

Monday, March 25, 2024



The Japan Times  
**BOARDING & INTERNATIONAL  
 SCHOOL DAY 2024**  
 ~Elementary school to high school~





# International boarding schools open new horizons

**Louise George Kittaka**  
Contributing writer

Until recently, most Japanese parents didn't consider boarding school as an option for their elementary-age children. However, times are changing. Several international boarding schools are offering a new style of education for children from 6 years of age, providing them with a strong foundation for success in an increasingly globalized world.

With several decades in teaching and administrative roles at some of the world's leading boarding schools, Michael Rob Gray talked to The Japan Times about the benefits of boarding school and why more families are considering this path. Gray held the headship of Le Rosey in Switzerland from 2003 to 2019, and now brings this depth of experience to his role as adviser to Jinseki International School (JINIS), Japan's first full-boarding school for children ages 6 to 12.

## School with friends

Families in Japan might turn to domestic boarding schools when specific circumstances make it impossible for a child to attend a local school, such as geographical distance or parents moving around for work. In other cases, teenagers recruited by middle schools and high schools for their strengths in a certain sport might live in a dormitory with their team members. As Gray points out, however, these facilities are quite different from full residential international boarding schools.

As interest grows in global education, three international boarding schools for elementary-age children have opened around Japan: JINIS began welcoming students to its Hiroshima Prefecture campus in 2020, followed by two of the United Kingdom's leading boarding schools: Harrow School opened a campus in Iwate

Prefecture in 2022, and Rugby School Japan opened in Chiba Prefecture in 2023.

Gray has been coming to Japan on a regular basis for the past decade. In his capacity as head of Le Rosey, he traveled to meet families of Japanese students and those interested in enrolling. More recently, he has enjoyed interacting with students at JINIS and observing their progress.

Gray characterizes boarding school as "school with friends," whereby the children are together not just in class, but also socially, for their sports and even when doing their homework. "For children attending a day school, for example, homework can be a lonely business, but children are surrounded by their friends at boarding school. It's a seamless existence which can lead to very deep friendships," he explained. Moreover, the boarding environment helps to foster adaptability and a greater acceptance of differences among others.

## The best of both worlds

In the U.K., residential boarding schools for younger children are known as "preparatory" or "prep" schools because they prepare and support students aiming to enter a top private school later down the line. Graduates of JINIS, for example, go on to some of the world's top boarding schools in the U.K., Switzerland, the USA and Australia.

Since most students at Japanese prep schools eventually go abroad for secondary school, it is imperative for them to gain confidence and proficiency in English. However, Gray says that building a firm academic foundation in Japanese is also of great importance. To this end, a six-year prep school in Japan, offering a Japanese curriculum taught by native teachers, is an ideal way to ensure that children develop skills in their mother tongue while living and studying in an international boarding situation.

The JINIS curriculum integrates the International Primary Curriculum (IPC) and



**Michael Rob Gray, former headmaster of Le Rosey, Switzerland**

the national Japanese curriculum guidelines, with some subjects taught in English and others in Japanese. Each class has both English- and Japanese-speaking teachers, who liaise closely with one another. Moreover, small class sizes ensure there is plenty of individual attention and that children can study at a level and pace commensurate with their level.

The IPC is a framework for learning, with a comprehensive curriculum that supports the holistic development of children of primary-school age. "Although the content we offer at JINIS is decided by the Japanese curriculum, the delivery may be related to the IPC. The way the children are taught in Japanese schools may be very different from that of English-speaking schools," said Gray. "The IPC offers not only a different approach, but I think it shows children that there are alternative ways to learn, and to have a relationship with the teachers."

One of the major reasons Japanese parents choose an international boarding school is so their children can learn how to thrive in other cultures. Yet in Gray's experience of the Japanese youngsters he has

encountered at boarding schools overseas, the majority eventually settle back in Japan after completing their education. To this end, being able to keep pace with Japanese reading and writing skills in their formative years is a clear advantage.

"You might think, 'These children can speak Japanese with their families at home during the holidays.' But if their knowledge of written Japanese and culture are not on par with other children, they will be at a disadvantage," Gray observed. "Attending an international boarding school in Japan can offer children the best of both worlds in this sense."

## Family ties

One concern often raised about boarding schools, especially for younger children, is a lack of time spent with family. In what he calls "the paradox of boarding schools," Gray explained that children and parents actually often become closer through the boarding school experience.

