



Sunrise Student Times

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Our Home Away From Home



Hinode Gakuen Junior and Senior High School

Photo by Yoshida Momoka

Hinode Gakuen is known by the phrase "home away from home," because the teachers and students are on good terms and it is easy to study here.

For this article, we asked three students to tell us about an episode that they thought was their "home away from home" experience.

Let's take a look at three episodes.

Friends like brothers and sisters

Chaya Nanami



Although I haven't been attending Hinode Gakuen for that long, if I ever dare to call Hinode Gakuen my second home, it's when I'm spending time with my friends. By making friends that I hadn't met before junior

high school, I feel that we are closer and can treat each other like brothers and sisters.

For example, just recently, a friend had the opportunity to celebrate my birthday. When I was in junior high school the coronavirus pandemic started, and I didn't get very close to my friends. That's why I was happy that my friends did something to celebrate my birthday this year, and that we get along so well.

At this time, I felt that my friends were my brothers and sisters and Hinode Gakuen was my second home.

Hinode Gakuen has a warm atmosphere

Yoshida Momoka



I think that Hinode Gakuen is "my second home" because I have trustworthy

friends and teachers here, and I enjoy my time every day.

There are enjoyable days and challenging days. Nevertheless, when I come to Hinode Gakuen and talk to my friends and my teachers and ask them to listen to my worries, I naturally feel better and try my best again.

I think that the relationship and trust among people gives a warm atmosphere to the whole school. I love this feeling, and I think it is one of Hinode Gakuen's best features.

Hinode Gakuen's teachers are all trustworthy

Kobayashi Ryo



Two years ago, when I was in the first year of junior high school, I was the president of my class. I was not good at speaking in public, so I became

the class president to try to overcome that. Even if I wanted to say something, I couldn't express myself well and it didn't go as planned.

At that time, my homeroom teacher took me aside. I told my homeroom teacher everything I was thinking right then and she advised me to work hard together with her.

I also remember that the sub-homeroom teacher knew what I was worried about and she quietly gave me some advice.

If you have a problem, the teachers will talk with you soon and give you some advice. They are Hinode Gakuen teachers, but they are really like mothers or fathers.

These students are certainly not alone in their opinions. Many other students feel the same.

By Chaya Nanami, Yoshida Momoka and Kobayashi Ryo

Ichikawa City Is Chiba's Eastern Kamakura

There is a district in Ichikawa City called Sugano, which is located between Tokyo and Chiba City. You can visit there by local train on the Keisei Line. It's not famous but it has an interesting history and was loved by many cultural people.

Until the early modern period, the north side of Sugano was covered with sedge, suge, in Japanese. And since the south side was covered with sand, it was also called suga. So, people called this land "Sugano" which means field of suga.

In the Taisho period, many cultural people built their villas there because Sugano was away from the hustle and bustle of Tokyo. Koda Rohan, a famous writer, lived in Sugano. He lived there during World War II, writing a lot of famous works. He continued to live there until his death in 1947. Another famous writer, Nagai Kafu also lived in Sugano.

Not only writers, but also painters liked this place.

Higashiyama Kaiti, who is famous for his landscape painting, lived there after the war. When he first came there, he lost his mother and brother and also lost a famous painting contest. He got depressed.

However, he tried to never give up, and soon he won the contest. He became famous for his painting, which expresses the landscape of Chiba. Now there is a museum about Kaiti in Ichikawa. For many cultural people, Sugano was their favorite place and they called Sugano "Eastern Kamakura," likened to Kamakura, which is also famous as a quiet residential area.

Sugano is also famous as an academic district. There are many private schools like Hinode Gakuen, Konodai Girls' School, and Showa Gakuin. In the Meiji period, there was a plan to build a national university named "Konodai University."

At that time, Tokyo University was the nation's greatest educational institution. It aimed

to teach professional skills. In contrast, Konodai University aimed to teach comprehension skills. Yet, the plan was stopped because the Japanese army wanted to use the land for military reasons and it deprived Ichikawa of its planned construction site.

planted for coastal sand control forest long ago because Sugano was facing the sea. Sugano is inland now but the pine trees have remained. When you visit Sugano, you can see pine trees, old houses and vestiges of cultural people.



