

contagious
stories

volume I

RIVERSIDE



Aaryaman Trivedi

Liberal Arts
Jindal School of Liberal Arts & Humanities, Sonipat-Haryana-India

2015-2016



14 of many

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Hello from Riverside

The Riverside School

Oct 17, 2016 at 4:29 PM

HELLO MA'AM!

I'm doing very well, it's so nice to hear from you. College is going great and I've given a lot of thought about this - how Riverside has shaped my current college experience. Here are my two cents :)

Firstly, I am incredibly grateful that conscious effort has been taken to imbibe a culture of intellectual curiosity at Riverside. College, in general, is not an institution that will spoon feed you with opportunities and attitudes. So much of your own learning and experiences are dependent on your willingness to go out and make the most out of what is available.

At gunpoint, if I were asked to name the one aspect of Riverside that I am the most thankful for, it's that I had the platform to voice an opinion and have it not only respected, but logically challenged.

To be very honest, college is filled with people from all walks of life - some smarter than others, some more confident, and some who could not care any less about anything. Riverside has successfully taught me to care.

Secondly, social sensitivity. My college is in Sonipat, Haryana. It is an hour and a half away from Delhi which sadly, has been given a reputation of rape, crime, corruption and confusion. More unfortunately, this reputation extends to students attending colleges in the area as well. The ideas that I was taught in Riverside, such as understanding

gender roles, the disparity in socioeconomic classes and even being aware of the dangers of religious extremism, are all relevant in a way I had never expected before. People here are more than willing to pick a fight for even the most trivial of reasons. Riverside gave me the composure to know when to stand up for myself and when to stand up for others.

Lastly, I just want to say that Riverside has also kept me in a closed and tight-knit family. Which has been incredible for my personal wellbeing. However, the disadvantage of being so used to being around nice, understanding and empathetic people, is that I have been dropped into an environment which is arguably the complete opposite. I have learned to not take that detail for granted and approach this new experience by thinking about not only what I can gain from it, but also about how I can give back to this space.

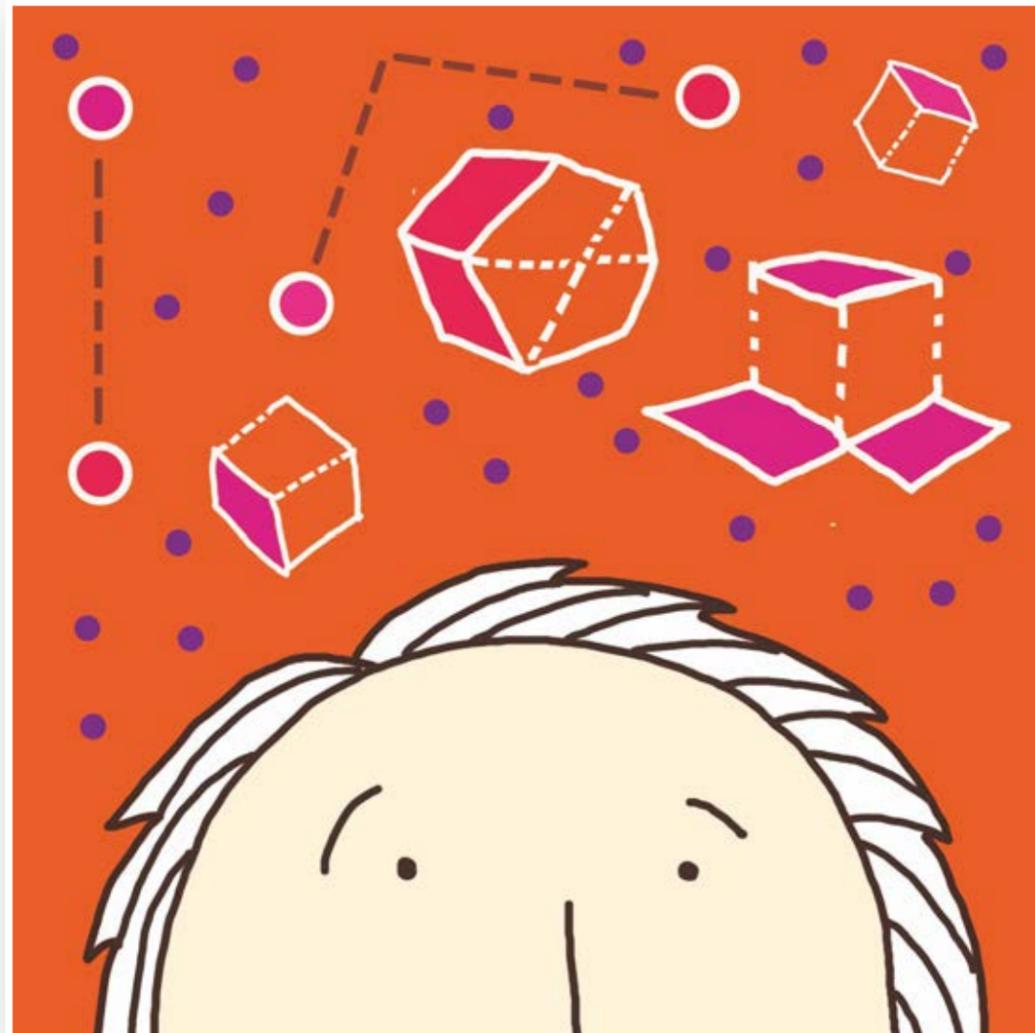
And that is what matters the most, I think. Giving back to the space you're in.

Kiran ma'am, I hope you have a wonderful time in Bulgaria and your conference is an absolute success! Lots of love and hugs! Do let me know how it goes so I can brag about it to my friends here ;)

Your baccha,



32
PERCENT
of our students got
into colleges that
were ranked in the
top 10 in their
respective field!



Aditya Bakshi

Bachelor of Arts in Culinary Arts
Institute of Hotel Management - Aurangabad

2012-2013



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COMPOSE Riverside in Me! Inbox x [Print] [Share]

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The Riverside School 9:15 AM ☆ [Reply] [Forward]