When children are living at home, hectic school days are typically full of parental directives to do this or do that. Moreover, Japanese parents are often kept busy organizing after-school care, enrichment classes and cram school for their offspring, sandwiching everything between work, dinner and bedtime. Gray pointed out that boarding schools can incorporate enrichment activities into the children's school day in a seamless fashion.

"When children attend day school, you are always making demands on them, implicitly or explicitly. You're also constantly underestimating their maturity and thinking that you know better," he said. "But if they have been at boarding school and you're seeing them after a period of a few months, you'll notice that they have matured. It sounds counterintuitive, but in my experience, the relationship between

*Continued on page 3 →*



# The British School in Tokyo set to mark 35 years since its founding

Two campuses deliver a broad and balanced education founded in the English National Curriculum to more than 1,100 students representing over 60 nationalities from ages 3 to 18

This year, we will celebrate the 35th birthday of The British School in Tokyo. In the past 35 years, BST has continually grown and flourished, with a commitment to excellence — delivering education founded in the English National Curriculum and embracing all that our international and Japanese setting provides.

BST currently provides world-class education to over 1,100 students representing over 60 nationalities in our two campuses within Tokyo, starting with Nursery classes for children age 3 through to Year 13 for those 18 years old. BST has developed a reputation as one of the best international schools in Japan, and its students transfer to leading universities worldwide.

At BST, we deliver a broad and balanced education, a characteristic of a British inter-

national school. Students have access to various subjects and different areas of the curriculum, with importance placed on music, creative arts and sports and on extracurricular activities.

Last year, we moved BST's Primary School to the newly developed Azabudai Hills, a step away from the famous Tokyo Tower. The British company Heatherwick Studio designed our new campus, which spans eight levels covering an area of 15,000 square meters. The facility hosts an indoor swimming pool, a sports hall, a digital technology studio, an art design studio, two libraries, two music rooms, six music practice studios and spacious outdoor learning and recreational areas, with trees and other natural elements integrated throughout.

Internally, on each floor, every year

group has a large outdoor area (Early Years children even have a slide there) and an indoor shared area, referred to as "teaching plazas," which has enabled the school's educational philosophy to be articulated clearly with the creation of innovative, flexible and stimulating learning environments for students.

Our Secondary School is located at Showa Women's University (SWU) in Sangenjaya, two stops from Shibuya. This enables our Secondary School students to benefit from university-level facilities and world-class performance venues.

The extensive facilities on both campuses allow BST to deliver that broad, balanced education and holistic approach we wish to develop. Students can learn in and outside of the classrooms. Opportunities for students to develop their interests and talents are plentiful. Music, sport, art and drama are significant areas of strength for the school.

Another core part of the school's approach is the BST Outdoors program, which includes annual residential trips and ski weeks. Students of all ages from Year 1 to Year 13 take part in overnight residential trips. From river rafting to canyoning, mountain biking, hiking and camping, stu-



**Paul Tough, principal**

dents can discover new interests and learn about themselves. These help students develop attributes associated with the BST Learner Profile, including resilience, confidence and collaboration.

We look to nurture each student's unique potential and strive to help them create a strong sense of self, built around purpose and passion. For anyone interested in enrolling to our school, please feel free to check admissions information at [bst.ac.jp/admissions](http://bst.ac.jp/admissions)



## School information

### The British School in Tokyo

Primary School: 1-3-3 Azabudai, Minato-ku, Tokyo, Japan  
Secondary School: 1-7-57 Taishido, Showa Women's University, Setagaya-ku, Tokyo, Japan  
[www.bst.ac.jp](http://www.bst.ac.jp)





→ Continued from page 2

children and parents often gets better!"

Technology has made it much easier for families to connect, too. Sitting down to dutifully write a weekly letter home was a time-honored tradition of boarding school life for hundreds of years, but times have changed. Students at JINIS, for example, chat with their parents by video link several times a week.

Siblings will often attend the same boarding school, building shared bonds. After seeing and hearing about how much their older brothers and sisters enjoy their school life, younger siblings are keen to follow suit. With single-child families increasing in Japan, Gray notes that such only children can also benefit greatly from a boarding school education, where they are surrounded by peers in a family-like setting.

### A storied history

The documented use of the term "boarding school" in English dates back to 1665, but the concept of studying and living together with peers and teachers is much older. During India's Vedic period (1500 to 800 B.C.), students stayed with their guru to study religious scripture. In the U.K., the



practice of sending boys away to be educated in a group setting has existed for many centuries. At first these were religious schools taught by educated members of the clergy. Britain's very oldest boarding school is probably The King's School, Canterbury, which is thought to have been founded in 597 as a cathedral school to provide religious education.

