



Ireland Homestay 2019

Report



Schedule

Sat. July 20 - Sun. August 4

| DATES | | | MORNING | AFTERNOON | EVENING | Accommodation | CITY |
|--------|--------|-----|---|--|---|---------------|-----------|
| DAY 1 | 20-Jul | Sat | From Tohoku to Tokyo | 13:00 to 20:30 Orientation: Part 1&2 at the Embassy Part 3 at SOK Office | 23:00 Departure: Tokyo Haneda Airport | In flight | Tokyo |
| DAY 2 | 21-Jul | Sun | (Via Paris, France) | 10:40 Arrival: Dublin Airport Meeting Host Families at School | Spend time with host family | Homestay | Dublin |
| DAY 3 | 22-Jul | Mon | 9:00 to 12:30 Orientation & Level Test English Lesson | 14:00 to 17:00 School Activity: Dublin City Tour | Spend time with host family | Homestay | Dublin |
| DAY 4 | 23-Jul | Tue | 9:00 to 12:30 English Lessons | 14:00 to 17:00 School Activity: National Museum of Ireland | 20:00 to 22:00 School Activity: Irish Music & Dance | Homestay | Dublin |
| DAY 5 | 24-Jul | Wed | 9:00 to 12:30 English Lessons | 14:00 to 17:00 School Activity: Irish Football and Martialarts | Spend time with host family | Homestay | Dublin |
| DAY 6 | 25-Jul | Thu | 9:00 to 12:30 English Lessons | 15:30 Riverdance Show at Gaiety Theatre | 20:00 to 22:00 School Activity: Juggling | Homestay | Dublin |
| DAY 7 | 26-Jul | Fri | 9:00 to 11:00 English Lessons Minister for Communication, Climate Action & environment | 13:15 to 16:30 School Activity: Butler's Chocolate Factory | Spend time with host family | Homestay | Dublin |
| DAY 8 | 27-Jul | Sat | School Trip: Irish National Stud and Castle town | | Spend time with host family | Homestay | Dublin |
| DAY 9 | 28-Jul | Sun | School Trip: Viking Cruise and Cronmacnoise | | Spend time with host family | Homestay | Dublin |
| DAY 10 | 29-Jul | Mon | 10:30 to 14:00 Mr. John Neary (former Ambassador) The Chester Beatty | 14:30 to 15:00 Video Shooting School Activity: Trinity College | Spend time with host family | Homestay | Dublin |
| DAY 11 | 30-Jul | Tue | 9:00 to 12:30 English Lessons | 12:00 to 15:00 Mrs. Anne barrington (Former Ambassador) Dun Laoghaire | 20:00 to 22:00 School Activity: Illusionist/ Magic Show | Homestay | Dublin |
| DAY 12 | 31-Jul | Wed | 10:30 to 11:00 Lord Mayor of Dublin at Mansion House | 14:00 Embassy of Japan | Spend time with host family | Homestay | Dublin |
| DAY 13 | 1-Aug | Thu | 10:30 to 12:00 Mrs. Patricia Heberle The Olympics Federation of Ireland in Howth | 14:30 to 17:00 School Activity: St. Patrick's Cathedral | 20:00 to 22:00 School Activity: Disco | Homestay | Dublin |
| DAY 14 | 2-Aug | Fri | 10:30 to 12:00 Irish Rugby Team in Abbotstown | 13:30 to 14:00 SOK Presentation Farewel Party | Spend with hostfamily | Homestay | Dublin |
| DAY 15 | 3-Aug | Sat | 7:30 to 11:15 Meeting at School Departure: Dublin | (via Paris, France) | In flight | In flight | In flight |
| DAY 16 | 4-Aug | Sun | In flight | 12:45 to 15:30 Arrival: Haneda Closing Ceremony at the Embassy of Ireland | From Tokyo to Tohoku | | |

Orientation at the Embassy of Ireland

Saturday, July 20 / 13:00-17:00

PART.1

1. Opening Remarks: H.E. Mr. Paul Kavanagh, Ambassador of Ireland
2. Photo Session
3. Kazuki Iso, Secretary General, Support Our Kids
4. Students Presentation about their dreams
5. Local Program: Sumie Takazawa (the Group Leader)

Attendees:

