

Hakusan City Exchange 2016/2017

Funding Request

The Exchange has been running for 22 years now and takes place between students from Hakusan in Japan and students from Boston.

The current exchange has recruited 12 students from the secondary schools in the Boston area and 3 chaperones, who will be visiting Japan in July 2017. In July last year we will host 15 Japanese students and three chaperones.

The total cost of this exchange is currently budgeted to be £34,000 (but final figures will depend on currency exchange rates etc). The students and their families have been fund raising over the last fourteen months to help towards the final budgeted costs.

More detailed information is attached.

How it works

The exchange works over a two year cycle.

- The Japanese Authorities nominate Japanese students to take part in the exchange. They are considered to be ambassadors for both their schools and for Japan. It is therefore considered an honour to be involved and the Japanese State pays the majority of costs for the pupils to be involved.
- All secondary schools in the Boston area are invited to offer their Year 8 & 9 pupils the chance to come to a meeting to find out about the exchange.
- If there are more students wishing to take part than there are places available a selection process has to take place involving a written presentation, communication with the student's school and a short interview.
- A working committee is formed consisting of parents of the students involved, as well as some people who have had experience of the exchange in the past.
- Teachers from the local secondary schools are invited to take part as chaperones.
- Fund Raising and organisation begins.
- Students and Chaperones meet monthly to get to know each other, to learn about Japan and prepare a performance to entertain the Japanese, as is considered polite within the culture of Japan.
- Year 1 - July - Japanese Students visit Boston
- Year 2 - July – Boston students visit Japan.

Summary Budgeted Funding Figures for 2016/2017 Exchange

Expenses

July 2015 costs for entertaining Japanese Students	Organized trips out, formal evening	£1500 (further expenses were covered by individual families).
July 2017 total budgeted costs for travel for Boston Students and chaperones	Coach, international flights, internal flights, bullet train	£30,000
Gifts	Traditional Japanese custom to exchange gifts	£500
Contingency		£1,000
Other	T-shirts for students to wear as a uniform. Stationary, insurance etc.	£1,000
		£34,000

Income

Fundraising (Estimated)	Race nights, bag packing, balls, Seabank Marathon, 300 club, wine tasting, donations,	£17,000
Balance (Estimated)	To be paid by families involved, any additional funding secured.	£17,000
		£34,000

Benefits of the Exchange

For the Students

- A rare and wonderful opportunity to visit Japan and experience the culture of the country alongside a Japanese family. Hopefully making life long friendships with a student from a totally different culture.
- A chance to work with a group outside their normal school peer group, to learn together and to work as a team whilst making new friends.
- Having chosen to take part in the exchange, learning that they must put effort into both fund raising and into learning a performance in order to entertain their hosts.

For the Chaperones

- An opportunity to visit Japan and experience the culture of the country.
- A chance to work with a group of students on a very positive project, which all those involved have chosen to take part in.

For the Families

- The honour of welcoming a Japanese student into their homes and for all the family to have an insight into Japanese culture.

For Boston

- Helping to put Boston on the international map and creating international links.
- Introducing a number of local school children to a taste of international culture, when the Japanese students visit local schools etc whilst in Boston.
- We have taken every opportunity to use and support local businesses when entertaining the Japanese party whilst in the UK and when purchasing, gifts, food, transport etc.

In Brief

The Boston/ Hakusan Exchange has been running for 22 years now. It is run on a voluntary basis by parents, teachers and ex exchange students for the benefit of local secondary school pupils. It has a proud history and to date has been nothing but a positive experience for all those involved and also for Boston. The students involved are totally motivated and should be applauded for their enthusiasm and hard work.

- The students will design a fantastic emblem for the uniforms that professional design artists would be proud of.
- Others will take part in and complete the Seabank Marathon twice, (2nd time around sponsor money will not be available for this exchange as it is not issued until November, and this is carried over to start funds for the next exchange and for others to have the same opportunity).
- All of the students will participate in fund raising and work together.

The exchange has previously been supported by all the local secondary schools, many local businesses, local primary schools and the Lincolnshire LEA. The Mayor also supported us in 2016 by attending various functions and hosting an evening at the council chamber. We hope that the Borough Council will be able to offer some financial support for this worthwhile venture.