While the majority of wealthy families continued to have their youngsters educated at home, secular boarding began to emerge toward the end of the Middle Ages. These schools catered for the sons of upper- and middle-class families who wanted their children to attend university and pursue a professional career. There was also a rise in so-called charity schools, offering education and board to sons of impoverished families, sponsored by the church or affluent benefactors.

The expansion of the British Empire, from the 18th century until the early 20th century, coincided with a rise in the popularity of boarding schools, becoming the stuff of literary legend in the process. They were seen as a way to improve a child's prospects in life and a chance to mix with families from a higher socioeconomic group. Some families developed a strong relationship with a particular school, building a legacy to which succeeding generations could aspire. Boarding schools for girls have a much shorter history, but the number of schools for girls also expanded during this time as families sought new styles of education for their daughters.

While the quality of such establishments varied widely, certain key traits have become intertwined with the term "British boarding school": austere conditions and strict discipline, and often little recourse for weaker students who were picked on by their peers. The term also carries some historical baggage as a place where parents could send their offspring for their own



convenience.

Happily, things have changed greatly in recent decades, with what Gray refers to as a "sea change" in the philosophies and conditions at modern schools. These days, choosing to board can offer unrivaled opportunities for a world-class education and lifelong friendships while instilling traits such as independence, tolerance and self-confidence in children.

### Preparing for the future

"Today's boarding schools are very much focused on the child first and foremost, and are very sensitive to their needs," Gray explained, noting that this starts even before enrollment. While acknowledging that it would be easy for schools to simply select children based on academic performance, Gray believes that the best boarding schools consider "the total child" and how to help each one flourish.

"With children of prep school age, there will be some for whom boarding school

might not be the right choice," he said. "But with the children who apply to JINIS, the families have generally thought about things very carefully. These are children who really want to come."

Looking ahead, Gray believes that more Japanese parents will be turning to an international boarding school as an option for preparing their child for educational success. "I think parents here are seeing boarding school as a different way to get ahead, an alternative to cram school and constant studying for exams. They are seeing that the boarding style offers a different approach to learning."

In closing, Gray sums up today's boarding schools as a holistic experience, with the school and parents united in their efforts to ensure that children are both happy and successful. In turn, through interaction with peers and teachers from different backgrounds, children enhance their social skills and understanding of diversity, ready to take their place in our interconnected world.



## One-of-a-kind full-boarding British school

Holistic learning environment combines academic prowess with an extensive cocurricular program that cultivates talents in nature, including sports, arts and community service leadership

Set among the mountains of Appi Kogen in Iwate Prefecture, Harrow International School Appi Japan is a one-of-a-kind educational offering in Asia — a place where world-class education combines with a full-boarding experience in stunning Japanese nature.

Harrow Appi welcomes students ages 11 to 18 (years 7 to 13), offering a full-boarding education, and mirrors the traditions of Harrow School in the U.K. Aligned with Harrow's esteemed British international curriculum, we provide a 24/7 distraction-free learning environment to allow our students to achieve exceptional academic outcomes and access the world's top universities.

We are a school less ordinary. At Harrow Appi we pride ourselves on being an extraordinary community, where people matter, results count and where a passion for both excellence and elegance drives all that we do. The education program on offer is breathtakingly broad. Our curriculum is both rigorous, challenging and engaging, taking full advantage of our wonderful setting in the mountains of Iwate.

In addition, our full-boarding setup allows us to care, support and nurture the students around the clock; we quickly become a home away from home. Moreover, our remote location is magical, safe and free from distractions. Finally, we take full

advantage of the Appi Kogen environs to provide students with an enrichment program unlike any other school, demonstrating our commitment to the development of mind, body and spirit.

Harrow offers a value-led education. In any good school or indeed in any organization, strong and clearly expressed values create identity, focus, unity and drive, answering questions such as: What do we belong to? What is important to us? What holds us together? and Why do our collective efforts matter? At Harrow Appi, our values are our anchor and help us to make decisions from day-to-day that mean we behave and perform better, inspiring us to try harder as individuals, so that collectively we thrive.

In developing a student narrative, we want all students to enjoy school and the unique experience that our setting provides. This is the perfect location for genuine holistic education to realize itself and where personal development is characterized by determination, resilience, self-confidence, the ability to lead and be part of a team, all with a genuine love of the natural environment.