Japanese black pine trees in Sugano

Photo by Morikawa Ryotaro

Now Sugano is not a famous place, but it is still a quiet residential area and an academic district. Also, there are many Japanese black pine trees in Sugano, which decorate the place more beautiful. They were

"Eastern Kamakura" is still alive and well. New painters and writers might be living in the area now.

By Morikawa Ryotaro

Reaching the Top of the Famous Tokyo Tower



Tokyo Tower Feels the Sky

Tokyo Tower has watched over the changes of the city during the Showa and Heisei eras. Today, it is one of Tokyo's leading tourist destinations and is visited by approximately 3 million people a year from Japan and abroad. Many people recognize it as a symbol of Tokyo.

Tokyo Tower was the world's tallest building when it was constructed in 1958. Since its opening, it has supported life in

the Kanto area as a radio tower. In 2013, most of its roles were moved to Tokyo Sky Tree, and it is currently mainly used as a backup radio tower.

It has an observation deck located at a height of 150 meters and a special observation deck located at 250 meters. From here, you can enjoy a panoramic view of Tokyo Bay and the skyscrapers in the city. You can also enjoy the illuminations at night.

Tokyo Tower continues to change with the times, and various events are held there. For example, recently there have been collaborations with popular anime, streamers, and comedians to sell goods, collaborate at cafes, and run puzzle-solving games.

Recently, there was a drone show commemorating the 25th anniversary of Shiki Theater Company on December 20th. Various things were floating in the air, and it was very beautiful and wonderful "Red Tokyo Tower,"

which had its grand opening in 2022, is Japan's largest esports park set in Tokyo Tower. Each



A drone show commemorating the 25th anniversary of Shiki Theater Company

floor has its own concept, including e-motorsports, puzzle solving, and physical games. Everyone can enjoy a variety of entertainment experiences that will keep them hooked.

Often it is quite crowded from noon until evening, but after 7 o'clock it is pretty empty and

people are able to enjoy almost all the attractions without having to wait.

It can actually be climbed by stairs called the "Air Staircase Walk," a staircase of approximately 600 steps. Everyone from small children to adults can walk up the stairs in about 10 to 15 minutes while enjoying the view of Tokyo and feeling the pleasant breeze. The display panel along the way up the stairs tells the number of steps from your current location to the top. There are also quizzes from Tokyo Tower's mascot character, Noppon Kyodai, so you can have fun while climbing.

Tokyo Tower has many attractions and many ways to enjoy it. Therefore, many people visit and it is crowded every day. Visitors have a lot of fun, and often discover something new.

By Nishi Yuki

(All photos by Nishi Yuki)

Student Survey Reveals Diverse Outlook on Mask Wearing

In a recent examination conducted during the winter season, our team set out to explore the general manner towards mask-wearing among 50 students at this school. Our hypothesis suggested that a greater number of individuals would continue to wear masks compared to those choosing to take them off, given the persistent presence of the coronavirus and influenza.

Hypothesis and Rationale:

Our prediction was rooted in the ongoing penetration of the coronavirus and influenza during the winter. While we foresee a potential shift towards reduced mask usage in the spring, our observations of people around us taking off their masks prompted us to question the timing, considering the virus's persistent prevalence.

Methodology:

To delve into these observations, we created a three-choice questionnaire to the students, presenting options of "I always wear them," "I never wear them," and "depends on time and

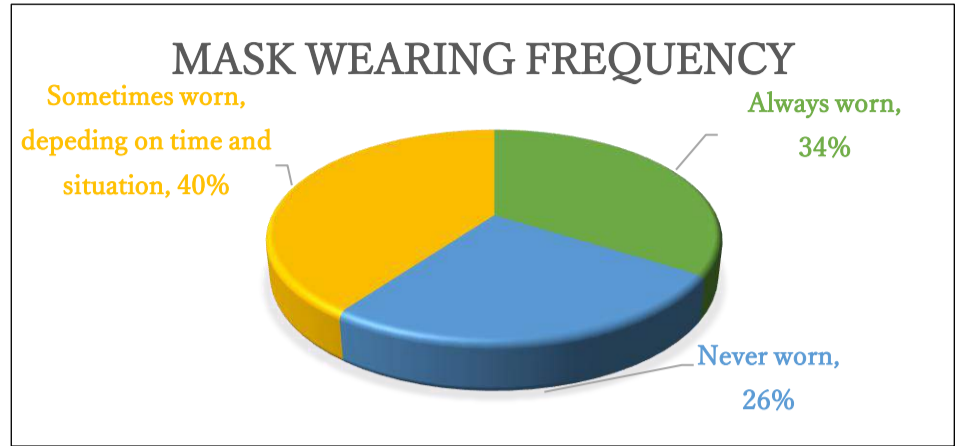
situation." The results were graphically represented, and our insights were summarized in the categories of "Considerations" and "Thoughts."