H.E. Mr. Paul Kavanagh, Ambassador of Ireland and Mrs. Rosemary Kavanagh
Mr. Peter Neary, Deputy Ambassador of Ireland
Mr. Yoshihiro Tsuchiya, Vice President, Ireland Japan Chamber of Commerce
Mr. Yoji Tomiyama, Irish Network Japan

PART. 2

1. Lecture "Global Mindsets" Mr. Hoshito Shimakawa, Kenja Corporation
2. Students' Presentation preparation





*Thanks a million to
Minister Richard Bruton*

Fri, July 26 / 11:00-11:30

Program

1. Welcomed by Minister
2. Self- Introduction: Students
3. Presentation by Students
4. Q&A
5. Photo Session

Minister Richard Bruton

Ireland is a rapidly changing society. One of the biggest challenge I currently face is the climate change and how Ireland is going to adapt to it. We have lots of emissions from lifestyle. EU is trying to work together with on environmental issues.

Great to see you all have fantastic ambitions for your own careers and how your careers contribute to making our society a better place to live and our planet.

What we find here is quite a challenge. I think people understand at one level but bringing everyone committed to make changes is much harder than just explaining what the issues are.

I think we all have similar problems in different countries and challenges how do we collaborate across different countries, different traditions, different priorities that we all have to try and meet.



Naiki (16 / Fukushima)

I asked the Minister how to balance economic activity and environmental issues. He taught me the importance of natural energy for developing and sustainable society.*

In connection with that, I asked about "SDGs (Goals for Creating a Sustainable Society)" and learned about efforts of schools in Ireland. As I mentioned about the SDGs initiative of my school, Waseda Seiryō High School, the Minister suggested to go into partnership with an Irish school who are in the list of "Green School Initiative". I was very happy to hear that and would like find a way to proceed it.*

It was an exciting and valuable experience to exchange opinions on environmental issues with the Minister of Environment in Ireland.

**Challenges is really to not to stop prosperity and progress but rebuild the way we support our lifestyle in sustainable way. Practical changes we have to make for our own lives how we manage materials and wastes, making sure to choose sustainable choices.*

**Green-Schools is Ireland's leading environmental management and award programme, working with primary and secondary schools across the country.*



Minister Richard Bruton

You are wonderful ambassadors from Fukushima and Tohoku. Definitely I have to try and make it over to visit your areas. I have visited Japan as a Minister of Enterprise, three occasions in the past. As you said, your food is very special and wonderful.

It is certainly all over the world that young people are more calling the shots now in terms of the direction of policy that we need to take. We have to now bring a very sharp change in direction.

I think it is really important that you continue to campaign for cause of a better relationship with the environment. Because people like me who have a job trying to lead to change, we need people on the ground. You will never going to change from sitting in the office. So it is really important that people like yourself continue to articulate the case and influence people around you – your family, your community, politicians so that these issues come up in priority ranking. We have to manage it and carefully passes on to the next generation in the better conditions.

Kazuki (16 / Fukushima)

The recycling rate in Japan is one of the highest in the world, and the first way to do it is to change from plastic bottle waste being replaced by station-home benches and buckets. The second is to convert waste plastic into a material that can be regenerated many times. The third is to recover plastic as energy by burning it in garbage incinerators.

It seems like it's being recycled, but it isn't because of the total 3 plastic recycling ways method converted into energy by adding heat to plastic. Therefore, it should not be called recycling. The world is changing from recycling to trying to reduce the amount of garbage.

As a countermeasure, there would be no garbage incinerators in Ireland, which has the highest recycling rate in the world. In addition, there is a recycling box dedicated for clothes that are no longer needed for needy people to use. And if someone wants to, he or she can take the clothes home with them. It is a benefit system that allows needful people to use the clothes in the boxes.

Recently, an increasing number of stores in Japan have abolished plastic bags or started charging for them and also have boxes for recycling clothes. Although it is difficult to abolish incineration facilities in Japan, it is possible for needful people to use the clothes from the boxes. I believe that we need to address this issue globally in order to realize a sustainable society.

Irish Government has introduced to ban single use of plastics and Ocean Policy scheme for recovery organized by fisherman. 300,000 tons of plastic should be decrease from European countries each year.

Wed, July 31 / 10:30-11:00
Mansion House

*Thanks a million to
Lord Mayor of Dublin, Mr. Paul McAuliffe*

1. Welcomed by Lord Mayor
2. Self- Introduction: Students
3. Presentation by Students
4. Photo Session



In our presentation to the Lord Mayor today, I was conscious of that my part was a "positive part", and I was able to speak the most brightly ever.