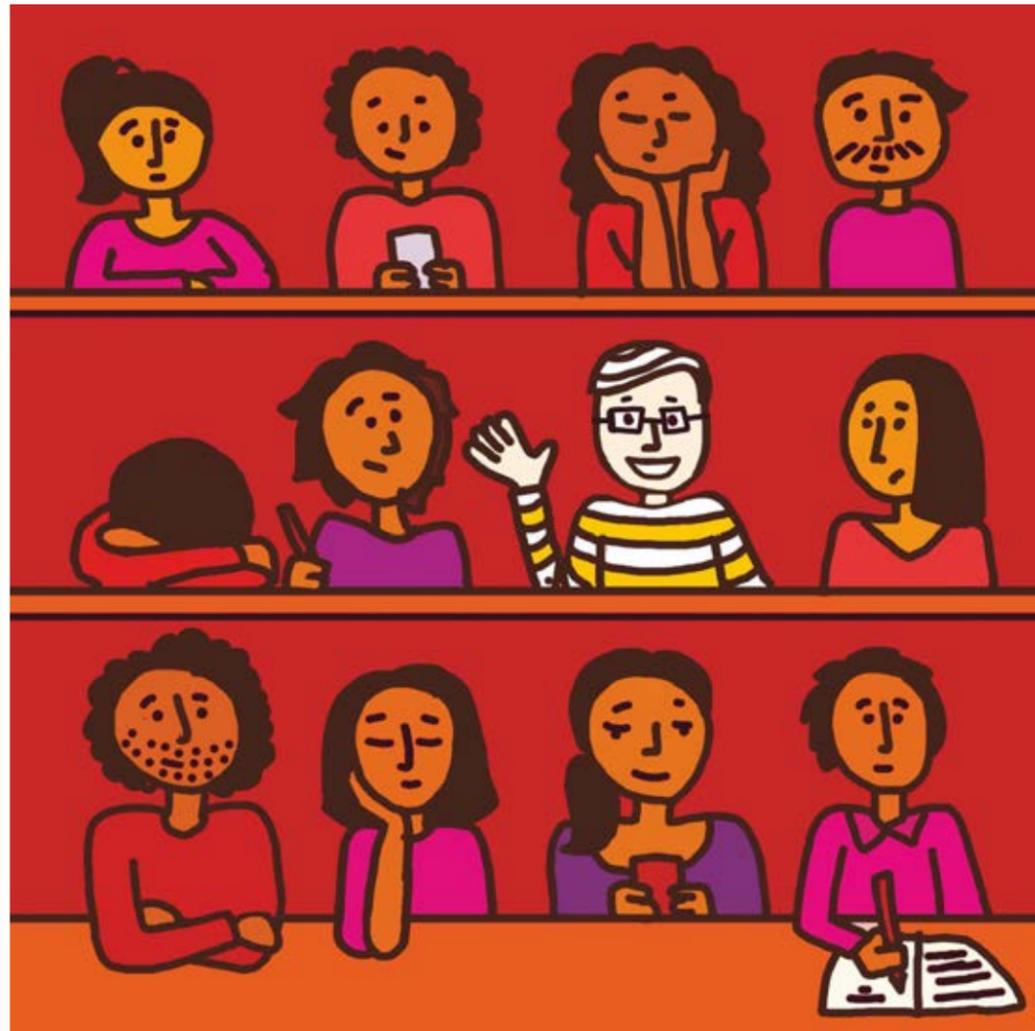
Oct 18, 2016 at 5:15 AM

My college experience has exposed me to a completely different content. Starting from knowing nothing about the subject, culinary arts, to successfully landing an internship in

SFO out of 60 other people in a 2 Michelin star restaurant, the only thing I stuck to was my approach.

I never knew that the Personal Project, Symposium, Mastery and small activities like organizing the math fair or collaborating to put up a science fair and brainstorming through learning hub would frame up the way I look at any problem or situation. From learning Einstein's equation, I ended up formulating my 'Einstein'ian equation which empowered me to research, read, make abstract connections and take up challenges. Along with this the confidence that I have to be able to look at things differently, and more multiple perspective, has also been a result of rigorous understanding based learning.

Thank you so much Kiran ma'am!!!



Aman Parekh

Chemical Engineering
University of Manchester,UK.

2015-2016



14 of many < > eλ ⚙

COMPOSE Manchester Inbox x

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The Riverside School Oct 14, 2016 at 6:44 PM ☆

A month into the college, and I want you to write an e-mail to us' those were the last words I remember from you. Kidding! It's just been a month, but it feels like a lifetime. I came here as a very nervous, but determined young man. Determined to start a new life, meet new people and obviously do well in whatever it is that I will be doing here.

The past month went by like a blur for me. It's not the case for everyone because they usually feel homesick in the first month. For me, for some reason, this place feels like home. I feel that I was meant to be here, meet these people, and make friends not contacts.

Life here is extremely tiring and it gets really hard to keep track of time, as most of it is spent on traveling or socializing. People here are really amazing and welcoming, and the best part about them is that, you can start a conversation with anyone, anywhere and anytime. It's as simple as it gets. They are always grateful for what they get and the concept of saying the phrase 'Thank You' or 'Cheers' is really common. I have never seen people in Ahmedabad opening doors for each other or start talking to a random stranger. What is it that binds us from doing so? I still cannot seem to figure it out. Is it the lack of courtesy or the 'I don't care' attitude that is embedded in all of us?

All in all this University is amazing. All my Professors are really good, and one of them is kinda like Joshua sir. However the Math professor seems to be making me even more confused about the topics I already know. But it's all right. My Chemistry Professor seems to be quite impressed by me, because I am always asking questions that are outside of the course and not related to anything that he taught to me in the class. It's this curious child in me that seems to always want to know more, understand everything that I don't.

It's one of the things that Riverside has done to me, making sure that I never let my curiosity die out, always getting all the answers I want.

If I were somewhere else before coming to Manchester, I wouldn't be like this though. One of the hardest challenges here is to get up in the morning, because every other night you are out with your friends, chilling and clubbing or just playing PS4. Usually I do this because I am afraid of being alone, because every time I am alone I feel homesick, and that is not something I am comfortable with. One more challenge is controlling your expenses, the money in your wallet just disappears, either in buying drinks or food or bus. Anyone that wishes to come here has to know how to control their expenses from before hand or else, it will be too hard.

Apart from this all is well. I'm having fun and love it here. Even though the place is unknown, it does feel like home at times.

I really miss riverside!

Loads of Love,



39
PERCENT
of our students go into
their first choice of
colleges, these are their
aspirational universities
and some of the best in
the world.

Anushka Joshi

Screen Writing
Sarah Lawrence College, New York, US

2012-2013



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COMPOSE A million thanks!:) Inbox x [Print] [Share]

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RIVERSIDE The Riverside School Aug 10, 2017 at 10:54 PM ☆ [Back] [Forward]

Dearest Kiran Ma'am,

I had been hoping to write this letter to you on my 21st birthday itself, but because of a lot of reasons I'm writing it now instead, nearly a month after. There are so many things that I want to say, but what I have to begin with is that no other person in my life, with the exception of my parents, has given me so much.

You gave me encouragement, love, self-belief when I needed it most. Now, after my first year of college, although I've found some good friends and teachers, I realize that no place in the world comes close to Riverside.

You also gave me, through Riverside, some of the best and most cherished people in my life: my classmates from the school. Although during my years at school I had been far too shy to really make friends with them, they had the grace and goodness to see past this, and accept me fully when I was ready.

You gave me some of the greatest teachers I've had the privilege to learn from, even though I spent just a few years in the school. I continue to value and immensely miss these teachers, and their passion for what they taught, and how loved they were by their students. They could make a literature lecture sound like poetry, and could make a history lesson so inspiring it was like seeing events they spoke of unfold before you in real life.

The best memory of this year for me was to witness my play happening in Riverside. It wasn't just an honor, it was surreal. I will be forever grateful to Raag Sir and Jazz, for making it come alive as only they could have. I was awed by what they had done, and so, so thankful. I can't wait to see what they make magical next.

Abhishek Sir had taken a play that's unwieldy in so many ways, and made it work on stage in a way I could not have imagined. I am in debt to the kids at Riverside for so spiritedly and beautifully acting and singing out lines that had so far been stranded stolidly on paper.

You have given me hundreds of things. You've given me courage, and hope, and happiness, all of which last long after I've left Riverside, and which are evoked just by memories of being there.

I wish there was some way to give back all that you've done, but I know that attempting to thank you is as impossible as attempting to thank my parents.

Since the 21st birthday is supposed to be the birthday when you "grow up", I wanted to thank you for making my years of growing up the best and most beautiful of my life...

