

Yuto Osafane – Life as an International Student at WBHS

I'm the only Japanese International student in WBHS.

In 2019 I came to WBHS with some other Japanese students as part of a group from Otani High School which is my Japanese school. I made some friends, they were my first foreign friends and I had a very good time in New Zealand.

Then I thought I want to come back to NZ and I want to go back to WBHS. Immediately after returning to Japan I started my preparation and in January 2020 I came back to New Zealand.

At the beginning of the year, there was another Japanese student in WBHS so I was always talking to him in Japanese and I was not good at speaking English so I didn't like to go to school.

However, I had a surfing trip and that was my first time to surf so that was a really nice experience and my English started to improve.

After lockdown, some trips were cancelled because of COVID-19 but I still had some trips. I had an overnight camp trip which was good.

There is no class such as Outdoor Education in Japan so that was a new experience and it was fun.

However, I think the international trip to Rotorua was the best thing. I loved the hot springs - .Leo and I did the Big Swing at the Skyline. That was really scary.

We also went to The Hobbiton Movie Set - that was a very nice place to go. After I went there I watched all the Hobbit movies with my host mother. This was a really fun thing to do.



Now in Term 3, my English is really growing and I have made some more friends and that has made me enjoy going to school.

Sometimes I do feel the language barrier and the culture barrier but this has been a really nice experience for me so I'm so happy that I came and studied here.

