

# **Alumni Connect**

Stories, experiences and more!

This booklet contains short biographies and relates how Steiner education made an impact in the lives of Tridha alumni. An array of responses from those in college, and those launched into their careers post-college life.

Readers will learn about the efficacy of Steiner education, as documented in this booklet. Our alumni describe both their successes and their struggles in navigating the transition from a Rudolf Steiner school – a world rich in beauty, wonder, and an ineffable recognition of the spiritual side of the growing child – into the wider terrain of contemporary life.

# **OUR STUDENTS**













# A Rudolf Steiner School The Evolution in Education

Think education only happens through memorization and testing? Think again.

At Tridha, we add music and art to science, math and English to help our students reach a deeper understanding of their relative concepts. Multiply this advanced comprehension with daily hands-on experiences and you've got an equation that's paying off.

Tridha began with Kindergarten and class I, a total of 20 children in June 2000. Today there are 600 children who practice handwork, dance and play music as well as draw and paint; develop skills at cooking, carpentry and gardening while mastering the curriculum till Grade 12. Subjects for the IGCSE exams are covered along with other specialized subjects included in the Steiner Curriculum.

**Playgroup - Grade 12** 

**IGCSE Curriculum** 

Co-educational

Head, Heart & Hands



### Curriculum

Our curriculum is based on a system that recognizes and meets the need for strong development of the intellect. Along with the prerequisite history, geography, mathematics, science, languages, our students are exposed to drama, history of architecture, of poetry, astronomy, field trips and more.

Play is the heart of the Playgroup and Kindergarten program and through the child's own free imaginative play a broad range of cognitive, social and linguistic skills are developed.

Our Primary school students grasp academic concepts through storytelling, music and art. Their days are filled with re-enactments of history, creation of music and other hands-on activities that help them grasp each concept - not memorize it.

Our High School and A level students expand their view on scientific concepts through experimentation and exploration of hypotheses. We follow the IGCSE program not losing our focus on the human development of our students.







The O, AS and A level is a recognized qualifications by both Indian and International Universities. Tridha students have gained admission in different Indian colleges and those abroad in various fields of study such as medicine, law, science, engineering, computer technology, arts, social science, government, and teaching at all levels.

Ultimately, when students leave Tridha after their Grade 12 they are to understand the paradoxes of life without losing sight of the ideals.



Simran Puri

2011-12 A LEVEL

Loved Tridha and miss it massively! Wish I had more time.

I did Multimedia Design at Raffles Design International, Mumbai and was awarded for Best Overall Performance.

I have hosted Disney Imagine That Season 2 & 3 and presently am freelancing.



Priyansha Bajoria

2012-13 IGCSE

When people ask whether Tridha students are well prepared enough to face the challenges of the outside world, to transition into the education system after their schooling, I say yes, of course. If anything, Tridha students are more prepared to do so, Tridha has given us so much! We have a unique background. We have a sense of being integrated with our surroundings, a childhood and schooling that connects us to different dimensions of ourselves. It enables us, trains us gently, to be observant, perceptive and creative individuals. There is strength in that.

I graduated with a B. A. Hons in Sociology and Anthropology from Ashoka University. I had taken a year off and am doing volunteer work in Auroville, Pondicherry with one organization in the health and environment sector, and a research study with another to ascertain development priorities for the GOI funds Auroville receives annually.

I was lucky. My mother did the teachers' training course and taught in Tridha briefly. So, Tridha never ended at 4 pm for me. When I did my IB program in the 11th & 12th Grade, I remember telling myself I was working with the system and not in the system. Grades, certifications, etc. were never an issue; they were by-products of genuine interest and engagement. In college too, Tridha helped lay a foundation that allowed me to be my own person and interact with the world in a well-considered way. The Tridha I know is the first building block, the right choice, the foundation on which all of us Alumni stand.



Kalansh Gala

2012-13

A LEVEL

Tridha has been a meaningful part of my self-discovery and has provided me with the worldview and confidence to find my own paths and explore my curiosities. I've also learnt through the various experiences and hands on work - the importance of pursuing projects and built the grit to complete them. I teach with Teach For India and continue to attempt bringing my childhood at Tridha alive through my classroom.