With love and gratitude,



50
PERCENT
of our students got
into their Best Fit
colleges

Arshia Lakhani

2016-2017



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Reflection of my first semester at the University of Ottawa Inbox x [Print] [Share]

The Riverside School Jan 16, 2018 at 1:43 AM ☆ [Reply]

Hello everyone,

How are you all? I hope you all are doing great.

My first semester at the “University of Ottawa” is over and every day I miss being at Riverside. To begin with, I can finally say I am settled here in terms of having a good group friends, adjusting to the studies and living independently. I value and appreciate Riverside so much, I have realized that in a class of 300 people you are just a student number over here, however in Riverside, everyone was known more than just their names, it was and always will be my family that I have spent 7 years of my life with.

The first few weeks were a struggle in terms of adjusting to the culture, the people, the food. However, with time, I have settled in. Initially I was shocked by the number of people in the lectures and the fact that I don't have one standard class like Riverside, but now I've begun to adjust to this by meeting new people in every class. Academically I have had 7 midterms, 5 final exams of 5 of my courses, multiple assignments, group projects, business presentations, case studies and so much more! I probably wouldn't have been able to balance so much if Riverside didn't teach me how to manage my time efficiently between academics and extra assignments or homework (B. A's, I miss calling it that). I learnt a very important thing that in university every student should know how to do citations, plagiarism is a major offense and anyone who does it can face harsh consequences, I am so thankful to Riverside since in Grade 10 during global perspectives we were taught about how to do APA citations, due to this I still remembered it and saved a lot of my time in learning it from the start.

Also, due to giving AS and A levels, the studies in the first year is relatively easier since my subjects are similar to the ones I have given in AS and A. The teachers in Riverside

have prepared me well in terms of still remembering concepts I was taught 2 years ago. I realized that the attention I used to get by the teachers back in Riverside can't ever be compared to here; in a class of 200-300, it's very hard to get every answer to every question. The one on one learning doesn't happen here until one makes an effort to go to the professor during their office hours. Riverside also offered so many extra review sessions and went over the course multiple times, however here their speed is really fast, it's usually one chapter per lecture!! It's definitely a lot to study, since the textbook I had in one year of AS or A, is the course taught in 3.5 months here. I have learned to teach myself the concepts I don't understand, there are study groups available however I am enjoying this process of teaching myself and being my own teacher.

Apart from academics, I am really thankful for the decision I made to choose university of Ottawa. I love my campus and the people here are really kind and helpful, the professors are always approachable. I have a good group of friends that make me feel like I am home. Initially, I was shocked by how people can misuse their freedom by making choices for doing the wrong things, Riverside has always taught me how to say a No and make the right choices, due to religious reasons I do not drink and I have always stood by my decision even though the culture here is different. I am really having a good time here, I am learning how to balance between academics and my social life.

In particular, the Insane trip taught me how to always be thankful for what you have.

I have got this opportunity to study and become something in life and this is what motivates me every time before making any important decision. I have learned to live independently here; from doing things I have never done in my life before like washing dishes, doing laundry, cleaning up my room. Back home, I was privileged to have people doing this work for me. I value their hard work so much more now. I value and appreciate my life in India as well and how I always took things for granted, it's definitely not easy living without parents for so long and not being able to see them for 8 months, however I am really thankful to my friends here and the fact that university life keeps us so busy.

I can't express how thankful I am for the school, to the teachers, to Kiran ma'am and to everyone who nurtured me and helped me grow into the person I am today. I am a more confident girl because of Riverside and I miss you all a lot. Hope to see you all soon in May.



Audarya Bansal

Architecture
Navrachana University, Baroda, Gujarat-India

2013-2014



COMPOSE hi! Inbox x

The Riverside School Oct 22, 2016 at 2:48 AM ☆

(I actually thought I could write more but this is all I could remember at the moment :/)

(I might be rambling a little as well... so sorry for that too :p)

I am currently in 3rd B.Arch. at Navrachana University, Vadodara and spent my 1st year in Sushant School of art and architecture, Gurgaon.

Both my parents are doctors and... it was often presumed that I would join that line too but biology was something I had no interest in at all since the beginning. It was till 12th that I didn't know what exactly I wanted to pursue in the future and that, for my parents was something to worry about. I remember them talking to Kiran Ma'am and being like "he's all yours now".

The only options I had been hearing about were doctor or engineering, but the school introduced us to a variety of new programs available for students. Things like design, architecture, culinary arts, liberal studies, film making, programming and economics/business management were some of the fields taken up by the alumni but the important point was that the school realized that a child can only grow and learn when he enjoys what he does; which is why no one was ever pressured to learn a particular subject but was told to focus on things they found joy in.

I didn't have a lot of information about architecture when I first started, which is why I was a bit nervous... but eventually as things got started, I turned out pretty fine. I was doing very well in my first college and I'm doing very well in the second college as well.

I'm part of the student committee here, have organized almost every event for the college, my work has been selected to be presented at college exhibitions and I've taken part and come in the final 30 of an international design competition.

Key learnings in College -

There is ABSOLUTELY no substitute to hard work. The only reason I'm doing well in college is because I work A LOT. People first started recognizing me because of my work and that's actually how I started talking to people.

Exercises such as "mastery", sports days, AIR, business challenges, persistence train you to be ready for working late nights and working WITH others and mainly that you cannot get away with shoddy or below par work. There are certain expectations and standards demanded and anything below that is not acceptable!

Be it submissions or organizing events for the college, do what you love and work won't seem like a burden anymore. stay true to yourself and do what you love.

being humble and respecting each and everyone is a key learning I've had and I didn't realize it till I got into college. People don't know the basics of talking to someone younger or older to them. Being humble and respectful helps you go a long way with the faculty in the way they respond to you.

a simple thank you or a smile even to the support staff may not mean anything to you but could make their whole day. We were taught that there is no one bigger or smaller than you, the support staff is to be treated with the same respect and attitude one has towards his teacher.

There is no event which taught me to be humble and respectful but it was just probably the way the teachers look after you, talk to you and fight for you makes you respect them (if required, I could send particular examples as well to support the statement) and encourages you to do more. Persistence programs and buddy interactions teach you humbleness. You interact with a group younger than you, who probably don't understand what you're saying but it's just your actions that continue the interaction even if there is no way to communicate. It also teaches you to respect those younger to you.

Be shameful when it comes to learning and remember, teachers are your friends.

I remember, in Delhi, I used to be the only kid from probably a batch of 120 who used to enter the staff room to ask my questions. The only reasons I could do that was 1) I had

worked hard enough for the teachers to recognize me and for them to agree to meet me and answer my doubts personally after class and 2) there were no restrictions between staff rooms and school and I thought that was the case everywhere so I just walked straight in without asking anyone :P Even in my current college, I've developed that relation with my teachers where I can approach them anytime. It is a huge deal for a lot of students if teachers remember their names, so if a faculty remembers you, it's because you've done something good or something bad and luckily in my case, in both my colleges, teachers know me for the right reasons. In fact, I still keep in touch with some of the faculty of my old college and they reply back positively as well.

We always treated our teachers as friends and have visited their homes, attended their marriages, played with their children and so the relation with our teachers was... in a way... indescribable.

Simple things such as Microsoft Office or how to make a presentation or how to write a research paper come VERY handy. I know some colleges which teach word and excel and PowerPoint in the first year and what I've seen in my college is people struggle with making presentations or writing a simple essay (which is usually a copy paste of content from Wikipedia). So these small things which we think should be known by default is something which is actually not taught in all schools.

