

Year 11 Japanese Beginners students enjoy immersion day

Year 11 Japanese Beginners students recently attended an excursion at Nihongo Tanken Centre. Michelle Cho shares her experience with the school community in the following report.

We arrived at the Nihongo Tanken Centre for an immersive excursion where we were greeted by our hosts, Taka sensei and Mieko sensei, for the day. Upon entering, we practised the ritual of entering a Japanese house, including putting on slippers at the *genkan* (entrance). Afterwards, we were invited to sit in a traditional living room with *shoji* doors (sliding doors covered with sheets of translucent paper) and traditional tatami mat flooring.

We then introduced ourselves in Japanese to our hosts, who kindly prepared *okashi* (snacks) and divided us into four groups named after Japanese cities before we participated in several engaging activities. These included honing our Japanese speaking skills through mock interviews and simulating shopping scenarios, where we practised ordering food and engaging in extended conversations with a partner. We also had an enjoyable photo session with amusing props, during which we dressed up as various Japanese words.

For lunch, our hosts prepared us bento boxes containing an assortment of cultural dishes, such as chicken katsu, which we ate in the beautiful, traditional *niwa* (garden) beside the Tanken Centre, enabling us to fully immerse ourselves in Japanese culture and experience a traditional Japanese home.

Following our meal, we enthusiastically engaged in Japanese Pictionary and a lively quiz show, where we collaborated fervently and passionately in our respective teams. We finished the day with a fun Kendama contest in which the challenge was to successfully land a ball on a wooden hammer stick, putting our hand-eye coordination to the test and enabling us to experience a traditional Japanese game. Thank you to our wonderful hosts for arranging the educational and engaging activities.