I have also published a book - "Rann Ji Goonj" - a collection of Kutchi poems.



Qurratain Contractor

2012-13 A LEVEL

Imagine a place, where you are encouraged to experiment, explore and be exposed to a variety of perspectives across a wide range of disciplines. Imagine a place, where you are given time to slowly form your own opinions after being exposed to a variety. Imagine a place where you are accepted and appreciated and guided and taught by teachers who would become role models. Tridha allowed me to grow in such an environment where I not only gained a holistic education but also formed lifelong bonds and friendship.

While many of my friends outside school got caught up in the rat race of exams and mugging up from textbooks to complete their portions, I found myself develop a want to learn more out of inquisitiveness, I found myself involved in discussions, taking up personal projects and do what I loved doing.

After successfully completing my A levels at Tridha, it was clear to me that I wanted to do Fine Art, which lead me to join a BFA programme wherein I topped all four years of my academic study. I am now working as a part time art teacher at Tridha, while I continue my own exploratory art practice.



Prithu Prasad

2015-16

A LEVEL

Tridha taught me to be multifaceted and hardworking, which helped me transition into a government college with a rigorous academic program. Some difficulties that I had to overcome in the first year stemmed from the difference in the Indian and IGCSE curricula. But Tridha taught me to put my head down and focus only on myself and not flow with the stream. This defining trait enabled me to navigate through the stresses of university life and come out of it with a stellar academic record as well as excel in various club activities.

I am a graduate with Honours, Biodesign Fellow and a scientific chapter written by me is currently under publication. I have filed for a patent for the product I have developed through my startup in the field of assistive technologies as well.

Transitions between school and university are difficult for all students. The new found freedom, the lack of oversight, the wide open horizons, all contribute to overwhelm our tiny minds that have, until then, only focused on studies. But Tridha's staunch focus on extra-curricular activities, sometimes bordering on eccentric, actually shapes us into individuals who know what it feels to have wide open horizons. We step into university grounds, look at the sports fests, the music clubs, the dance performances and the art exhibitions, and we think: we have already done this. And we have done this alongside our board exams. And the overwhelmed facade fades to reveal a confident, self-assured individual, ready to take on the world and make a difference. Of course the jump from IGCSE curriculum to the rigour of Indian academics is difficult, but Tridha students don't back down from a fight, and better yet, they are not afraid to fail. And life rewards us with enough chances to become the best versions of ourselves.



Dev Pawani

2016-17 IGCSE

My time at Tridha spanned from nursery to year 10, marking an incredible journey. The significance of this experience truly hit me when I relocated overseas, realising how the foundational teachings at Tridha profoundly shaped my character and prepared me for the future. Reflecting on the basics, such as taking turns washing dishes during pre-primary, proved to be instrumental in fostering skills for the long run. Adapting to diverse culinary styles, as parents prepared meals, and participating in end-of-day tasks like sweeping the floor became integral parts of my early education. The exposure to handwork, woodwork, and gardening in primary school contributed significantly to my overall development. Additionally, the unique Steiner approach to learning mathematical tables through play and experiential methods left a lasting impact. I fondly miss my days at Tridha and am immensely grateful for the school's role in shaping me into the person and student I am today.

Post Tridha I was at Ritambhara College (11th & 12th) and then went on to The University of Western Australia for my Bachelors Degree. Presently am working at The Office of The Auditor General for Western Australia and pursuing CA along with it.

## Adiane Brillant

2016-17 IGCSE



I attended PPSIJC (Utpal Sanghvi) for my 11th and 12th grade of high-school. This was quite a different experience from Tridha as there was less focus on holistic learning. Entering university in the Netherlands was also quite a unique experience. I was surrounded by peers who valued individuality more than I was used to at the time, and they were unafraid to embrace that. Being at a technical university focused mainly on Engineering, most students had much more hands-on experience than me. They had grown up in workshops, handling tools and heavy machinery and using their hands to build various products and prototypes. This pushed me to break out of my comfort zone, (i.e. theory) and quickly learn practical, hands on skills which are equally valuable.