Respecting college property. Yes, it may sound like a small thing, but no one actually cares if lights and fans are on; or that writing on walls and tables is NOT okay. Just the constant nagging of teachers to switch off the lights and fans seem very helpful now :P

The world out there is very different, with the politics, with the competition, with people being selfish and very self-centered. There's a lot of negativity out there and it's up to you how to handle it. This is one thing we weren't taught in school, I was never told about the bad that exists outside and I think the only reason for that was because we were always told to find the goodness in people. It is hard sometimes but it is worth it.

Also... I would like to thank all of you for making me who I am today. I'd be really happy if you could thank all the teachers from my side... didn't know how much I miss school until I wrote this mail. Will definitely be coming to school if it's open next to next week.



Bonny Thawani

Chemical Engineering
Vellore Engineering college (VIT),Vellore,Tamilnadu-India

2014-2015



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The Riverside School Aug 6, 2016 at 9:25 AM ☆ [Back] [Forward]

Hello ma'am!!

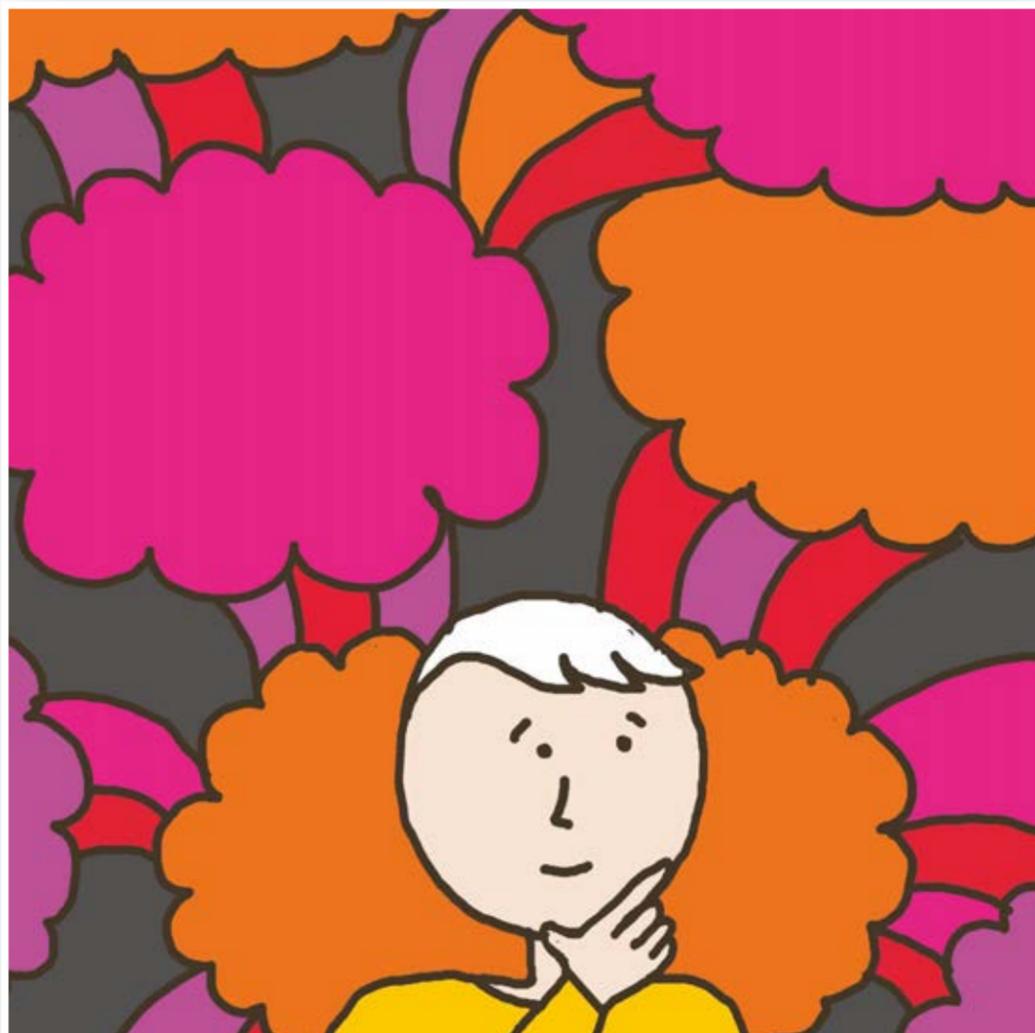
1 month into second year and I have done so much! I went for my first holiday with college friends to Pondicherry and proved to be the most responsible kid with how to handle alcohol and ensuring that no one drinks and drives and everything on the lines. I also did let loose and had insane amounts of fun alongside the responsibility. I left all my work behind when I went for the holiday and all my friends were so surprised about it!

Alongside that, my research is in full swing and we may just publish our paper by the end of 2016 and become the universities youngest published researchers.

On the conference front, I organized my first promotional event and it was the most madhouse time possible! The event was a Poke'walk and on the day of the event, the Pokémon Go servers were shut in India and we had no event 4 hours before the designated time. The whole team asked me to make a judgement call and it was indeed a very anxiety inducing moment, but I decided to alter the event to a real life Pokémon hunt and it turned out to be one of the most entertaining and successful events we have organized as a team! I'm also conducting a Master class later in the month to replace a boring guest lecture. I'm also being made a student coordinator for the conference along with two other students from my year. But, since I'm the youngest, I will be the youngest student coordinator for our college event yet.

Moreover, I have successfully managed to balance my academics, relationship, conference and research work and I seem to be on top of most matters at the moment. I do have quite a few sleepless nights working in the lab but it feels like I was always prepared for this since school itself. I miss Riverside and everyone there! I may not be able to make a trip back until my semester ends but I shall try my best to come home soon!!

Lots of love :)



Chirag Todi

Bsc. In Maths
St. Xavier's College, Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India

2015-2016



14 of many

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My College Story

The Riverside School

Oct 18, 2016 at 9:24 PM

Hey Ma'am

The experience has been really distinct by far. After Riverside, one would find any environment orthodox up to some level. But this place is a mixture of all the schools I have studied in. It takes me back to the times I experienced getting scolded by the teacher or submitting rigorous assignments on time or playing basketball with competitive players or sitting quietly in monotonous lectures. These experiences often make me wonder what would have happened if I hadn't studied in Riverside.

People from all kinds of background come to Xavier's. The majority of them are from schools where they weren't given much exposure in terms of personality development or any such remotely related topic. But in the classroom or elsewhere, the background they come from doesn't really play a role. There are people whose school lives were confined to classrooms and textbooks. Yet, they are so compassionate and smart. Mark Zuckerberg once said "Where you come from doesn't matter. Your ideas matter."

But it is because of Riverside I am able to realize such things and stand true to my opinion. I have observed that people in college never try to do something that seems impossible at the moment and instead stick to the tasks given by teachers. They haven't even been exposed to the world where one can do whatever he or she imagines.

Riverside has taught me to imagine. It has given me the confidence to reach somewhere without being asked to.

I believe that passion and compassion are innate concepts. But what can be changed is the person's will to change. Riverside has done that very well.

Thank You



Divya Sadhwani

PR & Media
WPP_ISDI- Mumbai, Maharashtra-India

2015-2016



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COMPOSE College (Life) begins Inbox x [Print] [Share]

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The Riverside School Aug 22, 2016 at 10:44 PM ☆ [Reply] [Forward]

Hi K Ma'am,

First of all, I want you to know how much I miss Riverside, every single part of it and you were absolutely right about the fact that life is not gonna come the easy way once we enter college.

