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To Whom it May Concern,

I am very much looking forward to this summer's school rugby tours to Japan. In July and August, the rugby teams of Abingdon School, Cheltenham College, King's Canterbury, Loughborough Grammar School, and Stamford School will all have the opportunity to play in Japan, form new friendships here and experience something of Japanese culture.

The tours come midway between the 2015 Rugby World Cup in England and the 2019 World Cup in Japan. The Japanese team's performance at the 2015 Rugby World Cup, particularly against South Africa, won them huge support amongst British rugby fans. The handover of the tournament and the growing interest in Japanese rugby means that links between our rugby communities have never been stronger. All of our home teams have qualified for 2019. The English team has benefited especially from hiring Japan's former coach Eddie Jones and I know that they are particularly looking forward to the tournament.

The school tours represent an important part of the exchanges between our sporting communities and also form part of wider youth exchanges between Japan and the UK. This summer's tours represent the most ambitious programme to date of UK school rugby tours to Japan. I wish the tourists well, both on the pitch and off, during their visits this summer.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul', followed by a long horizontal line.

Her Majesty's Ambassador, Paul Madden CMG