The Lord Mayor listened to me with smile when I was introducing Fukushima's peach and Anpo-kaki.

He said, "I will go to Fukushima someday."

I was very happy because I achieved my goal of making Irish people want to come to Fukushima. Also, I felt a sense of accomplishment to be praised, "Your speech was the best."

Mio (14, Fukushima)



July 25, 15:30
at Gaiety Theatre

Thanks a million to
Ambassador Mr. Kavanagh

*The fine movements and expressions were very beautiful! It took my breath away and two hours had passed so rapidly:
Chie (16, Iwate)*

*It was a very powerful performance. We can't see such a performance in Japanese dances. Combination of instruments - violins, flutes, drums, and Irish dance creates a unique harmony. The hall was united in the last standing ovation. The dancers kindly came to meet us after the show and cared about us. We appreciated it.
Naiki (16, Fukushima)*



*Thanks a million to
Ambassador Mrs. Mari Miyoshi*



Wed, July 31 / 14:30

Program

1. Welcomed by the Ambassador
2. Self- Introduction: Students
3. Presentation by Students
4. Q&A
5. Photo Session

Ryota (16 / Iwate)

I asked, "What kind of belief do you work with?" The ambassador answered, "I work with the dream of contributing to peace of the world."

I have a big dream to be an engineer and save people around the world with the power of technology. Therefore, I admire her for keeping her dream and work with it as a belief.



Chio (16 / Miyagi)

I was surprised to hear that it was not necessary to pay water bill in Ireland. It is normal to pay for water in Japan. There is a big difference even both are a country in an island. Water pollution isn't so serious issue and there was not any special measures in Ireland.

I'm glad to know the history of Ireland!

There was another surprise in the talk of the ambassador. Some students of our age gave a demonstration on Climate Change just 2, 3 month ago! It is amazing that students took actions on global issues, and I think that Japanese students also need to consider and take more actions.



Airi (16 / Miyagi)

At the Embassy, I saw messages and signatures made by Irish people for the affected area of the Great East Japan Earthquake.

I was surprised that even a kindergarten child wrote a message. We have renewed that many people have thought about us As I saw letters that had been rewritten many times or written in Japanese, and paper cranes, I was able to comprehend once again that many people have thought about us.

I was really impressed. My heart became warm.

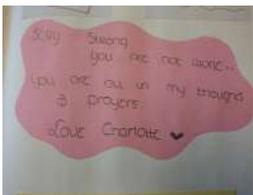


Naiki (16 / Fukushima)

After we showed messages for the Great East Japan Earthquake at the embassy, Mr. Watanabe answered our many questions.

In particular, it was impressive for me that the important thing as a diplomat is "attitude to understand the country and partner".

She said that having interest and curiosity is very important. This feeling also leads to motivation to work. I was convinced to see she happily telling us about this





Olympic Federation of Ireland

Support Our Kids visited Olympic Federation of Ireland in Howth on Thursday, August 1.



Medals



I asked Tricia what Irish culture she wants to introduce during Tokyo2020. Her answer was "the very friendly personality of Irish people". Each of us received an Irish Olympic pin badge and stickers designed by Ireland as a gift. I heard that each country has different design for their Olympic pin badge so that athletes often trade them during the Olympics. I won't trade them to anyone. I will attach it to my pen case in order to show it to my friends in school and tell them about Ireland.

Olympic Federation of Ireland let us hold a real gold medal for our memory. It was heavy enough to believe that it is filled with the efforts of the players.

It was an amazing experience.

In return, we handed Matsukawa Daruma as a gift to Tricia. She told us that its big eyes were cute, and gave us a cheerful smile.

I felt and learned that Tricia's way of speaking powerfully and calmly works very well when she is trying to convey a message.

Yuna (16, Miyagi)



Ireland Rugby Football Union

at Abbotstown

Support Our Kids had an amazing opportunity to watch IRFU's training session and meeting with Mr. Joe Schmidt, head coach of Irish National Team and the players at Abbotstown on Friday, August 2.

The Irish Rugby Team has a high ranking in the world and is famous for their strength. It was very rare opportunity to watch their training session, and I realized once again that I had valuable experience. The members of rugby team seemed very tired after training, but they looked at us with a smile and signed and shook hands for us. I was very impressed.