Survey Results:

Analysis of the survey data revealed that 40% of respondents wear masks depending on time and situation, making it the most prevalent response. Following closely were individuals who consistently wear masks, and those who never wear masks comprised the third category.

Considerations:

The survey results indicate that reasons for always wearing masks often stem from individuals feeling uncomfortable taking off them or being influenced by others who continue to wear masks. Interestingly, these motivations are not solely driven by the desire to reduce the risk of coronavirus or influenza infection but are intertwined with a unique Japanese trait. Many participants expressed the tendency to adjust themselves to others or consider the recognition of those around



Mask-Wearing Frequency Survey Conducted by Ono and Lee

them. Additionally, a large number of participants noted wearing masks out of consideration for others, aiming to prevent the spread of viruses or colds—a practice deeply rooted in the Japanese concept of "omoiyari."

Thoughts:

Our analysis revealed the diversity in the timing and reasons for individuals choosing to remove masks. Recognizing the different motivations behind these decisions, we emphasize the importance of respecting each of these motivations. It is crucial to

avoid imposing personal thoughts or ignoring the opinions of others, fostering an environment of understanding and consideration for diverse viewpoints.

In conclusion, our survey among students provides valuable insights into the various dynamics of mask-wearing behavior, emphasizing the need for tolerance and respect in navigating personal choices amid ongoing health concerns.

By Ono Mona, Lee Kyohyun

Tokyo Disney Resort's Heartwarming Event

Tokyo Disney Resort is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year with a heartwarming event held last summer. Experience the warmth of people in Tokyo Disney Resort through "Dream Go Round," the 40th anniversary event.

Dream Go Round has several programs. "Dream Garland Seal" and "Dream Garland Card" are heartwarming programs of the event. Dream Garland Seal is what Disney cast members write messages, such as "Have fun!" and "Have a nice day!" to guests. Dream Garland Card is what the guests give the cast members or the other guests. Five messages, such as "Thank you!" and "You're the best!" are printed on it. Guests give it to the cast members or the other guests.

These programs were planned for two and a half years before they started. The organizers of these programs wanted to make a year which all people including guests and the cast can enjoy together, so they proceeded with the plan by choosing "Tsunagari," or connection, as the keyword. A cast



Dream Garland Card

Photo by Iida Nanako

member expressed the desire that a lot of people widen their circles of communication by exchanging the cards with each other.

Here is how to join these programs:

1. Tell a cast near you that you want a Dream Garland Card and a Dream Garland Seal.
2. Receive them.
3. Cut out a piece of the card.
4. Give it to someone you want to.
5. Finished! You may feel happy and smile.

Discover several answers from

the interview conducted in Tokyo Disney Resort this winter, responding to the following questions:

1. Did you receive Dream Garland Seals or Dream Garland Cards?
2. When you received one, how did you feel?
3. When you received it, what kind of talk did you have with the cast or the guest?

A 6-year-old girl brightened her eyes and said, "I received a Dream Garland Seal from a young cast member. I felt so happy. So, I want

to come here everyday and talk with many people to make them happy with my Dream-Garland-Card!" An old woman recalled, "A little pretty girl handed me a Dream Garland Card. We talked about various things for a while, and we became friends. We had a truly happy moment together."



Dream Garland Seal

Photo by

<https://www.tokyodisneyresort.jp/>

The event at Tokyo Disney Resort has brought smiles to many, offering heartwarming experiences. Don't miss out – it runs until March 31 this year.

By Iida Nanako

Improving Study Skills Using Innovative Methods

What comes to mind when you hear the words "English study?" Most people probably imagine themselves at a desk with a pen in their hand. But, in fact, there are many different ways to study English. For example, we can listen to music, watch movies, read books and newspapers, study abroad, go to an English camp, travel to foreign countries, volunteer abroad and chat with foreign people online.

