

THE FRONTIER TIMES

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Celebrating Sweet Sixteen in England

Azumi OSHIMA
(Japan)
Student in the Integrated Six-Year Program

I spent the second trimester of this academic year—about four months—at Altrincham Grammar School for Girls in Manchester, England. Altrincham is our sister school. We used to send only one girl a year to Altrincham, but this year two of us were able to study there. Later this year, about twenty-five students from Altrincham will come to our school for about one week. I can't wait to see my friends again.

My host parents were Chinese. They have two children. Jenny is a student at Altrincham.



▲Sharing Hugs with Altrincham Classmates



A Great Four Months at Our Sister School

Mami OGAWA
(Japan)
Student in the Integrated Six-Year Program

From September until December of this past year, I spent a memorable four months at our sister school in England. My classmate Azumi and I were both able to study at Altrincham during this time. We lived with different families, though. Like Azumi's family, my family is of Chinese ancestry. They have two daughters, one of whom is a student at Altrincham.

My family cooked Chinese food for dinner on most nights. I really like Chinese food. It's not so different from Japanese food, really.



▲Azumi and Mami Pose with Safety Officers



▲Azumi and Mami with Altrincham Classmates

Samuel is her younger brother. They were very kind to me. One time, we went to Liverpool to see the City Centre and the famous docks. It was very interesting.

On the weekends, I usually spent time with Mami, who is in my same grade and who came with me to England to study at Altrincham. Most weekends, we went to the Manchester City Centre to shop. I have many good memories of those times.



I made lots of friends at Altrincham, and the teachers were all very kind to me. I led a pretty normal life there. Of course, I did some sightseeing. I went to Alton Towers and visited the Christmas Market. On most days, though, I spent time in the library, read books, played tennis, made my lunch for my lunch box, watched DVDs, washed my clothes, cleaned the house, used Facebook, listened to music on my iPod, washed the dishes, went swimming and so forth. Once, I even made Japanese-style "pancakes".



▲Mami Poses with Friends



▲The Entrance to Altrincham Grammar School for Girls

I think that my most special memory was of turning sixteen while in England. When I went to school on that day, my classmates sang "Happy Birthday" to me. On that same day, the school finally gave me a timetable. I thought of it as the school's gift to me for my birthday! At last, I knew exactly where I would be studying. I had indicated that I didn't want to study math or science, but these subjects were on the timetable. My teacher helped me to change these courses.

In my homeroom, some of my friends and Mami had a party for me during lunch period. We spent the time eating, talking and dancing. It was very exciting and amazing. It was like a dream! The best present I received was a message board. My friends all wrote birthday greetings on it. Some even wrote in Japanese. It moved me and impressed me. I am so happy to have been able to spend my sixteenth birthday in the UK. I will remember it always. ☑

It was hard at first to understand everything the teachers were saying in classes, but I quickly got used to hearing English all day long and, by the end, I felt that I could understand almost everything the teachers were saying.

The schools in England and Japan are similar in many ways, but there are important differences. I was really surprised, for example, that at Altrincham we were able to play on a trampoline during P.E. class! I enjoyed that.

All in all, I had a really great time in the UK and will never forget the kindness of the people there. ☑



▲Mr.Kitada Seeing the Girls Off at Centair



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【ザ・フロンティア・タイムズ】



CE-BRAN Inc.

東日本大震災の犠牲になられた方々に心から追悼の意を表し
被災者の皆さまにお見舞い申し上げます。
一日も早く平穏な生活に戻れるようお祈りいたします。

2011年3月11日、未曾有の大災害が日本を襲った。凄まじい自然の力を前に、我々は無力であることを痛感させられたばかりか、自らが作り出した科学技術でさえ制御できないことを思い知らされた。被災地では国境を越えた救援活動が昼夜を問わず行われている。アメリカをはじめとする各国による目に見える支援は、我々に少しの安心と勇気を与えてくれる。しかしながら、この危機的状況から脱するための決定的な施策がないまま、国内には不安だけが広がりを見せている。戦後最大の日本の有事である。

国際生は知っているだろうか、被災地での報道されない光景を。想像を絶するほどの多くの命がほんの瞬間に奪われたのだ。あまりにも突然に、君たちと同世代の少女少女が、家族との理不尽な別れを強いられたの

だ。辛く悲惨な事実である。日本のメディアとは違って、海外メディアはご遺体を忌避せずに報道し、多くの日本国民の「死」を伝えている。事実と真摯に向かうことで、家族とは何か、命とは何か、これからどう復興を始めていけばよいのかを深く問いかけている。

4月2日、本校は入学式を執り行い、新たに163名の国際生を迎えることができた。この紙面での祝意は控えるべきではないかという意見もあるうが、こんな時期だからこそ誤解を恐れずあえて言おう。君たちは不安定な要素に満ちたこの時代に、果敢にも国際舞台で活躍することを志とし、この御器所のキャンパスに集った。国際生の強みはグローバルズムを恐れず、世界と歩調を合わせて生きることが切望していることだ。これほど日本の未来を感じさせることはない。勇気をもって君たちの入学を祝そう。

日本は強いと言う人がある。戦後の廃墟から高度経済成長を見事に成し遂げた力強い国家であり、これからもそうであろう。この国をこれほどまでに成長させた先人たちに見習い、我々も続かなければならない。この叩き付けられた危機的状況を日本人らしく粛々と乗り越えてみせるのだ。

国際生よ、今は学びの時である。時間に縛られず自由意思で行動できる時期は間もなく来る。その時まで、このキャンパスで知識と教養を高めることに努めよ。そして、近い将来、日本復興に向けての開拓者として前線で活躍することを誓ってほしい。☑

被災された皆さまが一日も早く通常の生活に戻れることを願い、7月20日まで本校事務室前で義援金をお預かりいたします。寄せられた義援金は日本赤十字社に募金いたします。