They are well built and it was clear at a glance that they had been training very hard for a long time.

*Kamaishi City, Iwate, where seriously damaged by the earthquake, was chosen as one of the venues for the Rugby World Cup 2019 in Japan. The term of the RWC 2019 is quite long and it is expected to have 300,000 from Ireland to Japan. We will also have lots of people in this affected area. I would like to convey my experience that we met Irish Rugby team as well as the charms of my hometown, Iwate's Kuji City to the visitors.
Ryota (16, Iwate)*





“We are looking forward to welcoming Irish Rugby Team in Japan and would like Ireland to win RWC 2019!”

Support Our Kids Ireland 2019 team



Chester Beatty

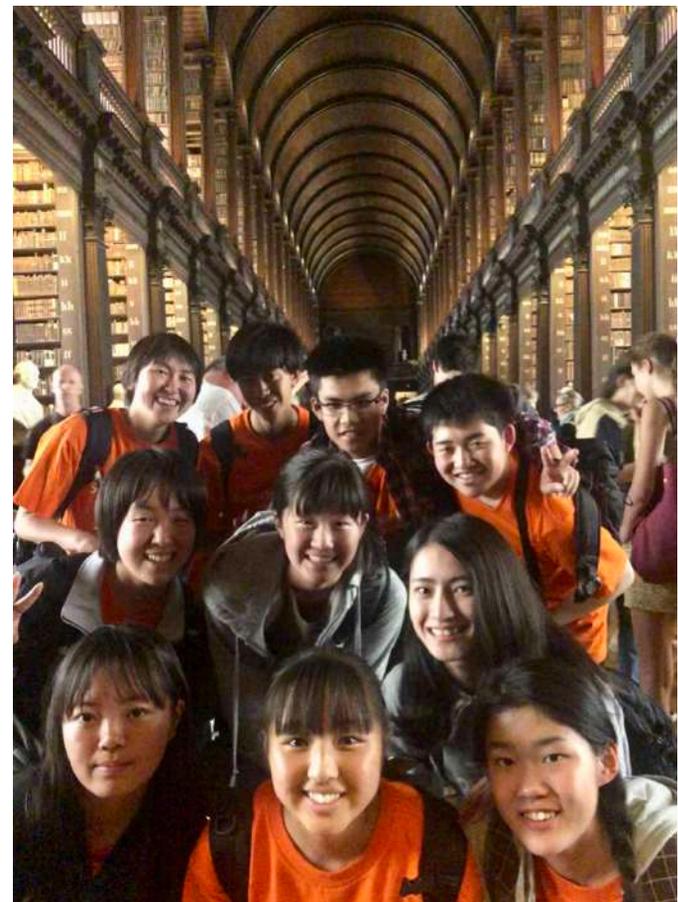
With Mr. John Neary and Kathleen

Mon, July 29

- 10:30 Arrive at Chester Beatty, welcome by Fionnuala Croke, Director
- 10:45 – 12:00 Guided tour of the galleries led by Mary Redfern with Japanese interpretation by Hiromi Anzai
- 12:00 – 12:30 Opportunity to further explore the galleries and roof garden (self-guided)
- 12:30 – 13:30 Lunch at Silk Road Cafe







Yuna (16, Miyagi)

I visited many places in this program, and the Chester Beatty Library and Trinity College Library were particularly meaningful for me. Both were different from "libraries" that lending books, so for me, who wants to be a librarian, it was an opportunity to think about how the library should be and the projects I want to try in the future.

The Chester Beatty Library, like a museum, exhibits not only books but also collection of the mining magnate, Sir Chester Beatty. I was attracted to its way of management. What we can see there is the tip of the iceberg, and the tips are changing so that they will not be damaged by lighting, so if you will be able to see another exhibit next time.

I think it is wonderful to introduce not only books for reading, but "books with a beautiful cover", "books with elaborate illustrations", and "books for academic purposes". I have heard the opinion that books can only exist as books when they are being read, but Chester Beatty's books are well-preserved and recognized as historical books. If books could have feelings, they would be happy to be valued and be praised.

By visiting this library, I found the aim that hold an exhibition focused on a topic and to lend books on it as a librarian.

