

## 'Turning Japanese' at the Lammas School

On Friday 9th February 2007 StepOutNet volunteer Chieko Yamada visited The Lammas School, a new comprehensive school in North East London. Yamada sensei introduced a group of 30 gifted and talented students to Japanese greetings and numbers through an interactive session which also included origami. Yamada sensei, who also teaches Japanese to Adults at University of the Arts, London, thoroughly enjoyed the challenge of teaching in the secondary sector, which she had never done before. Both French and Spanish are taught at The Lammas School, but Head of MFL, Melanie Wynter, was keen to provide students with the chance to be exposed to a completely new language and writing system, which was a first for the majority of the group. Yamada sensei said 'I was very impressed by the speed at which the students picked up the key phrases, and soon the students were happily introducing themselves to their classmates in Japanese, complete with bowing! I was also surprised that although most of them had not learnt any Japanese before, they seemed to know a lot about Japan'.

### Highlights

- Introduction to basic greetings such as 'konnichiwa, 'sayonara'
- Counting in Japanese
- Introduction to the Japanese writing system; students learnt how to write their name in Japanese, and also took part in a 'katakana quiz'.
- Browsing through Japanese magazines and manga
- Introductory presentation on Japanese culture, which included many photos of the landscape of Japan, food and technology.

For more information about the StepOutNet programme [click here](#).

Yamada-sensei teaches students the art of origami



Students at The Lammas School learn how to introduce themselves in Japanese

