



The Japan Foundation London provides grants of up to £3000 for non-profit-making projects or activities which promote Japanese language education in the UK. Further details can be found [here](#).



Successful Grant Applicants 2012-2013

The Academy of Home Educators

Title: An introductory Course in Japanese and Culture for Home Educated Children

The Academy of Home Educators is a group of home educated children in Buckinghamshire. They hired a Japanese teacher to give introductory lessons in a martial arts dojo for 27 children aged between 5 and 17. 15 of these children went on to have extension lessons in order to study towards GCSE Japanese. The main lessons are very dynamic, mixing basic greetings with songs and games, but even the youngest children have retained an incredible amount of vocabulary on various topics such as numbers, colours, directions, family members, greetings, food etc. The mother of two of the participants commented that, "The dynamic format of these classes combined with the cultural studies have engaged both my daughters interest and sparked a deep enthusiasm for both the language and culture." Kyle Evans (aged 13) stated, "Japanese has been the easiest language to learn out of all the ones I've tried." Gianni Mura (aged 8) told us, "Japanese writing is awesome."



Business Language Champions Ltd

Title: Language and Business Masterclass: Journey to Japan

This grant was used to fund a special language and business masterclass for gifted and talented students in Leicestershire. Attendees took part in language tasters, had a chance to meet business people that use Japanese in their professions and take part in a business challenge. The idea was to enthuse students, show them the value of learning about different cultures and encourage them to take up a less widely taught language. 59 students and 11 business volunteers took part. The feedback for the day was 98% positive from students and 100% positive feedback from teachers. One teacher commented, "I enjoyed every single part of the day and appreciate all the time and effort put into the organisation of this event. The team structures (mixed) and the breakdown of the business challenge (with the presentation as the final stage) were excellent and very beneficial for my students." One of the student attendees described the experience, said that they learnt "lots of fascinating new things about Japanese culture and language that I'd never even considered looking into before." You can see photos of this event [here](#).



The Bridge Academy PRU

Title: **Introduction of Japanese at Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 3 at a PRU**

The Bridge Academy is a secondary Pupil Referral Unit (PRU), which is part of the newly formed Tri-Borough Alternative Provision (TBAP) which covers Hammersmith & Fulham, Kensington & Chelsea and Westminster. Most PRU do not teach languages, but their teachers were keen to challenge and encourage students by introducing Japanese. Students were immersed in Japanese using a mix of ICT (including iPad apps) along with traditional resources, while also teaching transferrable skills such as literacy and numeracy. As students have a strong interest in table tennis, some were also given the opportunity to use their Japanese on a table tennis tour of Japan. The trip to Japan was funded by The Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation, Roland Rudd and JP Getty Jnr.



County Upper School

Title: **Japanese for Scientists**

Year 11 and Sixth Form students at County Upper School take part in the fantastic [UK-Japan Young Scientists](#) Workshops (in Cambridge and Kyoto) so this project was to devise and trial a year beginner's course aimed at students who want to take part in the Anglo-Japanese joint science projects. The schools teacher of Japanese, Mary Grace Browning, devised a scheme of work which parallels the current Year 10 scheme of work, that fits into the national curriculum framework, but concentrated on vocabulary required by science students. The school also produced supplementary materials such as experiment guidelines, equipment lists etc. to support teachers during the course. 35 students (divided into two groups) took part in the course. One participant mentioned that "it's great that a lot of the equipment words are katakana words," while in contrast, another student stated "Katakana is harder to learn than hiragana but I can see why it is useful so I'm going to keep trying." The school is happy to share their results with anyone else involved with a science exchange with Japan.



Crown Woods College

Title: **Accelerated Japanese for Beginners**

Crown Woods College is the second largest secondary school in London with a diverse population of students. They taught a five month Japanese course through weekly two hour lessons. Feedback from attendees and their parents was excellent, although the attendance rate dropped off near the end of the year as students approached their GCSEs. One parent of one of the Year 7 attendees, Kernal Mehmet, commented, "It has been a really positive, fun and valuable experience" for her son, and that she was "amazed at how much he has learned in such a short space of time." The school intends to incorporate GCSE Japanese into their timetable in the future.



Fort Pitt Academy

Title: **Introducing Japanese to students**

This grant was used to provide a course of lessons after school as an extension and enrichment activity. It was attended by 25 students from Fort Pitt Grammar School and Robert Napier School. The school initially had a Japanese taster session through the Japan Foundation's [Japanese Taster for Schools](#) Programme, and then chose to hire the volunteer from this first taster. One student, Joanne Fuller (Year 9), commented, "I had expected to just be learning about the language. But I found I learned a lot more about the history, the schools, the geography and the life of Japanese citizens. It was a wonderful experience and I have made new friends as well as learning key phrases."



Fulham College

Title: **Nihongo Gambatte!**

A group of boys at Fulham College Boys' School opted to self-study Japanese, so this grant was used to reflect the interest in the student body, and introduce Japanese language lessons to a cohort of boys that plan to take the GCSE short course in summer 2013. 10 boys took part in the course, from Year 10, Year 11 and Year 12. One of the participants, Mohammad Chowdhury, told us that "It has been a great experience. Learning some words has been hard; however, it's a good challenge."



Another student, Ali Najimi said, "It is fantastic!" He went on to say he would like to become a translator.