Growing up and learning at Tridha was a special experience for me. Leaving and interacting with other people from around the world, I have come to understand what a unique experience we had as children. The school trips such as Ladakh and astronomy, and the special blocks (e.g., history of art, theatre, etc.) have allowed us to develop a sensitivity and curiosity for the world that we as adults can now integrate into our academics/careers.

I have published a thesis for my Bachelor's and currently am pursuing my Masters at the University of Twente.



# Ananya Moorthy

2017-18 A LEVEL

To select a few moments from an entire journey of learning, love, and growth is a next to impossible task, but I will try my best. After all, it is futile to expect words to capture moments that seem ordinary then, but gradually develop to define who you are. I never imagined my class teacher would turn into the generous Banta Singh and cunning Santa Singh, the King's courtiers, to explain addition and subtraction to me respectively; the excitement abuzz that day, of accumulating knowledge in such an innovative, spirited way, is forever etched in my memory. Or watching, open-mouthed and in awe, how the letter 'M' reveals itself through the deep valleys and pointed peaks of large 'M'ountains - imagine learning alphabets like that! Or mischievously soiling ourselves dirty in the sandpits, ravenously climbing branches to reach treehouses, gratefully reciting with heads bowed a personalised poem every week on the day you were born.

Tridha never let me feel ordinary. And it is that sense of independence, of critical thinking, of being free to imagine the world outside of pre-determined margins and barriers that I will always carry with me. Of course, these precious memories are guarded treasures, but my learning goes far beyond them, and for that, I am eternally grateful.



# Araniani Acharya Cabral e Sa

2017-18 A LEVEL

I came from a schooling system that catered to teaching students rather than encouraging them to learn. I joined Tridha for my A Levels. Here, I was able to learn not only from the academic curriculum, but also through extensive discussions with my teachers and peers that went beyond the classroom. Although my time at Tridha was short, my classmates and the faculty alike took me in very warmly. I also thoroughly enjoyed the space that Tridha gives its students to explore their interests and passions. The highlight of my time at Tridha was the Europe trip our class went on. Not only was it exciting and a great time for our class, but we were exposed to a different culture and way of living that I learnt a lot from.

Given the curriculum's focus on a research based model of education and Tridha's emphasis on exploring ideas, I was able to transition to the higher education space with ease. My course in college was very theoretical as I majored in Political Science and Film Studies (among several other elective courses based in the Arts and Humanities).



# Shinjini Rabadi

2017-18 A LEVEL

One of the most important things that I learnt at Tridha, is to question everything that is being taught. While Tridha's small classrooms did make it easy to be heard, I soon realised that it's not so difficult even in University classes. So, in terms of my learning methods, not much has changed. I still question my teachers just like I did in Tridha, and that is still proving to be the best way of learning. And while all my lecturers might not know me by name (like the teachers at Tridha did), they definitely know me as the girl who speaks up and asks questions.

So, in a way, Tridha is to thank for my success even at university. I am studying at Massey University, Auckland, New Zealand and am halfway through my first year of Bachelor of Business (Economics and Finance) degree. I am doing well in all my classes; in fact, just last semester I topped my economics class and I am being awarded for this by the University.



# Kirit Narain

2017-18 A LEVEL

Tridha shines at developing a sense of curiosity for learning. The many class trips, such as gazing at the stars to grasp astronomy, and hands-on teaching style go beyond simply gluing theory to practice. For me, it's broadened my scope of thinking and instilled a passion for seeking the next challenge.

After completing Computer Science at the University of Washington, Seattle, I am now a software engineer at Google. I graduated with Magna cum Lauda honors (top 4% of class), and was on the Dean's List for all 4 years. I received many college credits for taking A-level math and science so I was able to skip several intro classes and jump straight into the intermediate level. The transition was fairly smooth and I felt A levels prepared me well for college coursework.

