

## Yusuhara a Home from Home: 22. Looking Back and Forward

**Stephen Woodard**

With Easter fast approaching and it's meaning of renew, people reflect and look to the future on the upcoming year. I thought I would take this moment to think back on the past year and beyond.

Recently I was able to return home to the U.K for the first time in three years thanks to the easing of border restrictions in Japan. I got to spend Christmas and New Year with my family and friends which was much needed. I also got to finally experience some festivals albeit somewhat restricted still. It's not just me who has been thinking about the past, 7th grade students here have been practicing hard for their coming-of-age ceremony and reflecting on what helped them make it to where there are now. I look forward to seeing their event, I know many are nervous but I also know that they will do well.

On to the future. Graduation is fast approaching and in a few short weeks we will say goodbye to our 9th grade students. Each year it gets harder as I have spent more time with year. This year in particular as I started teaching them in elementary school. I wish all students the best in high school and beyond!



The Easter bunny bringing eggs, a symbol of renewal.