Ultimately, we want our Harrovians to understand themselves, the world around them and their journey with us. Young people ready to become global citizens must be able



Stephen Tong, headmaster

to tell their own rich self-narrative — a personal story of great things achieved, lessons learned and challenges overcome. As such, our students are typically confident, dynamic, entrepreneurial, emphatic and questioning. They are ambitious for themselves and the world they will inhabit as adults.

I hope that this introduction to Harrow Appi encourages you to find out more about what makes us so very unique. Please do explore our website or come and visit us and see for yourself. You never know, it could be the start of another special journey.



### School information

**Harrow International School Appi Japan**  
028-7306, 180-8 Appikogen,  
Hachimantai City, Iwate Prefecture, Japan  
<https://www.harrowappi.jp/>







**NUCB INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE**  
EST. 1935  
EDUCATION FOR LIFE AND LEADERSHIP

# NUCB International College, international boarding high school on university campus in Aichi

NIC is the only boarding school in central Japan accredited by the education ministry to offer two qualifications: the Japanese high school diploma and the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme

Studying at NUCB International College (NIC) provides high school students with a unique opportunity to study in a progressive academic program with top-class resources on the picturesque Nagoya University of Commerce and Business campus in the suburbs of Nagoya. The school accepts a wide range of students from Japan and abroad and implements leadership education. All subjects apart from language classes are taught in English, and all our students have the opportunity

to be awarded the Bilingual IBDP Diploma. NUCB International College is the only boarding school in central Japan that is accredited by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology to offer two qualifications: the Japanese high school diploma and the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme.

NIC's vision and mission statements say, "We aim to be the premier international boarding school in the Asia region, cultivating a 'frontier spirit' and academic excel-

lence in creating pathways to ethical leadership" and producing graduates with "the ability to bridge the gap between international cultures."

The school's spacious, nature-rich campus nurtures the potential of every student. In addition to academics, students can enjoy a fruitful student life through various activities such as sports and cultural activities. The all-in-one campus is one in which students can enjoy their irreplaceable youth by developing their personal growth and at the same time forming deep human relationships. They will live and study in an international community with a wealth of cultures, perspectives and experiences to draw from as they hone their qualities as leaders and team players with the capacity to shape the future of global society.

**Excellence in education:** The case method, first developed at Harvard Business School in 1922 and now commonly used in elite academic institutions worldwide, is incorporated into the teaching approaches for leadership education at NIC. Small classes enable personalized supervision by multinational faculty members with master's or doctoral degrees and faculty from affiliated top business schools. In addition, the Summer School for prospective students is offered in July, and a preparatory course



**Robert Chaytor, principal**

(the Bridging Programme) for September admission is offered from April.

**Safe boarding environment:** The school provides a safe and secure coeducational boarding environment following international boarding standards. House supervisors, who are well-versed in psychological and health management, provide daily life support and regular individual counseling to ensure optimal support and guidance for each student. Through living with peers from different cultures and experiences, students develop the qualities required of the next generation of leaders.



**School information**

**NUCB International College**

4-4 Sagamine Komenoki, Nisshin Aichi Japan 470-0193

<https://ic.nucba.ac.jp/>



**Phoenix House**  
International School

# 'Possibly the closest experience to a British prep school that you can get here in Tokyo'

At Phoenix House, we are a family. Embracing the uniqueness of each child, we tailor our curriculum and opportunities within a traditional British prep school environment.

Since our establishment in 2021, Phoenix House has maintained a selective admissions process for all pupils. We emphasize parental alignment with our British prep school vision, and the curiosity and character of prospective pupils. With controlled growth, we aim to gradually expand while maintaining our rigorous academic standards and warm, nurturing environment for children ages 5 to 11.

Enjoying a central Tokyo location, in Chiyoda Ward, we are easily accessible from across the city, allowing us to make the most of all that Tokyo and its surroundings have to offer. Our school buses pick up from several popular areas across Tokyo.

The majority of our pupils successfully transition to Rugby School Japan, while others secure places at competitive independent schools in the U.K. and around the

world. We fully understand a prep school's role in preparing children for their next academic endeavors, wherever they may be, and throw ourselves wholeheartedly into supporting pupils and families as they choose their schooling pathways.

We cherry-pick the best bits of the English National Curriculum, and with deliberately small class sizes ensuring personalized attention and high levels of engagement, academic progress is closely monitored. Our approach to learning is grounded in a robust foundation of English, mathematics and science, serving as the bedrock for an expansive and enriched education encompassing humanities, modern languages, sports, computer programming, drama, music, art and more.

