

Education

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ple who used to do them. When the economy got worse, many immigrants lost their jobs, and they had to be taken care of by the state. Since the money came from taxpayers, they were upset. The overall payment that these people received was still small in comparison to other government expenses, but many British citizens resented the immigrants, and their attitude toward immigrants turned negative.

Another big issue related to the immigrants was their religious and cultural differences. The U.K. has accepted people from areas that are in conflict. These immigrants were considered to be refugees. Unfortunately, some big problems have occurred with refugees who came from Islamic countries. The U.K. is a Christian country, and its ideals have clashed with the Muslim immigrants. Problems have arisen due to crimes that have been committed by Muslim immigrants who use their extreme religious beliefs to justify their unlawful actions. Of course, most immigrants respect the laws and customs of their new countries and try to adapt to



Hina Okitsu poses with her host mother in her kitchen.

them, but the ones who haven't are causing some serious problems and are fueling negative feelings about immigrants in general.

I was surprised when I heard these things because I couldn't imagine these problems happening in Japan. Japan's population has been decreasing for many years, and some people have

suggested that one of the solutions would be to increase the number of immigrants that Japan accepts.

I think it would be nice to have a safe society with people from diverse backgrounds, cultures and religions living together, but it is also an issue to consider these problems before immigrants are accepted into

Japanese society. I think that it is important to understand that there will be problems, as well as benefits, to having immigrants in Japan. The government must draw up plans in order to deal with them should it decide to increase the number of immigrants.

By Hina Okitsu

Discovering the differences, similarities of two schools

There are a lot of schools in the world. I believe school is the most important institution in the world, so when we went to the U.K. in March, I was excited to visit a British school and take a class. I visited Pittville School, a coeducational foundation secondary school located in the Pittville area of Cheltenham. There, I learned about the many similarities and differences between Reitaku and Pittville, such as the kinds of students who go there, their uniforms and their classroom behavior.

Reitaku and Pittville have many things in common. For example, they are both coed. I think the number of boys and girls is almost the same and they take classes together. Additionally, the students stay in one room and their teachers change for every subject. The students at



Reitaku and Pittville students pose at Pittville School.

Reitaku and Pittville both wear uniforms. Students wear blazers and neckties or ribbons tied in a bow.

However, there are a few rules that are different. Both schools require their students to wear a uniform, but students at Pittville can alter it. Girls at Reitaku have to wear a skirt and a

ribbon. Boys have to wear a necktie and pants. In contrast, at Pittville, girls can wear either a ribbon or a necktie. For example, I met a girl who was wearing a blouse, sweater, blazer, a necktie and pants. Another was wearing a blouse, blazer, ribbon and a skirt.

In addition, how classes start

and end are different at Reitaku and Pittville. Students at Reitaku bow at the beginning and end of the class, but students don't bow at Pittville. I think bowing is important because we express gratitude this way to our teacher for teaching us. I didn't feel that the class had begun when we didn't bow at Pittville. When the bell rang, the class ended without a bow. I think they are grateful, but they express their gratitude to their teacher in different ways.

Finally, I think both Reitaku and Pittville are good schools. They are both coed and have similar classroom structures. However, they have different views on uniforms and ways of showing gratitude. I want to go to Pittville School again to discover something new.

By Ayaka Kaino