



# SHOEI TIMES



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## Is Shoei a Little Strange?

What would be something unique and typical about your school? Is there anything special about your classmates? Today, we have decided to focus on what is typical about Shoei. We will explain typical things about Shoei, since we, students, know the best. This would be intriguing for Shoei students since we don't focus on the typical things in our daily lives. In addition, we hope that it will be helpful for girls who are interested in taking Shoei as their school for the next six years.

One typical aspect of Shoei would be that the returnees talk in English daily. Since the non-returnees listen to these English conversations every day, it allows them to improve their

listening skills without realizing. Also, by talking in English, the returnees can not only maintain, but also improve their English-speaking skills. In addition, since Shoei welcomes many returnees who have lived in many different areas of the world and have lots of diverse backgrounds, students and teachers have an open mind towards different ideas, perspectives, and thoughts. This warm and friendly atmosphere of the people in Shoei is what

makes it so special, which allows the students to relax and focus on their education and school life.

The next thing of interest would be our unique way of holding our school bags. While a normal person would hold a type of bag like this as seen in Picture 1, we tend to hold them in an unusual way as seen in Picture 2, due to the weight of whatever is inside.

Finally, another unique quality about Shoei can be found by looking at our skirts. Usually

seen as a gold safety pin seen in Picture 3, it is officially called a "kilt pin". This may be playing the most important role in our school uniform. It is what keeps our skirt together since our skirt is essentially a wrap skirt. Without the kilt pin, we would just be wrapping around a piece of cloth around our legs. As you can see, there are many unique aspects of Shoei who we students can only find.

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*By Sari Sugimura, Momoko Sugo, and Maki Ueno*  
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Picture 1



Picture 2

Photo by Momoko Sugo



Picture 3 Photo by Shoei

## School Uniform

As Shoei students we are proud of the design of the school uniforms. The design is different for Senior and Junior students, but both are totally our favorite. The differences of both uniforms are the color and the shape of collar for the blouse. Differences help us to recognize people easily. Also, since we are a combined junior and senior high school, the change of uniform helped us to feel more responsible when becoming a

senior 1 student in the previous spring. Personally, I like how unique the color of the moss green socks is that everyone wears for the winter uniform, and it is almost impossible to get a sock with the exact same color outside of school. I feel special for the socks and isn't it cool to wear a rare color sock every day?

Not only the design, we also have a special history. After the uniform was formed in 1928,

there weren't many changes, and it was a sailor type of uniform. Midsummer dress was added as a new uniform in 1973. During this time of age many girls-only schools used sailor uniform for their school uniform; it was becoming a national uniform. So, on the 100th anniversary the principal decided to form a new uniform which is what we wear right now. On the 100th anniversary ceremony, new



Our school uniform in the past

Photo by Shoei

students wore the new uniform, and the enrolled students wore the old uniform which showed contrast.

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*By Kokoro Asami and Wakana Tokumitsu*  
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## Shoei outside of Tokyo

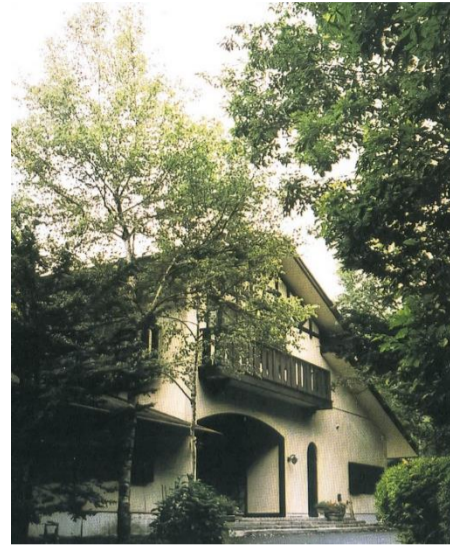


*Sanso* Photo by Shoei

Away from the bustling Tokyo city, Shoei *Sanso* and Shoei *Gakuso* await students in Nagano prefecture.

The *Sanso* is the first location Jr.1 students travel to as Shoei students in May, for their orientation camp. Throughout the seasons, the *sanso* hosts Shoei

students of all grades. In the winter and early spring, students who participate in ski camp, can get a taste of a foreign winter cabin, as they ski down the Japan Alps. In the summer, many clubs use the *sanso* for their club summer camps. Being 1,500m high in altitude, students get a break from the hot and humid Tokyo weather, while doing fun activities with their club members such as fireworks, barbeque, smores, and games special to each club. Experiencing this youthful summer, clubs can deepen their bond regardless of age. The *sanso* is waiting for future students to fill its halls with joyful laughter.



