<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12:00 – 12:30</td>
<td>Arrival and registration</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:30 – 12:35</td>
<td>Welcome Speech: Mana Takatori, Director General, Japan Foundation London</td>
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<td>12:35 – 12:40</td>
<td>Introduction to Programme: Anne Rajakumar, JLC, Master of Ceremonies</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:40 – 13:00</td>
<td>Speeches from Key Stage 3 Finalists</td>
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<td>13:00 – 13:15</td>
<td>Interval (Brookes Bunko Performance)</td>
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<tr>
<td>13:15 – 13:40</td>
<td>Speeches from Key Stage 4&amp;5 pre-GCSE finalists</td>
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<tr>
<td>13:40 – 14:00</td>
<td>Interval</td>
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<tr>
<td>14:00 – 14:05</td>
<td>Presentation on the Japanese Speech Awards: Yasuhiko Uemura, JSA</td>
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<tr>
<td>14:05 – 14:55</td>
<td>Speeches from Key Stage 4&amp;5 post-GCSE finalists</td>
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<tr>
<td>14:55 – 15:15</td>
<td>Interval (Radio Exercise)</td>
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<td>15:15 – 15:20</td>
<td>Comments by Chair of Judges</td>
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<td>15:20 – 15:40</td>
<td>Prize giving ceremony</td>
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<td>15:40 – 15:45</td>
<td>Closing Speech: Hiroshi Itakura, Embassy of Japan</td>
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<td>15:45 – 16:30</td>
<td>Refreshments</td>
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<td>16:30</td>
<td>Close</td>
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### Judges

**Mary-Grace Browning (Chair)** is a teacher of Japanese. She currently works in both maintained and private schools and prepares pupils for the GCSE and AS exams. She has worked on Japanese language teaching for over 40 years and has a particular interest in teaching communication skills to allow British and Japanese young people to form lasting friendships.

**Yuka Oeda (All categories)** Yuka Oeda is a Teaching Fellow in Japanese at the University of Leeds. She teaches various levels of Japanese language courses in the School of Languages, Cultures and Societies. She currently holds the position of Chair of the British Association for Teaching Japanese as a Foreign Language and has been working closely with Japanese language teachers across the UK.

**Hiroshi Itakura (All categories)** is the First Secretary at the Embassy of Japan in the UK; he has been responsible for Education and Sport since August 2015. Prior to his current appointment, he mainly worked on primary and secondary education related matters for the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology in Japan since 1999. He has a BA in Law from Hitotsubashi University in Japan and a MA in Public Policy from the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies in Japan.

**Makoto Netsu (All categories)** has worked on teacher training programmes at the Japan Foundation’s Japanese-Language Institute, Urawa in Japan from 1995. During these years he worked at the Japan Foundation Sydney and Kuala Lumpur as a Japanese Language Advisor. Currently he is Chief Japanese Language Advisor for the Japan Foundation London.

**Chie Hashimoto (KS3)** has been teaching GCSE, A Level and IB Japanese at Whgilt School since 2013. She has also taught a Saturday course for young children with a Japanese parent at the Institute of International Education in London. She has a Postgraduate Certificate in Teaching Japanese as a Foreign Language and an MA in Second Language Learning and Teaching.

**Shoko Middleton (KS4 Pre-GCSE)** has taught for many years in secondary schools in Japan and in England. After working for the Japan Foundation London as an advisor, she returned to classroom teaching at Greenford High School. She also teaches at the Centre for Languages and International Education, University College London.

**Yasuhiko Uemura (KS4&5 Post-GCSE category)** is the representative of the Japanese Speech Award (JSA) in London. He has been supporting the JSA speech contest in London since 2008. In addition, he is Manager of Joba International London, a private supplementary school for Japanese students living in the UK.

**Yuko Leece (Interclocator)** has been teaching Japanese since 2012 although her background is International Agricultural Development. She has been teaching all age groups. She is currently the teacher of Japanese at Holbrook Primary School, Wiltshire and St Mary’s School, Dorset. She has been a volunteer coordinator of Fukushima Friends UK, a charity which helps building friendship between schools in Fukushima and the UK.

**Hiroko Tanaka (Time-keeper)** is a Japanese Language Advisor at the Japan Foundation London. She has taught at a secondary school in the UK and at universities in Japan and Egypt. She has also worked as a voluntary Japanese teacher in Mongolian, Korean and Thai land.

**Suzuko Anai (Observer, all categories)** is a Senior Lecturer in Japanese Studies at Oxford Brookes University. She is actively involved in Japanese language education in the UK and Europe. She held the position of Chair of The Association of Japanese Language Teachers in Europe from 2006-2011 and led two international projects, one on CEFR and other looking into articulation between secondary and higher education.

### George Amis (Year 9)

**Bexley Grammar School**

My speech is about why travelling to Ethiopia would be my dream holiday. I want to travel to Ethiopia as my primary school teacher lived there when she was younger and we learnt about it and heard many stories about the country and its people. My speech is also about the quotes that inspire me and how they influence my life. Having heard about Ethiopia so much from such a young age has helped me want to visit and help them, as many people live in poverty and die younger than we would expect in a western culture. I think I feel this way because it is very important for everyone to have human rights.

### Rajeev Suresh Kumar (Year 9)

**Dartford Grammar School**

Where is the perfect holiday? Is it London? Is it Turkey? Is it France? I could go to Italy to see the Colosseum. I could go to New York to see the Statue of Liberty. There are many options to choose from! I could go to space, but it is very scary. I want to go to a lively place. But I want to go to a peaceful place as well. It’s Japan! Japanese has many awesome things like Mount Fuji, Golden Temple, Tokyo attractions and of course, Japanese culture. Last year, I went to Japan. I definitely want to go again.

