



Jeff先生と Let's learn the world!



Hello, everyone! It's been a while since we've had an ALT interview, but today I sat down with our newest member here in Agano city, Perry Banks. Enjoy!

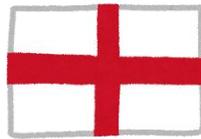
Name: Perry Banks

Age: 25

Home country: England, UK

Schools you teach at:

Sasaoka ES, Horikoshi ES, Kamiyama ES, Kyogase JHS



Why did you come to Japan?

I came to Japan because my mother has a childhood friend from Chiba. She kept in contact with me and my family ever since, so I came to Japan three years ago to visit her. I really enjoyed my time in Japan, so of course I wanted to work in Japan.

What do you like about Japan?

What I like about Japan is that they have a strong culture. They always have traditional Japanese events happening, well, but not recently. Last year, I was in Tsunan, and I really enjoyed the countryside. They have beautiful mountain scenery, which we have here in Agano, too. Whenever I look outside and see the nice scenery, it feels like this is a good place to work. I find that the people are very kind and welcoming. I've been able to make friends with Japanese people quite easily.

What has surprised you about Japan/Niigata?

What surprised me the most when I first came to Japan was that there's no place to dry your hands in the toilets, you have to bring your own towel. That surprised me a lot. I was also really surprised by the independence of children and how they walk to school by themselves, how they clean the schools in teams by themselves, without the teacher's help, and when they do the sports day they do the taiko drumming, and they have to learn a big sequence and perform by themselves.

What do you do in your free time?

In my free time I study Japanese, I sometimes go hiking, I sometimes go fishing, and sometimes I make music on my computer.

What do you like about your home country?

I like tea with milk, milk tea. I like the architecture in England, especially in London where you have the big london houses and victorian style architecture. I like the humor and sarcasm too.



Is there anything you would like to tell the citizens of Agano about yourself, or in general?

If you see me walking down the street, don't be afraid to say hi. When festivals are up and running again, don't be afraid to invite me.



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