I want to thank you for guiding us the right way. From choosing our college to learning how to say no, moving out of our comfort zones and to learn how to adjust in the real world. Trust me, it has helped me a lot right in the beginning.

I am finally very happy with the college I've chosen through your and the alumni's help and I'm sorry for putting you, Ankita ma'am and the others under so much pressure with my college choice. It's been a mix up of a tough and easy journey so far but surely an interesting one.

I'll keep writing to you and will keep in touch with all at Riverside. I'm sure everyone's doing well though since they have you. Miss my '18 till I die' rockstar!

Love you



Ishan Bhatt

Biological Science
University of Washington, Seattle, USA

2012-2013



14 of many

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Happy 15th!

The Riverside School

Jan 18, 2016 at 10:31 AM

Dear Kiran Ma'am and all of Riverside,

Congratulations on Riverside turning 15 years old! Perhaps 15 isn't quite as iconic a number as 10 or 25, the silver jubilee that will come in due time, but for me and quite a few others, it marks our first few years away from school - and after an initial period of feeling school-sick, sometimes more than feeling homesick, I've gotten to a point where I've been able to create a less abstract understanding of experiences at Riverside that I've carried through. Also, I felt like it's been a while since I've written, so here I am!

I'm graduating in 6 months now, and sometimes I end up looking back more than looking forward to it, amazed at where three years have gone by. Recalling some of the ups and downs, the way you urged us to step out of our comfort zones and find our footing even after that allows me to walk into something like an art class (yes, me!) and still acclimatize myself and learn willingly. Everyone's conscious effort to make us more substantial people encouraged me to search for labs in which

I am not just a bystander, but rather a person who is willing to get involved thoroughly and wholesomely.

And despite my ever-fluctuating grades (some things don't change!!), I can consistently connect to people meaningfully and add value in ways not reflected until I'm face to face with them.

While I've begun to accept specific moments at Riverside as something I can only long to relive, there is a very malleable yet stable understanding of myself I left with which I continue to develop. This has offered me the confidence to work through difficult times and has promptly reminded me when I need to reassess where I'm going. All in all, I'm enjoying the journey, and despite being half the world away, Riverside is still alive and kicking inside of me!

Lots of love to everyone,

Jazz Sethi

Dance
Entrepreneur, Ahmedabad-India

2012-2013



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COMPOSE Did Riverside help me for college Inbox x [Print] [Share]

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The Riverside School Oct 17, 2016 at 3:30 PM ☆ [Reply]

Dear Ma'am,

Someone asked me a question the other day; 'Has Riverside helped you for college?', and I thought about it for a while, and realized the answer was 'no'!!! I made a conscious choice not to attend a conventional post school education; in short I decided not to attend college. I instead, decided to attend the college of life.

I knew that my life had to revolve around performance. I started dancing since I was 5 and started working since I was in the 9th grade, and then full time right after I graduated. I became a senior instructor in the best dance academy of the city. I became the creative head of the academy and ran a studio restaurant. I did all the graphics and creative's for all our shows. I became a columnist in the city newspaper. I choreographed and conceptualized international performances. I wrote and published a book. I started creating a performance curriculum for schools, and I travelled a lot.

That must mean Riverside hadn't helped me for college right? It hadn't – because it helped me for Life!

The key philosophy of Riverside always was that education should prepare students for the real world. My schooling experience instilled so much in me, from content to character and from fine skills to life skills – that after school I felt confident to face real life!

With client projects, it gave me confidence. With design thinking, it made me understand quality and excellence. With opportunities beyond the classroom, it taught me about lateral thinking and gaining width. With mastery and personal projects, it taught me the true essence of depth. With leadership roles in school, it taught me to be an entrepreneur. With Artist is Residence, it made me flourish as a choreographer and performer. With experiential experiences, it made me understand empathy. With AbUse, it showed me reality. With languages of learning, it taught me about expression and with persistence, it taught me about obsession and perseverance.

But overall, I think Riverside taught me, that it's okay to be different, it's okay to challenge conformity, it's okay to fail at times, and it's okay to push boundaries - it gave me the confidence not to go to college, and still follow my passion.

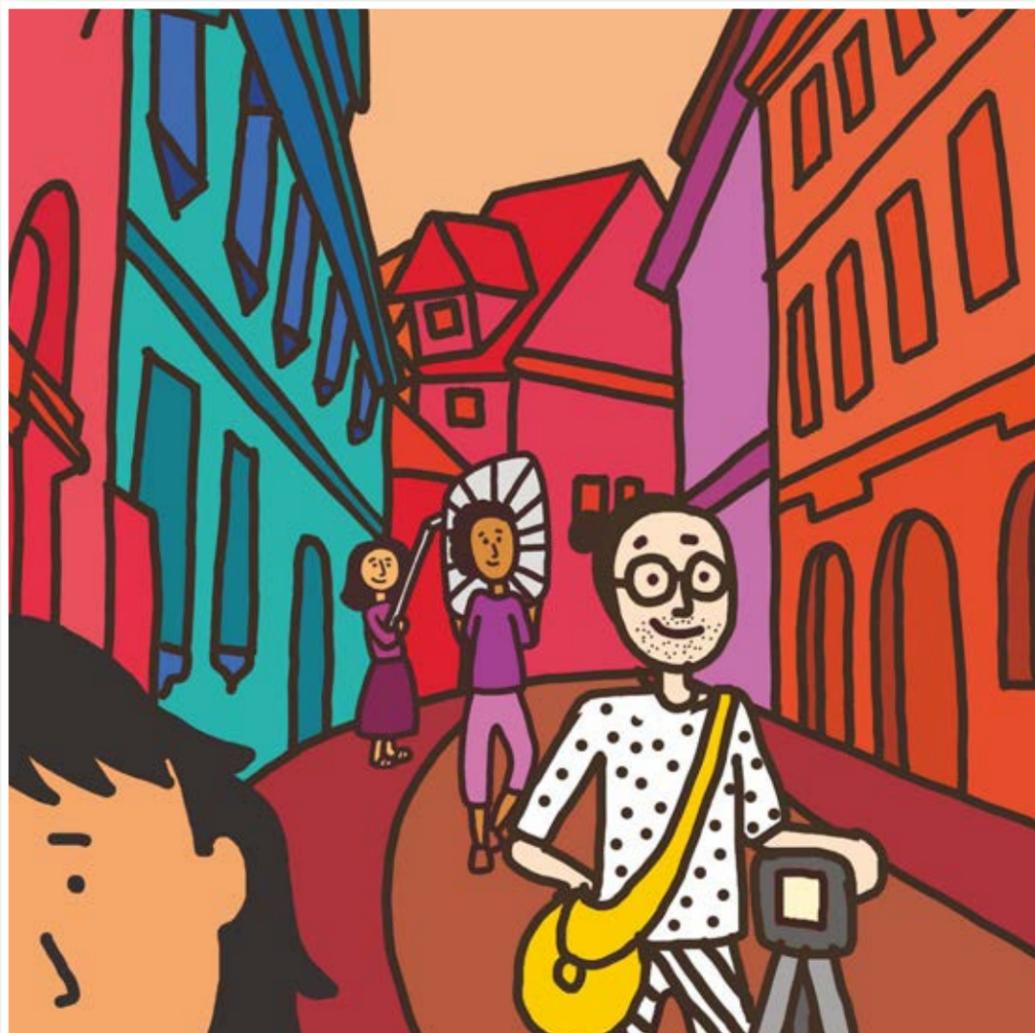
After my business proposals, creative choreographies and national shows – people ask me if I graduated with entrepreneurship as a major, and I just smile and nod – because I graduated from Riverside – with LIFE as a major.

