



## Japan Study Trip 2024

### Day 10 - Tuesday

In the morning, most students woke up around 6:45am and prepared for school. When we arrived at school, we attended the opening ceremony in which Ms Holt, Ms K, Sarah and Ivan represented Brighton Secondary School and performed speeches in front of the Toyodai Himeji students. The speeches were also live streamed to all the students and teachers at Toyodai Himeji University school.

At 10am, we entered the cable car and went up Mount Shosha. The mountain is 375m above sea level and the hike was tough. On the mountain, we got to see various Buddha statues, ring the bell of peace and participated in a Zen meditation. There are four types of Buddha. 如来(nyorai), 菩薩(bosatu), 妙(myoo), 天部(tenbu). Nyorai is the highest in the hierarchy and Tenbu is the lowest. Sadly, all the temples were burnt down long ago but they were rebuilt to replicate the originals.

When we reached the main temple, we had lunch packed by our host families. One of our guides spoke to us about the construction of the temples and shrines, only using joints from wood because of the expansion the wood has over many years.

The Zen meditation was a once in a lifetime experience, there were strict rules and if you didn't follow them, you would get hit by the monk six times!

At my homestay (Ivan), we went to my host dad's factory, and he gave us the opportunity to observe the manufacturing process of engines for both cruise ships and submarines. I arrived home around 7:30pm and had udon and tempura for dinner. It was the most delicious food I have ever eaten.

At my homestay (Ollie), we went to a traditional ramen restaurant and my host dad educated me on the naming of the ramen and its geographical origin. I had never had ramen in Japan, so it was very delicious. After dinner, they took me to a shopping centre to buy souvenirs and we arrived back home at 8:15pm. My host sister taught me about Japanese history, like the old names for months and places, and the meaning of her and her sibling's names. It was quite interesting.

*Written by Ivan and Ollie*