While Phoenix House is a place of high expectations, academic progress and kind-

ness, above all, fun prevails. We pride ourselves on an impressive selection of popular and unique clubs and societies, supporting our children in their pursuit of interest and talent.

Phoenixes love coming to school and our parents appreciate the dynamic teaching style and British humor prevalent in classrooms, noting the consistent academic challenge tailored to individual abilities. Our team of U.K. qualified teachers build great relationships with their pupils, and encourage them to persevere when faced with challenges; indeed, we consider "grit" an excellent character trait for our young Phoenixes for the future.

Special emphasis is placed on oracy skills. Encouraging the development of confident public-speaking skills and articulate expression in English, throughout our curriculum, provides a strong platform for successful future study. "Confidence to communicate, language to lead" is our ambition for every pupil.

Our day-to-day ethos is built on a warm family atmosphere and caring pastoral care, enjoyed through our house system and regular community events. While our student body reflects a mix of ethnicities and backgrounds, a shared commitment to and investment in high-quality prep education



**Claire Fletcher, head of school**

unites parents from diverse backgrounds.

With our curriculum mirroring British prep school traditions and our focus on holistic development, we believe Phoenix House stands as a beacon of excellence in Tokyo's educational landscape. We encourage you to read our Good Schools Guide review ([linktr.ee/phoenixhouseschool](http://linktr.ee/phoenixhouseschool)), which offers an independent insight into what we offer.

We love our prep school, and warmly invite you to visit. It would be a pleasure to show you around so you can feel for yourself the unique magic of the Phoenix Way.



**School information**

**Phoenix House International School**

3-7 Yonban-cho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, 102-0081

[www.phoenixhouseschool.org](http://www.phoenixhouseschool.org)







# Future global leaders spread their wings at JINIS

Japan's first boarding elementary school teaches all subjects in English and Japanese through immersive education that is geared toward making students into true world citizens

With people who can play an active role in our increasingly globalized world in high demand, global education is attracting a great deal of attention in Japan, and more parents want their children to study abroad from an early age or attend an international school.

In April 2020, The Japan Times' publisher and chairperson, Minako Suematsu, founded Japan's very first boarding elementary school, Jinseki International School (JINIS), which opened its doors in the Hiroshima Prefecture town of Jinseki Kogen.

The appeal of this school goes beyond the concept of simply being an international elementary school with dormitories; a major feature of JINIS is that students learn all subjects in English and Japanese through immersive education.

Michael Rob Gray, former principal of the world-renowned Swiss boarding school Le Rosey, and John Baugh, former principal of the U.K.'s prestigious Oxford Dragon School, serve as advisers to JINIS and contribute to creating the world's best boarding school experience there. The school educates students to become true global citizens through a policy that meets the needs of the times.

Gota Yamane, the director of corporate affairs at JINIS, talked about its educational aims. "Speaking English does not make you an active global citizen overseas," he said. "We believe it is important for students to acquire a solid foundation of Japanese education and then go out into the world."

The curriculum is adapted from the British-based International Primary Curriculum and guidelines from the ministry of education. Although many students wish to go on to boarding schools overseas after graduation, they can also go to junior highs in Japan, since

the school is an "Article 1" school accredited by the ministry.

Yamane added: "We also value what students learn at elementary schools in Japan. The level of science and math education in Japan is highly regarded throughout the world. JINIS provides an environment where students can learn about Japanese culture and history to acquire a sense of identity as Japanese, through classes on such things as tea ceremonies, planting rice and making pottery, while practicing the unique Japanese science and math education."

The primary allure of residential life lies in the fostering of independence. At JINIS, within our boarding house, eight pairs of qualified house parents and nurses, who also double as dedicated child care professionals, diligently oversee the children's lives. By delivering top-tier care, including daily grooming assistance for first- and second-year students, these house parents create a nurturing environment where children can grow confidently and securely.



Jinseki Kogen, a tranquil town rich in nature, is less than an hour's drive from Fukuyama, the second-biggest designated "core city" in the Chugoku region.

This area has no active faults, reducing the



risk of earthquakes. There is also no need to worry about floods or landslides, as the school buildings are on top of a mountain. The town is blessed with the rich nature of the Seto Inland Sea and the Chugoku Mountains and is a treasure trove of delicious food. It is an ideal environment for enjoying authentic arts and sports.