At the Trinity College Library, I enjoyed a beautiful back covers and a fantastic atmosphere. There was a rope in front of the bookshelf and I didn't touch the books. I thought it would be cool if I could actually pick up a book from this shelf, but I realized that the books on this shelf had actually picked up by thousands of people for hundreds of years. And I came to think that I want to work for a library that will be praised by people hundreds of years ago, and I want to work to make such a library.

My goals after becoming a librarian became clear, and my admiration for librarian has increased.

Picnic with Mrs. Anne Barrington in Dun Laoghaire

Former Ambassador of Ireland
July 31, 2019

The lunch was made by Anne. There are potato dishes and bean dishes that were famous in Ireland. All dishes were so delicious. Anne listened and answered each of our questions kindly. I wondered why I was able to ask questions so much today. It may be because of that she listened to me seriously and sympathized with me. I was worried whether I could do that, but I want to try to aware of that from now on.
Airi





Emerald Cultural Institute

Language School

Fri. August 2

13:30 SOK Presentation

Thanks to Mauro Biondi, head master, and teachers, staff and students at Emerald for listening to the presentation about the disaster and reconstruction of Tohoku.



Kazuki (16 / Fukushima)

My future dream is becoming a teacher, so I asked my teacher what she thinks important for a teacher on the last day of English lessons. She told me that she tried to make her students relaxed and keep everyone together. I had guessed her answer would be the educational aspect such as teaching until the students understood. I learned connecting with friends and personal comfort are more important than grammars. After returning to Japan, I will try to practice to pay attention to individuals.





Emerald Cultural Institute

Farewell Party

**SOK introduced Japanese
Calligraphy and traditional Tea
ceremony to the students from
all over the world.**



Mio (14, Fukushima)

While I was having lunch with my team, some students of a larger group came to talk to us. They are from different countries and very cheerful, friendly people. They said they love Japanese animations. We took pictures shouting names of animations. Eventually, more people joined us.

I noticed that one of my housemate Jorge (Spanish) was among them. Jorge was worried about me yesterday as I got lost on the way home. He asked me whether I had learned the way home. I answered "Yes." Then, Jorge introduced me to his friends and said, "She is my sister." How happy that word made me! It may have been just a mere phrase, but I was feeling really happy and surprised to know that Jorge was thinking of me like a family.

On the last day of Jorge and Ann's homestay, I wrote letters to them. I could only say, "Thank you." and "I love you.", but we hugged together many times. I was little nervous because I was not getting used to hug, but I definitely had a good time. All of us felt sure, "We are family." I was really glad that everyone accepted me as a family even though I couldn't speak English well.



Ryota (16 / Iwate)

At the farewell party, I took a lot of photos with friends I met in Ireland. I have to part from them, but I was not sad at all. Because I am sure to meet them again. In this homestay, I was able to make friends all over the world such as Spain, Russia, Ireland, Germany, Italy, France, Saudi Arabia. While talking about their country together, I came to want to see it with my own eyes. Through this homestay, I set another goal apart from my future dream. That is traveling around the world. I was inspired by many exchanges with different cultures.

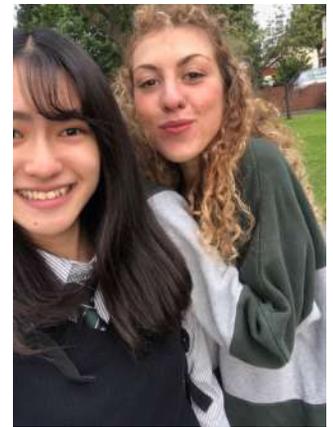
I wanted to learn more different cultures and get more inspired.

To that end, it is necessary to study English more. I will do my best to study English.

Thanks a million to
Host Family
in Dublin



Thanks a million to
Best Friends
met in Dublin



Special Thanks to

Embassy of Ireland to Japan
The Ireland Funds
Emerald Cultural Institute

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Ireland
Department of Communication, Climate Action and Environment, Ireland
Olympic Federation of Ireland
Dublin City Council
Embassy of Japan in Ireland
IRFU (Irish Rugby Football Union)
Mr. John Neary, former Ambassador of Ireland to Japan
Mrs. Anne Barrington, former Ambassador of Ireland to Japan
Riverdance
Chester Beatty Library
BigO

Air France
Delegation of the European Union to Japan
Ireland Japan Chamber of Commerce
Irish Network Japan
Ito-en
Tohoku Fukushi University

[Listed in no particular order]

Support  Our Kids 