Network for Languages South West

Title: **Japanese Language and Culture - Conference for Primary, Secondary and Further Education teachers**

Network for Languages South West ran a one day conference to promote the teaching of Japanese language and culture in primary, secondary and further education in the South West of England. The focus of the event was developing effective models to teach Japanese language and culture within the school curriculum for pupils of all ages and abilities. The feedback from the attendees was fantastic! One attendee, Neil Morris, mentioned that it was a "brilliant day with lots of practical ideas that I hope to try out in school." Another teacher said, "This was a really great course – I wish this type of event was offered for other languages too!"



Newcastle University

Title: **Learn Japanese with the Angry Family**

This project allowed the Language Resource Centre at Newcastle University to produce Japanese language learning materials, including animated videos featuring their characters, "The Angry Family". The idea was to provide students with an insight into a less widely taught language by promoting and supporting the introduction of Japanese into the curriculum of schools in the North East of England. The series of short Japanese language learning animations includes 62 videos for vocabulary, 21 on grammar and 30 on Japanese phrases. The content is designed to be a little wacky so as to capture pupils' interest during lessons, but it also conforms to the Edexcel syllabus for GCSE Japanese. You can have a look at the Japanese part of the Angry Family [here](#). An MFL teacher at Sacred Heart Catholic Junior School, Tom Harman, commented, "It was great for the girls to be exposed to a new language, particularly one so different to English. For a number of them who were interested in elements of Japanese culture, such as manga, it gave them a chance to see Japanese in action."



Newstead Wood School

Title: **To offer activity days, primary outreach and offer Japanese GCSE in our local area**

This project was to maintain and develop the teaching of Japanese at Newstead Wood School, while sharing their expertise by inviting pupils from Darrick School to learn with the Year 8 pupils. The Japanese department at Newstead Wood was in danger of closure due to funding cuts, but this project has given it a new lease of life. The extra 10 students from the neighbouring school made the numbers more viable and helped strengthen the link between the two schools. One of the Year 8 Darrick Wood students commented, "It has been quite hard to learn Japanese as it is nothing like the other language I study, Spanish. It is a real challenge but our teacher is very supportive and the lessons are fun. It is only a short walk from our school, and we are really lucky to have this amazing opportunity." The Japanese class has a blog, so you can follow their lessons and see their resources [here](#).



Swanwick Hall School

Title: **Japanese at Swanwick Hall School**

Swanwick Hall School is a comprehensive secondary school in Derbyshire. This project was to expand the short Japanese enrichment programme to a full year Japanese course at Key Stage 3, together with the option for students to continue to study Japanese GCSE at Key Stage 4. One member of staff learnt Japanese at school, so the Japan Foundation's funding was used to purchase Japanese language resources in order to get the project off the ground, as well as to pay for transport so the Japanese learners could visit the Embassy of Japan in London for "[Club Taishikan](#)". 18 Year 8 and Year 9 pupils took part in the course and it was so successful that the school has been able to offer GCSE Japanese one year earlier than they originally anticipated, while the visit to the



Embassy of Japan gave them a great opportunity to experience Japanese culture and build enthusiasm for Japanese language learning.

Tenbury C. E. Primary School

Title: **After School Japanese Lessons**

Tenbury C. E Primary school is a rural primary school in Worcestershire. They had already completed successful Japan related projects as part of the 2011 Japan Webpage Contest for Schools (in which they won a silver prize.) This project built up Japanese with an after-school Japanese lesson, working towards introducing Japanese into the curriculum in 2013. The class introduced the children to Japanese culture, promoted independent learning, fostered a love for foreign languages, and taught transferable language skills in preparation for secondary school. The school is also working towards a full International School Award; learning about Japan, and developing pupils' multicultural awareness, helps towards this goal. Some aspects of the project, such as a Taiko drumming workshop, were enjoyed by the entire school and encouraged an interest in Japan. Some comments from the students include: "It's quite easy to learn because our teacher breaks words up into syllables." (Benjamin, Y4) "We can choose which alphabet and symbols we want to use and practice." (Alex, Y5) "It's good to learn about things from different cultures. I like learning language, it can be confusing sometimes but it's fun!" (Natalie Y4) Fantastic Japan related activities are shown (along with lesson plans) on the school's [website](#), and [blog](#) so other primary schools can also replicate their ideas.



Varndean School

Title: **Hello Japan/ Konnichiwa Nihon**

This project included the introduction of an afternoon Japanese course for school students as well as an evening course for people in the community, to increase the Japanese language base in Brighton as well as improve the pedagogy of language staff in the school. Although the school aimed for 20 attendees in each class, 18 students took part in the student enrichment course, and 12 attended the evening class. At least four staff have helped with the project, with one member of staff learning Japanese. The school also improved its "Japanese links" by interacting with the local Japan society, who will bring 20 Japanese students to visit the school. The funding helped provide a firm start to introducing Japanese, but they plan to continue teaching Japanese in 2013, and hope to offer GCSE Japanese from 2014. Some additional excitement will be from the Brighton Japan Festival, which was held at the school in June.



Japanese Language
Local Project Support Programme

Find out more about the Japanese Language Local Project Support Programme:

Contact details:

Josephine Audigier

Japan Foundation London

Russell Square House, London WC1B 5EH

Tel: 020 7436 6698

Fax: 020 7323 4888

Email: Josephine.Audigier@jpf.org.uk

Website: www.jpf.org.uk/language



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