The 830,000-square-meter campus, 17 times the size of Tokyo Dome, includes a Japanese garden and a farm. The Japanese garden was designed by Kinsaku Nakane, a well-known landscape architect who has also created gardens for the Adachi Museum of Art. There are four tea rooms in the Japanese garden, where tea ceremony lessons and cherry blossom viewings are held, allowing visitors to enjoy the unique Japanese mind and the changing of the seasons. In the Farm Area, children experience outdoor activities such as caring for and milking cows and growing and harvesting their own vegetables in the vegetable garden.

For the students, the prospect of living away from their parents for the first time can be both exciting and anxiety-provoking. JINIS provides 24-hour support to ensure that the boarding house becomes a second home for the children. Video calls with parents are held once a week to ensure that children do not feel lonely. The school also provides parents daily updates on their children's progress via social media.

Meals are prepared by the highly rated company Cezars Kitchen, and Michelin-starred chef Keisuke Matsushima has been invited

to provide the children with not only nutritional support, but also gentle attention. Children are also taught the kind of manners that are usually taught at home. Yamane said, "The children enjoy learning about manners on eating, such as how to eat a swordfish neatly." Mealtimes at JINIS provide an environment where children can learn about all aspects of food education, including local production for local consumption.

JINIS students can experience many sports — cycling and swimming in the spring and summer, horseback riding and golf in the fall, ice skating and skiing in the winter — to nurture their minds and bodies. The school also offers a full range of private lessons. Lessons in music (piano, violin, cello, drums and koto, etc.) and sports (horseback riding, karate, bouldering and golf, etc.) are popular. In addition to off-campus learning, the school invites guest speakers once a month, organizes field trips and offers many other events and activities to expand students' interests.

With the school now in its third year, graduates have been accepted to prestigious schools such as Le Rosey in Switzerland, the Oxford Dragon School, Bilton Grange and Millfield in the U.K., and Geelong Grammar School in Australia. After receiving a wealth of experience at JINIS, students will continue to further their education at their new schools with confidence and pride in their Japanese identity. The day when they will play active roles in the world as true global citizens does not seem so far off.



### School information

#### Jinseki International School

5020-77 Tokiyasu, Jinsekikogen-cho, Jinseki-gun, Hiroshima  
720-1603, Japan  
<https://jinis.jp/>



## Discover Japan, discover JINIS Camp

Celebrating its eighth year this year, JINIS Camp offers a program for children ages 5 to 10, utilizing the facilities of a European-style full-boarding primary school. Our exclusive curriculum is aligned with Jinseki International School; the program focuses on exploring the natural environment, hands-on scientific experiments, a range of sports and enjoying Japanese cultural experiences such

as tea ceremonies and Zen meditation.

One of the captivating aspects of JINIS Camp is the interaction with "leaders," students currently studying in boarding schools worldwide. Serving as accessible "older siblings," they provide children with mentorship and insights into life abroad and considerations for future education.

### Camp 1

#### International: June 30 (Sun.)- July 6 (Sat.)

Dive into English fun with a splash of Japanese culture! In addition to tea ceremonies and Zen meditation, we also go out to places such as the Seto Inland Sea and Miyajima in Hiroshima.

### Camp 2

#### Kids: July 9 (Tue.) to July 13 (Sat.)

Our exclusive four-night, five-day custom program will help your child nurture their independence and develop their confidence while enjoying state-of-the-art facilities and learning opportunities.



JINIS Camp







# Rugby School Japan brings over 450 years of British wisdom and heritage to Japan

School excels across the board in academic excellence, student welfare, co-curricular activities, boarding, community and integration, accreditation and accessible location

As I sit in my office at Rugby School in Kashiwanoha, gazing over our 10-acre campus nestled between the University of Chiba and the University of Tokyo, I reflect on the challenges faced by international parents seeking suitable schools for their children. This is perhaps especially true for Japanese expatriate families returning home whose children are educated in different systems and languages.

Choosing the right school is pivotal, a decision that goes beyond academics. It involves finding a place that not only offers an outstanding education but also provides a secure and nurturing environment for your child to flourish. Rugby School Japan, inaugurated in September 2023, brings over 450 years of British education, wisdom and

heritage to Japan.

For parents contemplating boarding for their children, here are some key considerations when considering schools:

**Academic excellence:** Opt for a school with a robust academic emphasis, a well-rounded curriculum and a stellar reputation. Check for accreditation and academic achievements. At Rugby School Japan, we deliver an authentic British education mirrored after the U.K.'s Rugby School.

**Student welfare:** Prioritize a school committed to student welfare. Examine comprehensive pastoral care programs, counseling services and strategies promoting well-being and mental health.