### Samiha Rahman (Year 9)

**Greenford High School**

My ideal holiday would be in a certain city in Japan - Numazu. Numazu is located in eastern Shizuoka Prefecture and is used as the setting of one of my favourite anime series: Love Live Sunshine. There are three aquariums in Numazu but, in particular, I would like to go to Izu-Mito Sea Paradise, which is famous for its views of the famous Mount Fuji. It’s also famous for its dolphin shows and its mascot, who is a walrus called Uchicchi. After visiting this aquarium, I would like to go to the beach and, afterwards, a nearby island called Awashima where another aquarium, Awashima Marine Park, is located.

### Olivia Boulton (Year 9)

**Harrington Anglo-Eastern College**

My speech is about my ideal holiday to Japan. I document what I will do on my travels, including visiting two of the main Japanese islands. I aim to have as much fun on my trip as possible, and to explore Japanese culture, so I will be visiting natural hot springs, cat cafes, Japanese gardens and more. I hope that I will be able to learn more of the language during my holidays, so I can return to England as a Japanese master!

### Raihaana Ismail (Year 9)

**Tile Hill Wood School**

I’m Raihaana, I’m 14 years old and live in Coventry. My speech is about my ideal holiday. It contains where I would like to go and why. For example, I would like to go to various islands because I like hot weather and I can swim. I go on to explain which islands I want to go to: Mauritius and New Zealand. I also want to go to Dubai to skydive over Jumeirah Palm. Then to summarise, I say which I think will be my favourite and prompt everyone to visit Mauritius.

### Ella Blanchard (Year 9)

**Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Engineering College**

Hajime mashite! I am Ella Blanchard. I am 14 years old and from Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Engineering College. I live with my family of four. I love playing the piano and learning Japanese but do not like homework. I love animals, especially cats and foxes; I have a dog called Jackson. For my ideal holiday I would like to go to Kyoto because it is very famous and I want to see the beautiful cherry blossoms there. There are many places that I would like to visit in Kyoto including Arashiyama and I would like to taste Okonomiyaki with my friends.
My speech is about how food has evolved along with human civilisations, from before the first fire existed to modern cuisine. Humans were only able to scavenge for wild produce (e.g. fruits and nuts) when fire was not yet discovered. After fire was discovered by our late ancestors, Homo erectus, different kinds of food were invented. Greeks invented ice-cream while the Scots brought fried chicken to the United States. Many more fascinating food inventions will be explored throughout this speech.

Gabija Petrauskaite (Year 10)
Rooks Heath College
My future
In July of 2017, I will graduate from high school and then go to university. Once I graduate from university, I hope to become a translator in Japan because I enjoy speaking Japanese. I will live in a big house with a lot of pets like cats and sugar gliders and might have a husband. However, I will not have children. I will also go to the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and watch my favourite figure skater making my friends jealous.

Patrycja Juchum (Year 10)
St Michael's Catholic Grammar School
My dream: The ideal job
My name is Patrycja and I still do not know what job I would like to do in the future. When I was younger, I wanted to do various different jobs – archaeologist, working with animals, etc. because I loved discovering new things. Now I know that these are difficult jobs so I have changed my ideas. I want to do acting and dancing as I love both these things and have been doing them for 7 years. Although there are a lot of jobs I want to do, I still have time to decide what is best for me.

Boju Khaw (Year 10)
St Helen's School
Morals in Folk Stories
In Japan there are many folktales, well known by many children. Most tales have talking animals and ogres. However these tales have morals and teachings educating children about good and bad. An example is Shitakiri Sузume where the kind-hearted woodcutter was rewarded whereas his greedy wife was punished. In the UK, stories normally end with happy endings, a classic example is Cinderella. Cinderella finally gets a ‘happily ever after’ after being mistreated by her stepmother and sisters. Stories in the UK may be quite different to a few in Japan but overall I love Japanese tales as they are very interesting.

Evan Fields (Year 10)
Wolfreton School and Sixth Form College
Footballers’ wages
I am going to speak about footballer’s wages, and how their high earnings are unjustified. Although footballers are skilled in what they do, when you compare their earnings for example, to those of soldiers, who put their lives at risk when carrying out their duties, they are paid a ridiculously large amount of money to do what they do. The difference in pay between men and women’s football is also very large, which does not seem fair. My trip to Japan last October. I am a huge fan of football, and enjoy playing myself as well as watching the game but do not understand why footballers are paid the huge salaries they are.

Anya Burakowski (Year 11)
Wolverhampton Girls’ High School
Japanese and Western Art
My speech explores the ways in which Japan and the West have influenced each others’ development in the visual arts. Impressionist artists took inspiration from traditional Japanese woodblock prints, while Japanese prints were enhanced by imported pigments from the West. ‘Japanned ware’, lacquered items with Japanese motifs, were mass produced in the West around the Victorian era. Nowadays, anime and manga have a huge global following for their blend of American animation and comics with a Japanese art style. In conclusion, the most interesting and popular art comes about from a combination of ideas from different cultures.
Japanese Language Committee
Chair: Anne Rajakumar (Hockerill Anglo-European College) Nihongo Cup joint coordinators: Sachiko Yamaguchi (Aquinas College), Suzuko Anai (Oxford Brookes University), Motoko Ishikawa (St Helen’s School), Shoko Middleton (Greenford High School), Kornelia Mund (Whitgift School)