Thursday 18th September — have a very early night because tomorrow will be a long day.

Day 1: Friday 19th September

Arrive in the morning at Gold Coast Airport for our trip to Kansai Airport Osaka, flying Jet Star. Depart at 10:05am. (Jetstar Airways have not released scheduled flights for September 2014 and the above flight is subject to change). The “Feed Me Pack and Entertainment Pack” are included in your flight costs. Arrive at Kansai Airport at 6:20pm. Take the train to Shin-Osaka.

Overnight hotel, Shin-Osaka.

Day 2: Saturday 20th September — Osaka

Today you will enjoy Universal Studios Japan. Ride the latest rides. In 2014, a new themed land will debut -The Wizarding World of Harry Potter!

Overnight hotel, Shin-Osaka.

Day 3: Sunday 21st September — Kyoto

Commence 7-Day Japan Rail Pass

Travel to Kyoto which will take approximately 1hour. Kyoto is Japan’s ancient capital. Kyoto was Japan’s capital city from 794 – 1868. It has more than 1600 Buddhist Temples and 270 Shinto Shrines. Kyoto is the 7th largest city in Japan.

In the morning visit the Astro Boy Museum (own arrangements)

In the afternoon, enjoy the Maiko Experience in the Gion District. This one-hour session will include an English introduction into life as a Maiko followed by a tea ceremony and individual photos and questions and answers up close with a Maiko.

Overnight Kyoto hotel/inn.

Day 4: Monday 22nd September — Kyoto

Kyoto suggested sightseeing- self guided.

Nijo Castle (Nijjo) was built by Tokugawa Ieyasu, founder of the Edo Shogunate in 1600. The palace building has decorated sliding doors and floors that squeak like nightingales when someone walks on them (a security measure against intruders).

Kinkakuji Temple, the Golden Pavilion, is one of the most beautiful temples in all of Japan. It’s the home of perhaps the world’s most authentic and exquisite Japanese garden. A trip to Japan would not be complete without a photo in front of the Golden Pavilion.
Kyoto Imperial Palace, which was the residence of the Imperial family until the capital was moved to Tokyo in 1869, is located in Kyoto Gyoen Park.

Heian Shrine with the large red torii gate and magnificent gardens.

Sanjusangendo, a Buddhist temple famous for 1001 carved statues of the Buddhist God of Mercy, each with a unique face.

Kiyomizudera Temple, the longest wooden structure in the world. Enjoy a sweeping view of the entire city of Kyoto from its lofty terrace. The winding entrance to the temple is known as ‘Teapot Lane’ and sells the best souvenirs, pottery and handicrafts in all of Japan.

Overnight Kyoto hotel/inn.

**Day 5: Tuesday 23rd September – Hiroshima**

Board the bullet train Shinkansen and travel to Hiroshima.

Hiroshima’s Peace Park and Atom Bomb Museum - The Industrial Promotion Hall is the only ruined building still allowed to stand after the devastation in 1945, its dome the symbol of the destruction. The Peace Park is built around this building. You will see the statue of ‘Sadako’ above thousands of paper cranes from all around the world.

Hiroshima A-Bomb Survivor Testimony – After a visit to the Hiroshima Peace Park and Museum, students will have the opportunity to attend a one-hour testimony and hear first hand from a Hiroshima A-Bomb Survivor.

Overnight Hiroshima hotel.

**Day 6: Wednesday 24th September – Hiroshima/Miyajima**

Mazda Museum Factory Tour

If you are an avid fan of automobiles then you must visit the Mazda museum in Hiroshima, which tries to trace the history of Matsuda in the field of automobile production and also displays an array of racing cars. The rotary engine that was pioneered by the company is also put on display and how it functions is properly explained to people who are eager to know more about the beauties on wheels. The best part of the tour is a sneak preview of the factory and its vehicle assembly line, which has automated production and assembly units where robots have been able to replace human beings to a large extent. The tour culminates with a display of hydrogen-fuelled cars and other futuristic cars of Mazda that might roll out of the factory in the years to come.

