

EURO BIZ — JAPAN

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➤ A space oddity

Why aren't Europe and Japan collaborating more in exploring the final frontier?

➤ Learning to pilot as he flies

*Kosovo Ambassador to Japan
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MARC BURRAGE,
MANAGING DIRECTOR
AT HAYS JAPAN

**FIXING
JAPAN'S
TALENT
MISMATCH**

TRANSFORMING A SCHOOL

Helping others transform education

Aoba-Japan International School (A-JIS) has taken four distinct actions both to develop itself, and to help others by sharing with and inspiring them.



CORE TEAMS, COMMON GLOBAL CONCEPTS AND LEARNING TEAMS

Our first action has been to rearrange our approach to learning and teaching. As a result, we hope to enable young people to become more engaged in — and responsible for — their own learning and that of others. By adopting a different approach, we hope to show that young people can gain from school the knowledge, skills, habits and dispositions that will enable them to be successful and happy in the future.

GLOBAL LEADERSHIP DIPLOMA

Secondly, A-JIS has embarked on developing a Global Leadership Diploma. The GLD helps young people know themselves and collaborate to achieve early on. This builds on a basis of Global Coaching (Rosinski, 2010), leadership, entrepreneurialism, innovation, problem-solving and effective communication. We aim to teach young people to be able to manage their environments within the context of an area they are passionate about, yet have the flexibility to apply themselves to other opportunities in life.

They will be enabled to become not only the inventors, artists, social and business entrepreneurs, and leaders of the future, but also people who will make a practical, positive difference within their ever-widening sphere of influence.

BUILDING SOCIAL AND PROFESSIONAL CAPITAL

The third action is to continue with the idea of building social and professional capital through

an extensive project that aims to enable teachers to maximise face-to-face time with students through a blended learning approach.

COMMUNITIES TRANSFORMING SCHOOLS

After developing trust, collaboration and communication with our teenagers, we asked, "What do young people really need from education these days?" And then, "How can schools — and our school, in particular — provide such an education?"

The wide range of responses to the first question boiled down to a common theme: "Education needs to help young people develop towards maximising success and happiness in their unknown futures."

Together, we defined lasting happiness as something we reach when we do positive and constructive things — usually for those in the communities or environments we are a part of. Success then, it followed, was when we are good at generating the greatest happiness in others and in ourselves.

One of our learners has been selected to present at the International Youth Leadership and Innovation Forum in Singapore and, through

their presentation, will set out a challenge to all schools globally to join us in a movement to help communities transform education to one that incorporates the perspectives of others and brings them closer towards truly becoming learning communities.

It's simple. It's transformational. It's up to you to change your community.

Robert Thorn, Senior Educator,
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SUMMERHILL INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Combining the framework of the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme with an environment of beauty and wonder



Making the decision of where to send your child to school can be a time of stress and uncertainty. There are many options in Tokyo, and it is important to choose a school that matches your needs and philosophy of early childhood education.

THE EARLY YEARS

This time in a child's life is, perhaps, the most important in shaping personality and influencing mindset.

Since 1962, Summerhill International School has been one of Tokyo's top international preschools, providing quality early childhood education in a warm and nurturing environment.

"We were accepted in 2016 as a candidate school for the Primary Years Programme of the

International Baccalaureate Organisation, ensuring a world-class education," explains Kathyne Imabayashi, Director.

Summerhill is in the quiet Moto-Azabu area, close to Azabu-juban station. Children and teachers from all over the world come together to share the excitement of learning.

As articulated in the school's mission statement: "Summerhill International School empowers chil-

"where the children are really happy"



dren to become confident, global, compassionate, and respectful young people while ensuring a nurturing environment that is safe and happy".

"Summerhill stands out as a place where children experience the love of learning in an environment of beauty that stimulates excitement and curiosity," adds Mrs. Imabayashi.

From the Sunrise class at 15 months to the Star Class graduates

at 6 years old, Summerhill provides an educational experience as unique as your child.

"The quality and passion of the teachers ensures that this is a place where the children are really happy," she says.

FACULTY AND PARENTS

Teachers at Summerhill participate in ongoing professional development opportunities throughout the year. "Their skills and knowledge are constantly being refined so as to provide the very best education for young children," Mrs. Imabayashi states.

Relationships with parents are also crucial in ensuring the best educational environment. Parents are considered partners in the experiences of their children.

Summerhill has an active parent group that supports a sense of community through activities such as school-wide socials, charity events to support others in need, and festivities that enhance the lives of the students.

"Summerhill supports parents by providing a variety of parent workshops with a focus on parent work that support them in child-rearing and in understanding more deeply the education their children are receiving," Mrs. Imabayashi continues.

Summerhill strives to be the best for everyone — children, parents and teachers.

"If you want to experience an environment that promotes inquiry, play and independence," she says, "and know that you are part of a community that supports and encourages the best in all, and where there is a focus on everyone being happy, Summerhill is the place for you!"

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