In the year since graduating Tridha, I've moved halfway around the world to study computer science, built an electric bike and survived a snowmageddon. As crazy as it has been, I've never really felt unprepared because my time at Tridha exposed me to very many different experiences and made the act of embarking on new adventures comfortable. So, while my peers fret about analyzing African-American artwork in a multimodal composition course or getting up on stage to present their research findings, I just slip on my familiar Tridha hat.



## Saher Rangwala

2017-18 IGCSE

School after Tridha wasn't very hard for me to adjust to. I was used to different education systems before Tridha because I only joined in the 4th grade. So, starting my A levels at a regular international school was no struggle. However, I did notice that being a Steiner student never made me feel lesser than the other students in my class. In fact, we stood out the most.

I believe that since graduating at Tridha, I've achieved quite a bit for myself. In November 2019 I gave a TEDEd talk in my new school which has not only been published on YouTube, but also got nominated as one of the top entries by TED itself. More recently, I have begun my university degree at Tilburg University, Netherlands where I am studying Cognitive Science and Artificial Intelligence.

None of this would have been possible without all the growth that I went through in my 7 years at Tridha. I became strong, confident, and more in charge of myself. I learned to share my opinions and have a say in what happens around me and I will forever be grateful for the person that I have become.



# Ananya Palhade

2019<sup>-</sup>20 IGCSE

My time at Tridha was absolutely magical. I made friends for a lifetime and learned things about myself which made me open up into a new human being. Tridha taught holistic learning which I still continue to pursue in my college days.

My transition from Tridha was a little difficult since the transition from a non competitive school to a very rigorous schooling situation was hard to get used to.

Am happily pursuing Visual Communications at Whistling Woods International after my 2 years at Singapore International School.



# Riya Narain

2019-20 IGCSE

I thoroughly enjoyed my years at Tridha, and really thrived under the Rudolf Steiner curriculum. I made close bonds with my teachers and peers, and the non-competitive atmosphere of the school really festered collaboration which I think sets Tridha apart from many other schools. Also the focus on learning through experience and the many trips like astronomy, geography, farming I think have given me a more well-rounded perspective, and were just really fun in general!

The transition from Tridha to an IB school was a little harder than expected, but mostly due to the pandemic and solely online learning in a completely new environment. Post Tridha I have completed 2 years at Hill Spring International School and now am studying Economics at the University of St. Andrews, UK and am already on the Dean's List for Year 1.



## Risa D'Souza

2021-22 IGCSE

Tridha has small class sizes that allow each student to create meaningful bonds with each of their classmates and of course the teacher. With the ever-changing class dynamic through the years the only constant is the unity that is ingrained in the students from the beginning of our journey together in grade one.

This togetherness that we worked on through the years bore fruit in the 8th grade play presented at the end of the drama block. This long-awaited block has working professionals come in and train the students for a month.

Block lectures were a safe space to have fun, discover our interests and strengths and also find ways to support each other during moments of weakness. It was a platform for every one of us to shine uniquely. Though we worked hard and it was a big production, our lovely teachers took time to remind us to have fun and "enjoy what you do even if it is work" and that is something I will never forget.

Yes, I was just a little sheep in the background of this production but this was still the most life changing time in school and I am very aware of how lucky I am to have had an opportunity like this.



## **Dhruv Golchha**

2022-23 IGCSE

The Ladakh trip was one of the most important blocks in all my years at Tridha. In Ladakh, at every bend in the road we faced myriad challenges. Strenuous physically demanding climbs, living in tents far removed from civilization, and pushing ourselves to adapt to the environment, we tested our fortitude to the limits, learning much more about ourselves than we could ever have fathomed. The high-altitude climbs taught some of us to swallow our egos and take help to crest the mountains, and others to push ourselves past self-imposed limits. In our down time we discussed our aspirations for life over a cup of steaming Maggi. The peer reviews and questions provided deep insight and new perspectives into all we hoped to do in our lives. The Ladakh trip was one of the first times we really got to choose how we wanted to live, reflected in the paths we walked and the bonds we forged. Traversing this journey with my class, I got to know them even better than I thought possible.