A short ferry ride will take you to Miyajima Island known as one of Japan’s ‘Three Most Beautiful Places’. The island is famous for its shrines, tame deer and monkeys. You certainly won’t miss the large red torii gate that marks the entrance to the floating ‘Itsukushima Shrine’. This is Japan’s largest torii gate. Board the Miyajima Ropeway which is the cable car and gondola system linking Miyajima to Mount Misen for a spectacular view of the island.

Overnight Hiroshima hotel.

**Day 7: Thursday 25th September – Tokyo**

Board the bullet train and travel to Japan’s capital city, Tokyo. This bullet train ride will ensure you see much of Japan’s countryside and perhaps even Mt. Fuji on a fine day.

Suggested sightseeing in Tokyo – self guided

The best place to experience a carnival atmosphere any day of the year is Asakusa. Famous for its covered walkways of souvenir, fashion and toy-shops that extend for several blocks and Tokyo’s oldest temple. Sensoji Temple was
founded in the 7th century and is dedicated to Kannon, Goddess of Mercy, and is therefore popularly called the Asakusa Kannon Temple.

Tokyo’s famous ‘Akihabara’ Electric City. Bathed in neon, Akihabara has more than 300 shops specialising in the latest electrical goods such as ipods, watches, computer games and more. Overnight Tokyo traditional inn

Odaiba – The futuristic area of Japan is a must to see. Sega World, Panasonic Building, Toyoto Mega-Web and one of the largest ferris wheels in the world are popular with the young tourists.

Harajuku - the teenage area of Tokyo where you will find the latest trends in teenage fashion, food and music. Every Sunday, young Japanese flock to this area to see the latest bands and dancers that perform in the streets. The Meiji Shrine is located nearby so have your camera ready, as there are usually many traditional weddings and christenings taking place on a Sunday. This famous shrine and garden is dedicated to the Emperor Meiji and his Empress.

Overnight Tokyo traditional inn.

Day 8: Friday 26th September - Tokyo

Tokyo Disneyland – The Kingdom of Dreams and Magic

Ride the latest rides, watch the street parade and meet Mickey Mouse at the world’s famous themepark - Tokyo Disneyland. There is so much to see and do here including the Teacup ride, Space Mountain ride and Buzz Lightyear ride. The ‘Disney Electric Light Parade’ in the evening is spectacular.

Overnight Tokyo traditional inn.

Day 9: Saturday 27th September – Tokyo

Self guided sightseeing in Tokyo and surrounding areas

Overnight Tokyo traditional inn.

Day 10: Sunday 28th September – Yokosuka

Travel to Yokosuka High School - Homestay

We travel to Yokosuka High School by train and meet up with our Homestay families. Welcome party: introduce yourself in Japanese.

Over the next 5 nights experience life in a Japanese family. Spend time with your host families. Talk with your host families about yourself, your family, school life in Australia, impression of Japan etc. Talk in Japanese as much as possible.

Overnight Homestay.

Day 11: Monday 29th September

Overnight Homestay

Day 12: Tuesday 30th September

Overnight Homestay

Day 13: Wednesday 1st October

Overnight Homestay
Day 14: Thursday 2nd October

Overnight Homestay

Day 15: Friday 3rd October

Bid a sad farewell to our hosts and travel by limousine bus from Yokohama to Narita Airport for your return flight home.

Join the flight leaving in the evening at 9:25pm for our arrival in Cairns early the next morning at 6:05am. (Jetstar Airways have not released scheduled flights for September 2014 and the above flight is subject to change).

Feed Me Pack, Entertain Me Pack and Comfort Me (blanket and pillow) packs are included on your flight.

Day 16: Saturday 4th October

Take the 11:00am Jetstar flight from Cairns to the Gold Coast Airport arriving at 1:15pm. Welcome home!