*Gakuso* Photo by Shoei

Surrounded by greenery, the *Gakuso* is in Karuizawa, where students who live in urban areas are given the experience to interact with nature, breath in fresh air, and learn in a new environment. To introduce the facilities in *Gakuso*, there are two

tennis courts and a gymnasium for the sports club to spend their time training in the summer. Next, the main building has a huge dining hall, where students are served every day with delicious meals cooked by the *Gakuso* staff. Along with the seminar room, the dormitories have a cute antique feel to it with wooden bunkbeds and a tatami area to relax in. In this special school villa, students can make unforgettable memories, build friendships, and actively learn new things during their stay.

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By *Wakana Ota and Chihiro Akatsuka*  
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## Shoei Graduate

Tomoko Nakajima is an education consultant who has worked for many international organizations including UNICEF Uganda and UNICEF Philippines. She spent her school days here at Shoei as a returnee student who lived in America for six years, which she addresses in her interview as what played an important role when working in a multicultural environment. Through her experiences of supporting teenage children with their education in developing countries where conflicts and gender bias continue to take place, Ms. Nakajima has been demonstrating her skills and passion to show us that “education is hope”. This year, we had the

honor to welcome Ms. Nakajima to our school, as in the form of an online talk session.

What kind of country is Uganda? 1.53 million refugees currently live in Uganda, marking it the third highest refugee holder worldwide. It is surrounded by countries with conflict areas and that “as if it is an oasis”, millions of people evacuate in search for a safe environment.

While talking to the refugees, Tomoko Nakajima says she has a memorable saying that they mentioned: “There is no such person in the name of refugee.” “Refugees are normal people just like us. They have their own names, own dreams, favorite foods, and so on. They simply



Tomoko Nakajima working as a UNICEF staff member Photo by Tomoko Nakajima

happened to be put in those situations.”, Tomoko Nakajima explained.

What can we do as students? Tomoko Nakajima gave us some questions to ponder over. “What kind of people are refugees? What does it mean for a refugee child to obtain an

education? Having the third strongest economy in the world, what can Japan do to help refugees?” Just like Tomoko Nakajima said, “there is no such person in the name of refugee.”

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By *Sana Misumi and Arisa Okabe*  
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## High Levels of English

In a school between Minato Ward and Shinagawa Ward, conversations of cheerful junior and senior high school students are not uncommon to hear. What is distinctive about these conversations though, is that they are spoken in English, not Japanese, despite being in the middle of Tokyo.

At Shoei Girls' Junior and Senior High School, returnee students, students who had lived outside of Japan before entering, are warmly welcomed, one of the very few in the country. To the end of the first year of senior high, Shoei students receive different English education depending on whether she is a returnee or a non-returnee. The former will study English with a native-English speaker for four periods a week and study grammar for two

periods a week during junior high, and four periods of grammar and two periods with a native-English speaker during her first year of senior high. The latter will study two periods with a native-English speaker and four periods of grammar during the junior high and five periods of grammar and one period with a native-English speaker during her first year of senior high, with an anticipation that they will reach a similar level of English with the returnees by the beginning of her second year of senior high, where both returnees and non-returnees will study English in the same classroom.

One non-returnee student in her second year senior high, explained "one of the unique points (of Shoei) are that there are returnee students studying in the

same condition as me and that there are students around me that speak English rather than Japanese even when it is not English class. It has really helped my listening skills grow with all the English that is spoken around." A returnee student in her third year of junior high explained how she likes the English classes separated because it gives her a little freedom from staying quiet during her other classes. "It feels a little awkward to ask a question during other classes because it's so quiet with non-returnees in the same class knowing more than me from going through entrance exams using subjects other than English, but during English class we can all laugh and relate with each other when we have the same question" she said.



English textbooks used at Shoei  
Photo by Ibuki Ehara

Although she may have come from all over the world, all of the students at Shoei, no matter if she is a returnee student or not, they all study together to the same goal: pass the entrance exam of the university of her dreams. Overcoming her difficulties in English to where it becomes one of her weapons to battle with her entrance exam rivals and forming an everlasting friendship, she will spend six years at Shoei, learning her way into the society that awaits her after graduation.

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*By Ibuki Ehara*  
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## The Meimon-ko

who was passionate about Co-Learners' Day.

We decided to research the influence and the changes after THE Meimon-ko was broadcast. So first, we interviewed Miss S, the student who was covered during Co-Learners' Day, since she should have gotten a lot of reactions about it from the people who know her about the documentary...

### Interview

**Q. Were there any reactions from the people that know you?**

A. I guess some teachers gave feedbacks to me.

(She answered this after thinking

for a while.) Contrary to our expectations, the TV show didn't have much influence on her.