**Co-curricular activities:** Look for diverse extracurricular activities promoting personal

growth and leadership. At Rugby School Japan, the ethos of "The Whole Person is the Whole Point" integrates academic and pastoral care, emphasizing character development through co-curricular activities.

**Boarding:** Evaluate the boarding facilities for comfort and security. Ensure dedicated, qualified and caring staff address individual student needs.

**Community and integration:** Choose a school fostering community, cultural diversity and integration. Seek programs promoting intercultural understanding and global citizenship.

**Accreditation:** Explore a school's accreditations as external validations of its commitment to excellence. Recognition from reputable organizations reflects the quality of education and care.

**Accessible location:** Consider the school's accessibility and proximity to major transport hubs. Our Kashiwanoha location, on the Tsukuba Express line, is easily reachable from central Tokyo and airports.

Remember, every child is unique. Finding the right school involves considering individual needs and aspirations. Take the time to research, visit schools and speak with stakeholders.

As a parent and educator, I acknowledge the challenges of school evaluation. Use these



Tony Darby, founding principal

key points as a guide in your quest for a school offering exceptional education, a nurturing environment and personal growth opportunities. As Rugby School's founding principal, I extend a warm invitation for you to visit our school and experience it firsthand.

We hold regular open mornings which can be registered for via our website or if those dates are not convenient, prospective parents can contact our admissions team at [admissions@rugbyschooljapan.ed.jp](mailto:admissions@rugbyschooljapan.ed.jp) to arrange an alternative date and time.



### School information

**Rugby School Japan**  
277-0882, Chiba, 6-2-5  
Kashiwanoha, Kashiwa, Japan  
<https://rugbyschooljapan.ed.jp/>



# Showa Elementary School provides innovative learning to bring out the best in each student

To develop people capable of flourishing in the international community, school provides a foundation in foreign languages and a solid education in Japanese; immersive education in Boston is also available

At Showa Elementary School, we engage in education in the hope that all children will believe in their potential and grow up with a strong heart and mind to create new value through meaningful interactions with others.

We define education as a form of hope that can enlighten children, the treasure of the future. All children deserve opportunities to find out and pursue who they want to be and what they want to achieve in the future, and the role of education is to serve as a base for each child to make their dream come true.

At our school, we are committed to cultivating the foundations of each individual student, which is the mission of our elementary education, and providing innova-

tive learning to bring out the best in each student. We support the growth of children by helping them learn autonomously and collaboratively, to nurture their ability to survive in a rapidly changing society. Through these efforts, we aim to provide our students with an irreplaceable school life that they will treasure for the rest of their lives.

In order to develop people capable of flourishing in the international community, we provide a foundation in foreign languages, as well as a solid education in Japanese-language comprehension and expression in order to have a deep understanding of Japan and Japanese culture. Temple University, Japan Campus and The British School in Tokyo are also located on

our campus, creating opportunities for our students to gain international experiences both culturally and linguistically through interactions with students of diverse nationalities while solidifying their Japanese identity. Furthermore, students can immerse themselves and study in a truly international environment at our overseas campus, the Showa Boston Institute for Language and Culture.

The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated digitalization and the use of online tools in all fields. Education is no exception. It has been proved that certain types of knowledge and skills can be acquired efficiently through online learning. However, we also share renewed awareness of the significance of hands-on experiences and face-to-face interactions, which are indispensable in enjoying the process of developing social skills, learning with others and thinking about how to apply acquired knowledge and skills to make a difference in society. We provide an environment where children can act on their own initiative, and support them in every possible way to help them gain experiences that will continue to benefit them in various ways in the future.

We are also continuing our efforts to enhance our educational support system to meet the needs of the current and future generations, including the use of technology



for learning, international and interdisciplinary programs and diverse after-school programs.

In a society with diverse values, neither work nor personal life alone can achieve well-being. The youths of today need to be equipped with the ability to lead independent and self-reliant lives while engaging with society and helping others. We are committed to providing the environment and support necessary for our students to acquire the intellectual and physical strength they need to develop mental strength and humanity.



### School information

**Showa Women's University Elementary School**  
1-7-57 Taishido, Setagaya-ku, Tokyo, Japan  
<https://es.swu.ac.jp/>







# Unlock your global potential: EF Academy — Where tradition meets innovation

School offers an unparalleled global education, fostering academic excellence, cultural diversity and personal growth. With world-class faculty, state-of-the-art facilities and a vibrant community, it prepares students for a successful future.