Riverside gave me courage. Riverside gave me mental strength. Riverside gave me myself. It gave me the guts to say NO, it gave me the wisdom to think beyond the ordinary and it gave me the audacity to believe that I could someday, change the world.

So, did Riverside help me for college? It did not need to ☺, because it gave me so, so, so much more.....



38
PERCENT
alumni in colleges
are ranked amongst the
TOP 10



Kalp Patel

Film Making
Prague Film School- Prague

2014-2015



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The Riverside School Oct 21, 2016 at 4:49 PM ☆ [Reply]

Hello K ma'am and Nilu ma'am,

I hope you're doing well! It's been a while since i sent you guys an update about everything that has been going on, so here it goes.

The first thing i would like to share with you is just how hard it is to find an apartment to rent. I thought moving to a new country, getting used to the weather and figuring out a foreign language were hard tasks, but none of them come close to trying to find an apartment. The two weeks i spent looking for one made me feel like an experienced adult. I share this with you because a majority of people my age live in university dorm rooms or apartments and don't have to go through this tedious process of looking for a home. Although being very challenging, i felt that it was a rather important thing for one to learn, and i am glad i did so without the assistance of my parents or anybody else.

It's been two months since school started and the course is designed very differently compared to last year. This year we make one single film which will be our final diploma film. Instead of having regular classes with school faculty, we attend workshops with renowned directors from across the globe. Till date we have had directors from Chile, America and Iran coming in and sharing about their take on screenwriting and directing. Just last week we were given a task to re-shoot a scene from a film in four hours and present it to the rest of the class. I casted an actor from the first year acting program and at the end of the shoot, he called me to the side and told me how he really liked my directing style and how different and unique it was from the directing methods used by the first year students. Exactly a year ago, i had no experience in directing actors, and the sheer amount of things I've learnt is insane.

The last one year has been a journey which was very demanding and challenging in ways i had never experienced before, but the ease i felt while navigating through them is

simply the result of having dealt with so many situations that Riverside put before us. Never had i thought that i will be going around scouting for the best health insurance policies or looking for the most economic and time saving location for a house when i am nineteen, but here i am doing exactly that without dropping a sweat.

The other day I asked my friend, Rahul why he got into film making at the age of 27. He shared his story with me and I think it is very important to share it with you. Rahul is a mathematical genius from Punjab. After high school, his parents got him to take entrance exams at engineering schools and without even trying he got into Bits Pilani. He got his undergrad in engineering while being at the top of his class and eventually was offered an opportunity to do his masters in maths at the school as well. He went ahead and did that as well, fulfilling all his parents' wishes. After graduating, offers from Google San Francisco and Microsoft poured in and he could have picked either and got a big fat pay check every year. Instead he told his parents that film was something he wanted to do for a long time, but never had it in him to confess that to them. He now studies with me and is one of the smartest gentleman I know. He told me how happy it made him that I was clear about what I wanted to do and was courageous enough to try and go after it. He added that he learnt a lot at Pilani, but if he had had the courage to speak his mind when he was my age, his whole life would have been different.

At that moment, I realized just how lucky I was to be a part of Riverside and how the school gave me strength to do everything I wanted and more.

To sum it up, I am very happy with where I am at this point in my life and I don't regret any decision I've made to be here.

Lastly, this video is my "go to" whenever I need to gather the motivation to get things done, and I thought I'd share it with you...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FA4Ce1qOSXw>

Regards .. Kalp

46
PERCENT
alumni in colleges
hold a leadership
position



Kartikeya Gouthi

Economics
Michigan University, USA

2012-2013



← [Icons] More ▾ 14 of many < > Ελ ⚙

COMPOSE Riverside's 15th Birthday Inbox x [Print] [Share]

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The Riverside School Jan 18, 2016 at 9:24 AM ☆ [Reply]

Hi Kiran Ma'am,

Firstly, Congratulations K ma'am - Riverside is a decade and half old!!! I wish I could be there to celebrate this milestone.

I am writing this mail just to express what a great journey it has been. Since joining Riverside in Grade 7, I've had such an amazing experience that it is hard to put it in words.

I have learnt so much, made lifelong friendships, and changed and grown so much. When I look back now, I see a different version of myself pre-Grade 7. I remember not interacting much and being very introverted; however, to my surprise, my friends in college think of me as quite the opposite!

Every year has been so memorable - the trips, the WALKS, sessions all over the school, not being allowed to sit on your white sofas :P, playing football at any time and any place, the countless presentations, the performances... all these experiences have contributed to help me grow into the person I am today.

Kiran ma'am, through all these years you have always been there for us, and for me. Whether it was guiding us through a project or making us better when we were down or having fun with us and driving the school bus. You have been the person I've turned to for advice time and time again. You have helped me not just grow as a person, but discover myself.

Riverside has moulded me into the Kartikeya I am today.

I honestly wish I could go back to school, and not grow up! Here's to many more years of Riverside.

Regards,



Khushroo Chisty

MBBS
Medical Petre Shotadze Tbilisi Medical Academy, Georgia

2014-2015



← [Icons] More ▾ 14 of many < > ΕΛ ⚙

COMPOSE Good Afternoon Mother Inbox x [Print] [Share]

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The Riverside School Jan 29, 2017 at 5:41 PM ☆ [Back] [Dropdown]

I am currently doing my MBBS course from Petre Shotadze Tbilisi Medical Academy or TMA. It is a 6 year course which will give an MD degree here which is equivalent to MBBS in India. It consists of 3 Pre - Clinical Years and the next 3 Clinical Years. The college is private and reminds me of Riverside each day because here they focus on perfecting each child and hence have a small ratio of around 12-13 kids in each group. The college runs on ECTS like other European Universities. It is one of the best private medical institutions in Georgia.

I am very glad that I have reached here and it is all by the faith you had in me as a 'teacher' and a 'mother'. I get most excited to boast about you and your achievements to the people here.

I am determined to achieve my goals and set the name of my Alma Mater high. I hope to see you surprise me with your 'Magical Jhappi' sometime soon.

Your son,



Manal Bole

Liberal Arts
Symbiosis School of Liberal Arts, Pune, India

2013-2014



14 of many

COMPOSE

Hi

The Riverside School Oct 19, 2016 at 5:45 AM

Hello ji! I miss you guys so much. There is so much to say!

1) Fearlessness:

I am reminded of Riverside every single day that I walk into University and a teacher comes and hugs me. Riverside has taught me not to fear my teachers, and therefore not to fear expressing myself in front of them in class (which is a problem faced by many students even today).

I can comfortably walk up to my teachers, share my problems / doubts, get a more mature perspective / advice when it's necessary, and find a friend in them and receive the same from their end. This makes University life a lot easier and less stressful.

2) Supporting our passion:

Regardless of how insane our passion would be, K ma'am and Riverside never left our side. You believed in us at times when we didn't believe in ourselves. To be equipped with that confidence in yourself and what you aim to achieve before entering college is of great help. We know we can do great things, because you made us believe we can. And ironically, at the same time you managed to teach us how no work is small. That we can do anything we set our mind to. Basically, our adaptability and comfort zone has no limits.