So next, we asked our teacher if there were any reactions about THE Meimon-ko. She told us that teachers from outside of Shoei also watched the TV show and many graduates contacted her to say that it reminded them of the days back in Shoei. We can say that there were reactions from people outside of Shoei that knew the teacher.

Lastly, we asked our friends what they thought about THE Meimon-ko. Here are some voices:

"I realized that there are a lot of cheerful students in Shoei."

"The TV show did a nice job capturing many faces of Shoei."

"The school appeared beautifully on the TV screen."

As you can see, students were very positive about the TV broadcast.

THE Meimon-ko was a new stimulation to our unchanging school lives. We hope that this TV broadcast could make some elementary students want to come to Shoei.

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*By Momoko Sugo*  
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THE Meimon-ko, a TV program  
Photo by BS TV Tokyo

THE Meimon-ko, a television documentary to find out the "unknown side" of schools, finally came to Shoei. Since Shoei hadn't allowed TV cameras for over 20 years, everyone including teachers, students, and parents were very surprised. The TV show introduced the allure of our daily lives and our school event, Co-Learners' Day. The show mainly focused on one student, Miss S,

# History of Takanawadai and Shinagawa Aquarium

One theory that **Takanawadai**, where Shoei is located, has had its name since 1524 in the Sengoku period. In the “Gunki Monogatari (軍記物語)”, or the war chronicle, there is a mention of Takanawa in the battle between the Hojo and the Uesugi, over the Edo castle. The word “Takanawa” was short for “Takanawa Shudou”, which describes a straight road on a high place. This road refers to route one, which was the Tokaido.

Have you ever wondered how Tokyo Bay was much bigger in the Edo period? From the 19th century, Tokyo Bay had been landfilled multiple times, including the area around Shinagawa. One of the reasons

why Tokyo Bay was easy to be landfilled is because it is shallow, with a depth of two to four meters. By landfilling, bigger boats could get in more easily and made it possible for more trading without losing people’s homes. The second reason is that it was easy to access the dirt to fill the land. Due to the dredging of bigger boats, much dirt was found in Tokyo Bay. It was like hitting two birds with a stone, dealing with all the sand, making people’s new homes, and smooth trade.

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By Risa Sakata  
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**Shinagawa aquarium** is in Shinagawa community park. It takes about 40 minutes to go there from Shoei by train. The nearest station is Oomorikaihinn station

(大森海浜駅). There, you’ll see many species of fish and sea mammals, exhibited in many unique ways. Shinagawa aquarium has many unique shows, including the dolphin show, the seal show, and the Underwater show. This underwater show takes place in the Tunnel tank, where we can see fish and a diver in the tunnel tank. Under the dolphin stadium, there is a transparent window where you can see dolphins underwater. As you cannot see dolphins underwater from the stadium, it is one of the



Shinagawa Aquarium Photo by Shinagawa Aquarium

highly recommended places to see. Since it is in Shinagawa, Shinagawa aquarium also has many fishes from Tokyo Bay. In this area, we can see and learn about the environment of Tokyo Bay.

Restaurant and cafe are found in Shinagawa aquarium as well. In the “Dolphin Restaurant”, a variety of menus are there to enjoy. A cafe called “Dolphin cafe” is themed on rainbow. There are seven different types of sandwiches to enjoy. There is also a souvenir shop named “Seagull” which sells a variety of original goods. Some of them are only available at the “Seagull” store.

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By Himari Katsuta  
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## Ikedayama Bakery



Ikedayama Bakery and the curry fried bread  
Photo by Mana Kawai

**The Ikedayama bakery**, which is located between Takanawadai station and Gotanda station, is a popular teatime spot among the

Shoei students’ mothers. After an event such as an assembly, mothers would gather here on their way home to have some chat.

Ikedayama bakery is famous for its **curry fried bread**, which won 1<sup>st</sup> place in the curry bread’s grand prix in 2021. The outside of the bread is covered with bread crusts, and the inside is filled with spicy beef curry. They

have other popular varieties of bread such as melon bread, pain de mie, cream bread, etc.

Since this bakery is close to the national gateway, customers gather here from all over the place and line up so far as to get some bread as soon as the bakery opens in the morning. We made a prediction that having a place like Ikedayama bakery near our school makes Shoei a much better place,

because not only students but parents can get a chance to interact with each other and build a good relationship by gathering. If you have the chance to go to either Gotanda or Takanawadai station, why not visit Ikedayama bakery for some coffee and bread?

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By Mana Kawai  
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### SHOEI TIMES

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