At Hinode Gakuen, many initiatives are being implemented to improve students' skills. Mathematics classes and English classes are developed according to proficiency level, allowing students to take classes that match their level of understanding to ensure that they increase their knowledge most efficiently. In addition to taking various certification exams at school, students can use online English conversation services in class to talk with people from other countries.

Moreover, the English club members also enter various types of competitions and exchanges

with sister schools in Australia in English. The English debate club won a prize in the 2023 Chiba Prefecture Debate Tournament, and also participates annually in exchanges with other schools' debate clubs.

Hinode Gakuen also has study-related events held outside of school. One of these is the "Hinode Gakuen Karuizawa Sanso." This is held at a mountain villa in Karuizawa, Nagano



Hinode Gakuen's Karuizawa Sanso

Prefecture which is owned by Hinode Gakuen. Surrounded by the nature of the four seasons, various events are held there.

After entering junior high school, Hinode students attend an orientation camp for three days and two nights, where they make friends and prepare for their new

school life. Students can study while encouraging each other with friends and teachers in the cool and comfortable environment of Karuizawa, a famous summer resort.

Every summer "Tokushin Gasshuku" is held in August. This is a study camp attended by first- and second-year high school students which brings together top-performing students. There are Japanese, mathematics and English classes.

Second-year high school students take different classes depending on which university they hope to attend. Specifically, students can concentrate on the courses they need to take, divided into national and public universities for humanities, private universities for humanities, national and public universities for sciences, and private universities for sciences. Each class is one hour long and there are a total of 27 hours of classes over five days.

Since it's a study camp, students cannot bring playthings, and smartphones will be collected,

but it is not all that hard. During break time, students can chat outside with their friends. Chefs prepare delicious dishes for breakfast, lunch and dinner. The dishes are nutritionally balanced, and eating them allows students to study hard.

Also, last year, on the last day of the study camp, the school teachers prepared many kinds of cakes for the students. Students were not free to choose just any cake. They were able to choose their cake based on the ranking of their score on a test they took during the study camp. This motivated them to get a good score on their test.

At Hinode Gakuen, efforts are being made to encourage students to study from various perspectives, including events held at the Karuizawa Sanso. From these activities, students will be able to find the perfect study method. People connected with Hinode Gakuen look forward to the school's further growth with new opportunities.

By Kinoshita Yume

Photo by Yume Kinoshita

Exploring Opportunities and Challenges of AI in Education

In the realm of education, Artificial Intelligence (AI), particularly through language models like ChatGPT, is bringing about a transformative revolution, marking a paradigm shift in traditional teaching methodologies. This article critically examines the extensive possibilities and challenges entailed in the integration of AI into education, investigating both the promises and potential pitfalls.

Real-life Example 1: Unlocking Creativity in Storytelling

ChatGPT has a vast amount of text data. Therefore, it can generate sentences in most languages based on instructions such as the number of characters and letters, specific words, and proficiency level. If this ChatGPT

feature can be used in school education, it can reduce the burden on English teachers to prepare teaching materials.

Real-life Example 2: Changing Language Practice!

By incorporating specific features, ChatGPT facilitates voice conversations in various languages, including English. For example, Mia, powered by Chat GPT, has ability to engage in fluent, creative, and personable conversations, and that raises the possibility for AI potentially to complement or even replace English teachers. This provides students with independent opportunities to improve their English speaking skills regardless of time or place.

Issue 1: Addressing Information Accuracy

Using AI like ChatGPT boosts learning efficiency, but concerns arise, especially regarding accuracy of information particularly involving real people or historical events. ChatGPT relies on probability theory, selecting high-probability words from user instructions to generate responses. However, its current limitations prevent accurate responses in specialized areas of knowledge or specific facts or people.

Issue 2: Navigating Disparities in AI Utilization Skills

As AI makes education more efficient, the ability to utilize it becomes important in determining academic success.

This may result in a widening gap between those proficient in AI utilization and those lacking such skills.

In Conclusion: Striking a Balance

In summary, ChatGPT brings new ways to teach, but a cautious approach is important to reduce potential errors. The key lies in providing comprehensive AI education with all students and minimizing learning gaps. Striking a careful balance between reaping the benefits and addressing the challenges of AI in education is essential for its successful integration and broad societal impact.

By Iwaki Takuma

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