivels Castle.

He spent the day there and stayed the night, which included a 3-course meal for dinner! The class spent the day doing different activities to help them learn all about the medieval period.

I hope you enjoyed the experience Nikilan!



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Bear Grylls 2.0

On the 20th May 2019, Cameron Jones (11 years old, 3rd gup red belt) went on a 5-day residential school trip with the Kingswood Residential Group. During the trip, he took part in several character-building physical activities that challenged him. However, he said that he had the most fun being challenged on the abseiling activity...so much so that, despite initial nerves, he built up enough courage to go back a further two times to throw himself off a tower!



Abseil Tower



High Ropes



Tyre Assault Course



Archery

Cameron took part in all of the above activities which he really enjoyed and would happily do again. His favourite activity was the 3g Swing. This involved being suspended 15 metres in the air whilst holding onto a metal bar, then being swung from that height, whilst still holding onto the bar. By all accounts it was very thrilling and well worth the time.

The one activity Cameron said he found a real challenge was one called 'Nightline'. This was a team activity where each team had to go through an assault course blindfolded. Good team communication was vital for this activity, something which proved a real challenge for the team and as a result caused Cameron to bump into multiple objects.

Regardless of the challenges, Cameron really enjoyed the trip overall and was glad he went.

Well done for overcoming all the challenges Cameron!

Editor - Louis Webster (1st Dan), aged 16.

If anyone has any news, please do not hesitate to email me on websterl4202@gmail.com

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