The Ladakh trip was a block of thrilling self-discovery in the scenic beauty of the mountains, all while making friends and memories to last a lifetime!

# Tridha Alumni till date from 2010 to 2023 have attended the following institutions, among others post 10/12th:

## ASIA (other than India):

Singapore International School, Singapore

#### AUSTRALIA:

• The University of Western Australia

#### **CENTRAL AMERICA:**

United World College, Costa Rica

#### **EUROPE:**

- Tilburg University, The Netherlands
- University of St. Andrews, Scotland
- University of Twente, The Netherlands
- University of Oxford, England

### **NEW ZEALAND:**

Massey University, Auckland

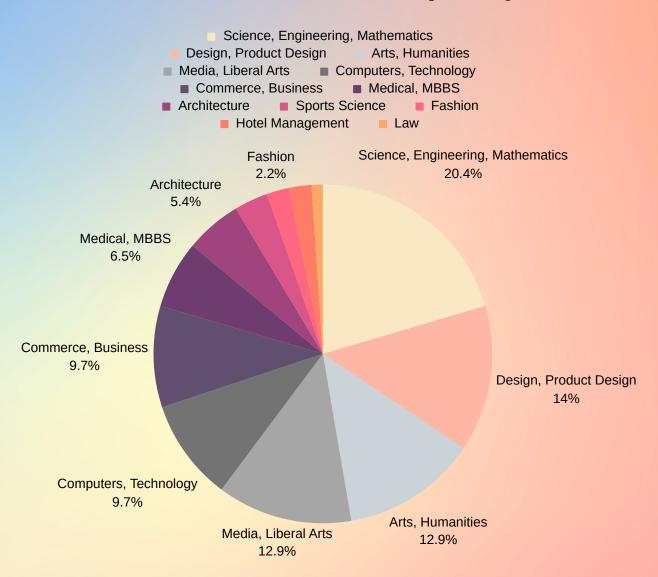
#### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

- Creighton University, Omaha, Nebraska
- New York University, New York
- North Eastern University, Boston
- University of Massachusetts, Amherst
- University of Washington, Seattle

#### INDIA:

- Aditya Birla World Academy, Mumbai
- Ashoka University, Haryana
- Bhavans College, Mumbai
- Cathedral & John Connon School, Mumbai
- Dhirubhai Ambani International School, Mumbai
- Ecole Mondiale World School, Mumbai
- FLAME University, Pune
- H. R. College, Mumbai
- Hill Spring International, Mumbai
- Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Pune
- JBCN, Mumbai
- K. C. College, Mumbai
- KJ Somaiya College of Physiotherapy
- Kodaikanal International School, Kodaikanal
- Krea University, Sri City
- L. S. Raheja, Mumbai
- Mithibai College, Mumbai
- Mumbai University, Mumbai
- NIT, Rourkela
- NMIMS, Mumbai
- Oberoi International School, Mumbai
- Podar International School, Mumbai
- Primus Public School, University of Mysore, Mysore
- Raffles Design Institute, Mumbai
- Rajiv Gandhi Medical College, Mumbai
- Sathaye Collge, Mumbai
- SIES College of Arts, Science and Commerce, Mumbai
- Sophia College, Mumbai
- Srishti Institute of Art, Design and Technology, Bangalore
- St. Andrews College, Mumbai
- St. Xavier's College, Mumbai
- SVKM, Mumbai
- Symbiosis School For Liberal Arts, Pune
- Whistling Woods International, Mumbai

## The careers Tridha Alumni are pursuing:



# **NURTURING OUR ARTISTS**

**KG - GRADE 3** 













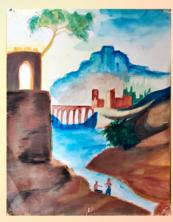
## **GRADES 4-10**















Tridha, Malpa Dongri No.3, Near Pump House, Andheri East, Mumbai 400093. Phone: +91 7045638549 www.tridha.com



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