3) Persistence:

I cannot thank Riverside more for ingraining this in me. To be part of initiatives like Heal, or Persistence Day or Design for Change are a daily reminder of us being capable of being the most superior form of humans. Personally, college had made me a little more self-involved as there was so much to do, so much to figure out for myself. However, there are several reminders in my head of how I will always have something to figure out and something to do for myself and how only an hour a day brought a smile to those faces I spent time with, including mine. This thought helps me go back to community as often as possible. When I am too busy, little acts of kindness with friends and colleagues are still given time to.

4) Life Skills:

The number of times I have thanked you in my head for every time I go to the bank and know exactly what to do is countless! Whether it was sewing a button back to my shirt, changing a tyre, planning travel itineraries, I was prepared for it all beforehand. Thanks to you, I can adult fairly well.

5) Maintaining Relations:

Between all the workload, exams and events we had in school, you never failed to tell us how important friendship is. And as time swiftly passes by in University, I realize how this matters so much. Maintaining and keeping healthy relations at all times, or solving tiffs is not something I expected to learn in school, but I did. And I cannot thank you enough for all those prom nights, Valentine's Day celebrations, sleepovers in school (every time I tell my college friends about staying over in school, I can see the envy), movie nights and dinners you suggested or allowed. Because after all, we made memories and friends who will last forever.

6) Insane Experience & Reflections:

I remember each and every detail of this experience and it will stay with me forever. Mostly because of how this has given me the ability and necessity to reflect. So much so that it has become a daily habit now. Why is it helpful? Mainly because I realize within seconds of doing something wrong that it is wrong and I can get myself back on the right track in almost no time. With us growing up, this skill is more than just helpful, it is a necessity.

7) Practical/Experiential Education:

From the client projects in Art & Design, to the fund-raising campaigns for Goonga Pehlwan, to the business or literature challenges, experience has been our best

teacher. We were made to keep track of our CV's and do internships from the beginning of 10th grade while some friends of mine still struggle with how to build a CV. Not to tease, but pointing out the difference so one realizes that in today's world, experience counts more than the amount of pages you read about it.

Thank you :) words can never do justice to how grateful I am for being part of Riverside but I hope I covered some of it well. K ma'am you keep making us proud every single day! Wish you very good luck for the speech. I have no qualms in stating that you will own them all!

Apart from that, I have been wonderful. Currently on the scholarship exchange program in Barcelona. I am living my dream. Going to see Messi for the first time tomorrow, my first ever live match in a stadium. I might just faint. I have wanted this since 7th grade and to be able to do it myself and because of me and not just a holiday papa paid for, is a completely different feeling.

Other than that, I am playing football here in college, trying to get in contact with people to give me coaching, experience and opportunities to travel. I also have my own travel blog. Whenever you have the time, please have a look. The site is : manalbole.wixsite.com/bole-travels , if you click on blog you will be able to see my first post on Rome.

Love you,



Neeraj Asnani

2016-2017



The screenshot shows an email client interface. At the top, there are navigation icons and a status bar indicating "14 of many" emails. The email is titled "Helloooooo" and is from "The Riverside School", dated "Feb 5, 2018 at 5:16 PM". The email content is as follows:

Hi Kiran Ma'am!!

kem cho?

First of all, I am so sorry for sending this e-mail so late. Ever since I've been here, I've been overwhelmed with so much work, be it the regular coursework or the extra curricular activities I've been doing here. Uni here is quite exhausting to be honest, but all these are activities that make me curious, so I am definitely enjoying my time here.

Before I say anything else, I would genuinely like to thank you for everything you've done for me and making me the person I am today. The culture here in London is so much different than the one I've grown up in Ahmedabad in various ways. Be it the excessive drinking and smoking due to it being legal, the easy availability of drugs, and the party culture in general. I was quite shocked at the start, and it was so easy to succumb to peer pressure and go down that road too. The funny thing about peer pressure here is that it isn't someone forcing you to do things, it is the fear of being the odd one out as the only person who doesn't do it.

I guess Riverside's values helped me to say no, and I spent the first month people with whom I'd built complete trust. I have drank on a couple of occasions though, but only with people I know, and always always below the point where I lose my senses.

From what I've described until now, UCL probably seems like a drug town to you but it is actually an amazing place. I've met so many amazing people, and their talents challenge me to give it my best. The course in general is quite difficult, with it being very math

intensive and the fact that I didn't do Further Math at AS and A Levels. However, I am trying my best to do well here. We had 2 small exams last term, and I got 80+ marks in both of them. I guess at the end of the day it depends on how much effort you're willing to put in, since here the professors don't really care about a single person with around 400 people in one class. I actually respect that we weren't spoon fed at Riverside, or else I might not have had the guts to go to the teachers with my doubts.

I have made some great friends over here, and at this point they've become my family. I've spent a lot of time with them, talking and exploring London (although we legit haven't gotten time to see the most of it). However, I really do miss home and my family and Riverside and I talk to my mom and grandma twice a day every day. I think I'll be back in June, but it could be later if I get selected for a research project that I've proposed, where I'll research about the reasons why the bitcoin community is so male dominant.

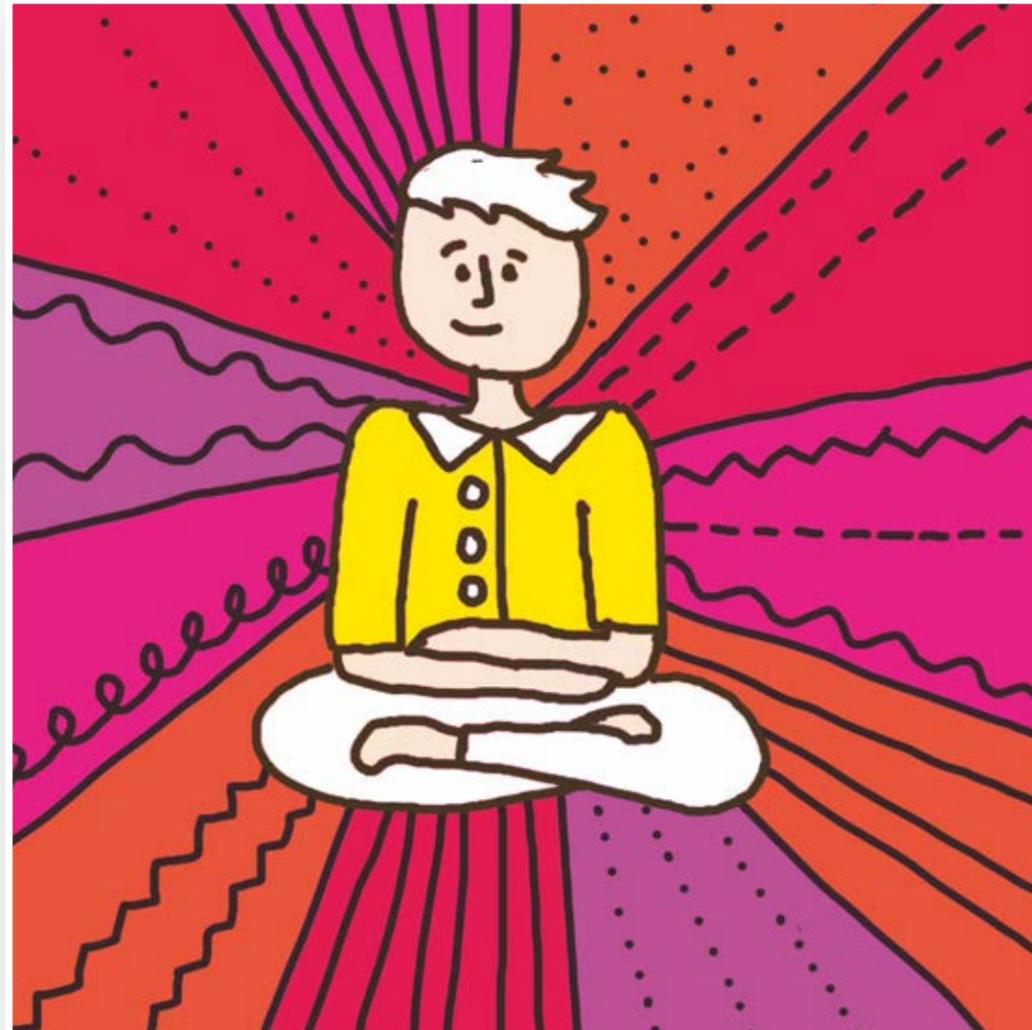
I am currently volunteering with an organization that helps give career advice to Year 12 students from Manchester, so I guess the hours and hours we spent trying to figure out what I want to do helped so much that I became a mentor!! :p Also, I have been selected as a representative for AIESEC, which is an organization that helps send volunteers abroad during the summer. During the application process, I talked a lot about my experience with HEAL, and I guess they could see the passion for volunteering Riverside has helped me build over the years.

