

Prism

Becoming Global Citizens

When I was in middle school in the UK, I had to study French, and honestly, I hated it. “Why do I need to study French?” I thought. “This is the UK, we speak English here.” I couldn’t see how it would ever be useful to me. I thought I would live in the UK forever, so I didn’t really try my best. I thought of myself as a UK citizen, not a global citizen.

Now that I’m older, I regret not putting in that extra effort in that class. I have been to France many times, but because I didn’t try my best, I could never communicate well in French. Even now, for example, recently Rino started learning French. If I had studied properly in school, maybe I could talk to her in French.

I’ve lived in Japan for many years now and have made friends from many different countries. Even just at SOLAN, there are teachers from all around the world who all speak different languages. I can understand now that I had a very narrow world view when I lived in the UK, and learning about so many different cultures has been an important part of my development.

With this in mind, I want to talk about our new English Project that we started this week. This year, we will be keeping the same theme and goal for the whole year:

Develop a global mindset by learning about different countries and comparing their cultures to life in Japan.

Global Citizenship has always been a goal at SOLAN. I know you have all heard of it, but until now, I’m not sure if everyone really understands exactly what it means or why it is valuable. I hope that through our English project this year, we can turn it into more of a real, clear goal. When you know exactly why you are learning a language, it becomes a lot more interesting, and I hope this gives you more motivation with your English studies!