EF Academy offers an unparalleled global education, fostering academic excellence, cultural diversity and personal growth. With world-class faculty, state-of-the-art facilities and a vibrant community, it prepares students for a successful future.

Embark on a transformative educational journey at EF Academy, a beacon of academic excellence with campuses in California, New York and Oxford that transcend borders. With a student body representing over 60 countries, we believe in total immersion, creating a truly global school where personalized education takes center stage.

Step into a world where cultural diversity is not just celebrated but woven into the fabric of everyday life. At EF Academy, students from

60-plus countries converge, creating a vibrant community that fosters understanding, tolerance and global citizenship. It's not just a school; it's an international mosaic where students gain insights into different cultures, broadening their horizons beyond the classroom.

Recognizing that one size never fits all, EF Academy champions personalized education. Whether pursuing the IB, A-levels, AP or the U.S. high school diploma, our curriculum is a canvas for individual brilliance. It's not just about memorizing facts; it's about mastering skills that empower students to think critically, solve real-world problems and thrive in a dynamic global landscape.

At the heart of EF Academy's success are our exceptional teachers — experts in their fields

and dedicated mentors. Beyond imparting knowledge, they inspire, guide and instill a love for learning. With daily mentorship and 24/7 support, students navigate their educational journey with confidence, knowing they have a team of passionate educators cheering them on.

EF Academy believes in education that transcends textbooks, embracing real-life experiences that shape well-rounded individuals. Our curriculum goes beyond conventional boundaries, fostering critical thinking, problem-solving and adaptability — skills that extend far beyond the classroom and into the future.

Success at EF Academy is not just measured within our walls but extends to leading universities worldwide. Our graduates seamlessly transition to esteemed institutions, armed with a global perspective, a mastery of skills and the confidence to excel in diverse academic environments.

Immerse yourself in an environment where learning is not confined to classrooms alone. EF Academy's state-of-the-art campus sets a new standard for educational spaces. From cutting-edge laboratories to modern sports complexes, every facility is designed to inspire creativity, innovation and holistic development.

EF Academy isn't just a school, it's a supportive community where you can be yourself.



Sally Mingarelli, Pasadena's head of school

Our commitment goes beyond academics: We provide a nurturing environment, offering students a home away from home. It's a place where individuality is celebrated, friendships are formed and a sense of belonging blossoms.

In essence, EF Academy is more than an educational institution, it's a transformative experience where global diversity, personalized education, expert mentorship and state-of-the-art facilities converge to shape the leaders of tomorrow. Join us on a journey where the world is your classroom and success knows no borders. EF Academy: unlocking global excellence, empowering individual brilliance.



#### School information

##### EF Academy

EF Academy Japan Enrollment Office: 27F Shibuya Cross Tower,  
2-15-1 Shibuya, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo  
<https://www.efacademy.org/ja-jp/>



#### Application information

## The Japan Times Boarding & International School Day 2024

~Elementary school to high school~

**Date:** Saturday, April 6, 2024

**Time:** 10:00-16:00

<https://peatix.com/event/3845941/>



**Location:** The Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan (<https://www.fccj.or.jp/>)

**Exhibiting schools:** 8

**Admission Fee:** Free of charge, limited spots (registration is required)

#### Schedule

- 10:00 Doors open
- 10:15 Keynote speech 1: John Baugh, former headmaster of the Dragon School, U.K.
- 11:15 Keynote speech 2: Michael Rob Gray, former headmaster of Le Rosey, Switzerland
- 13:00 Panel session
- 16:00 Doors close



Michael Rob Gray

#### The panel session

Panelists



Robert Chaytor  
NUCB International  
College



Laura Bispham  
Rugby School Japan



Stephen Tong  
Harrow International  
School Appi Japan

Moderator



John Baugh  
Former headmaster of  
the Dragon School,  
U.K.

# Japan Living Guide

Comprehensive Guides to Living in Japan

<https://www.japanlivingguide.com/>

### Relocation Services in Japan

The best partner for your transition to Japan

Relocation Services

Tenancy Management

Immigration Visa

81-3-5549-8700

<https://www.alljapanrelocation.com/>

### Tokyo Real Estate

Rent

Buy

Investment

81-3-3583-6941

PLAZA HOMES

info@plazahomes.co.jp  
<https://www.realestate-tokyo.com/>

### Food Bank Azabu

Social Contribution through Food Provision

<https://www.facebook.com/foodbankazabu/>





TASAKI

---