Roding Valley High School: Japan Cultural Event

Stephen Fletcher, Head of Geography at Roding valley High School, was the driving force behind their Japan Cultural Event, which was held from 13th to 15th June 2007. Year 8 students at the school experienced three days of workshops on Japanese culture. Delivered by professionals and volunteers, the students were introduced to Japanese culture across a variety of fields, including Japanese cooking, Japanese language, taiko drumming, tea ceremony, calligraphy, origami, shogi and folk dancing.

According to the school, the aims of the event were:
- To expand pupils understanding towards foreign cultures and stimulate their motivation towards cross-cultural communications.
- To provide pupils with the opportunity for thinking and analyzing their own traditional culture by experiencing Japanese culture.
- To develop and cultivate pupils ability to improvise with the unknown or unfamiliar through dance, music, language, art and other cultural activities.

JFLLC StepOutNet volunteers Rie Sogo and Ayako Ohno taught the students some basic Japanese language, including greetings and how to write their names in Japanese, as well as how to order food from a fast food restaurant. The language sessions proved to be popular with students, who said they enjoyed speaking Japanese, and learning how to order food and drink. If you would like to arrange for a volunteer to visit your school, or become a volunteer a volunteer yourself, please click here.

Kyoko Hasegawa, an intern at the Japan Foundation enjoyed attending the event; "It was great to see British students studying Japanese with such enthusiasm, and I enjoyed speaking in Japanese with them".

Stephen Fletcher took part in the 2005 Japan Foundation Secondary School Teachers' Group Study Tour to Japan, and has since shared his passion for all things Japanese with students at Roding Valley High School.

Year 8 students speak Japanese with StepOutNet volunteers

Students learn how to do traditional Japanese painting