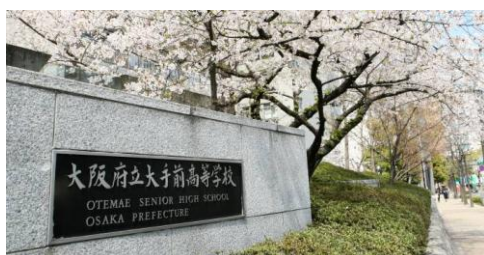


Introduction of Otemae Senior High School (2013)



Outline of Otemae High School

Established in 1886, Otemae High School (OHS) is one of the oldest public high schools in Osaka. OHS stands in the center of Osaka, just in front of Osaka Castle.

We have two courses: the general course, and the Humanities-Science course. Every year 360 students entered the school, split over 9 classes. Four of these classes (160 students) enter the Humanities-Science course. Now, in 2013, we have 1086 students in total; 54% boys and 46% girls.

In the general course, students study to acquire the skills needed to advance to university and the skills needed to cope in modern society. In the Humanities-Science course, the 1st year of study is almost the same as the general course, but from the second semester of the 2nd year, the classes are divided into smaller groups and they start concentrating on their specialization. They also have opportunities to take lessons given by university professors and other experts.

School events

The chorus contest in May is a good opportunity for students to cooperate with each other and work together with fellow classmates. Each class sings one song, and five classes can advance to the final.

The cultural festival is held on in September. Not only students' families, but also people around the school or junior high school students who want to enter OHS visit the school festival.

On the sports day, teams made up across the school-years compete in over 25 events. Example events include tug of war, piggyback fighting as well as various track and field events.

The second year students go on a school trip. They stay at farmer's houses and work with them in orchards or rice fields.

In December, an intensive seminar is held for two days. The aim of the intensive seminar is to encourage students to learn more about university study, future careers, or people active around the world. Professionals from various fields offer lectures to students. Students can choose two lectures out of about sixty available.

School Life

School begins at 8:30 and ends at 15:20. Each lesson lasts 65 minutes, and there are 5 lessons a day. We have about 190 school days a year. The first term is from April to September and the second term is from October to March. Each term has mid- and end-term exams.

We have no school on Saturdays, but study rooms are open and supplementary lessons and lectures are given to improve the students' academic abilities.



International experience

Penglais School in the UK and OHS are sister schools and students of each school visit the other every other year. Penglais School is in Aberystwyth, a beautiful Welsh town on the coast of the Atlantic Ocean. Otemae students stay with Penglais School students for two weeks. During this time, they join school lessons with their host students and visit places around the area.

Every year a Chinese student spends a year as a student here. He or she inspires OHS students a lot, for example, by reciting Chinese poems in Japanese classics lessons.

A group of foreign students (from Australia this year) visit us once a year. They join lessons with OHS students, and after that, spend time experiencing some traditional Japanese events such as tea ceremony. Exchange students also stay with Otemae students and spend several months studying here.

Otemae as a Super-Science-High School

In 2008, OHS was designated as a "Super-Science-High School" by the Japanese government. Students have a chance to give their own presentations in English at international conferences such as the Mekong Delta countries Conference or the International High school Science Conference. The International High school Science Conference is held by OHS every three years. Students lead the conferences, give and hear presentations, address questions to presenters, and answer questions asked of them, all in English.

Applicants from all the 1st and the 2nd year students join a study tour. They visit Malaysia or Singapore.

All the second graders of the Humanities-Science course and applicants from the general course go on a 3-day summer school in Kyoto. When students visit Kyoto University, they can look around the laboratories and take lectures from professors there.