I guess that's pretty much what I'm doing at the moment.

How're you doing and how's school? If you have any plans to visit London soon, let's catch up! Also, if you have DFC here or need someone to initiate it, do let me know as I'd love to help spread this initiative that we've built in Riverside over the years.

Thank you and loads of love





Ninaad Adhvaryu

B.sc. In Physics
Shiv Nadar University, Noida, UP- India

2014-2015



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14 of many

Hello from riverside

The Riverside School

Oct 24, 2016 at 5:28 PM

Hello,

Sorry for the late reply, I thought the date was 24th. I really hope you may be able to use what I say.

Entering college, I was unsure of how I would fit into the classroom climate. As most of my peers came from a more traditional education system where focus has been on competition for grades. I had not experienced the pressure of grades. I haven't given the same entrance exams and was acquainted with smaller classrooms with directed teaching.

It was clear that I had covered less information than others in the classroom, my peers were more adept at dealing with long calculations and effectively solving numerical problems. I was unable to keep up with many classes, something I had never faced before. Moreover, the pace at which we were moving in class was new to not just me but many others. However, it was here I began to utilize what I had learned from my time at Riverside.

My experiences at Riverside had taught me to be a lot more versatile in the way I approach problems, and also in my willingness to attempt unknowns.

When the class began to move towards difficult concepts not covered before, I continued an attempt to understand while many around me abandoned learning in the classroom and geared themselves to do well in papers. In Riverside I had been challenged so many times, in so many ways outside of class, that I now realized that I could enjoy the challenges within class.

In addition, my college follows a liberal elective program where students are required to pursue courses outside their major. While many of my peers see this as a burden and choose to limit their electives in areas they are uncomfortable, I could and did use this opportunity to take electives from a range of departments and expose myself to ideas different to my own - a trait that Riverside undoubtedly drove into me.

Riverside never really told me to do things better, quite strange for an educational institute. Instead it told me to be better than I was before an experience. This trait is what creates versatility, if I am able to retain this trait for my future I am certain it would be far more useful than any information that Riverside would have imparted on me instead.

Thank you,



Prem Nikam

International Business
MIT- SOM, Pune- Maharashtra-India

2014-2015



← [Icons] More ▾ 14 of many < > Ελ ⚙

COMPOSE My YouTube channel update Inbox x [Print] [Share]

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▸ Categories

The Riverside School Sat, Sep 3, 2016 at 2:36 PM ☆ [Reply]

Hi Kiran Ma'am,

What's up ma'am? How are you? It's already been a start of a new life. Two months of college life has already passed by and I miss Riverside so much.

Before 4 months, I started a YouTube Channel called 'Premster14' where I blog and review supercars and superbikes I spot around.

I have already reached 300 Subscribers and more importantly my "Ride in the DC Avanti" video has reached 27000 views in merely 3 months and it's increasing by 1000 views every 2-3 days!!!

Also my video is listed right below the Auto car video. I am so happy!!! So thought of sharing this via mail with you. I am mentioning my YouTube Link below. Please tell everyone at school to subscribe to my channel which will help this channel grow.

Even if you type "Premster14" in the YouTube search bar, you'll find my channel.

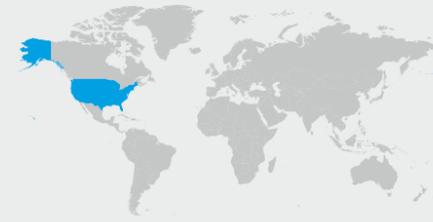
Thank you so much ma'am for your support to start this channel. Let me know if you require any help from me.

Best Regards,

Priya Parikh

Integrated Film Studies
Chapman University,US

2014-2015



← [Icons] More ▾ 14 of many < > Ελ ▾ ⚙

COMPOSE On Coming Back and Missing You & Riverside Inbox x [Print] [Share]

The Riverside School Apr 2, 2017 at 12:48 AM ☆ [Reply]

Hello Kiran Ma'am,

I hope you are doing very well! It's been way too long and I really miss you and Riverside. I can't wait to come back home over the summer, I have so much to tell you!

I wanted to give you some awesome news - I got accepted into Chapman's Integrated Film Studies Master's program, which means that by the time I would graduate with my B.A., I'll have an MA as well, with my Art Minor and Honors! I've been challenging myself a lot, and I'm really happy with the progress!

Of course, memories of my time at Riverside have always been a constant motivation and reminder to be the best version of myself as I can be and effectively, be the change, too. :)

Since I'll be in India over the summer (June to mid-August) I wanted to jump back in to the 'Riversidian' groove of things. I'd love to talk about how I can get involved with what's happening on campus or any upcoming projects. I have a few ideas and would love to share them with you, too!

Let me know what you think and if you might be available sometime in the coming weeks to video chat/Skype!

Lots of Love

66
PERCENT
alumni participated
in some kind of
volunteer work

Rajiv Chawla

Strategic Management Designing
ISDI, Parsons, Mumbai- Maharashtra-India

2015-2016



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COMPOSE College Life Update Inbox x [Print] [Share]

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The Riverside School Sep 25, 2016 at 2:57 PM ☆ [Reply]

Hi ma'am,

It is again that time when I feel like writing about my new college life.

In my term of college, I have been keeping up with work and have been trying my best to be focused and dedicated. Tomorrow, my midterm jury begins. In the midterm jury, all students are supposed to make a PPT presenting all the work we have done in a particular class. Tomorrow, we have a jury for a class known as "drawing skills".

However, today I do not want to focus on what is happening in college and how tough it is to stay away from home. But today I want to talk about something that bothers me a lot.

On a daily basis, I meet a lot of new people. I get to hear a lot of new stories and experiences. But what is mostly common about all these stories and people are that in today's day and age the meaning of the word "cool" has changed drastically.

Every day I get at least two snack breaks in college and the first thing everyone does is light up a cigarette. But just because I do not do so that means I am uncool and boring.

Every weekend I hear stories of people getting insanely drunk and cheating on their girlfriend/boyfriend. But just because I do not do something like that, that means I am not a fun person to be around.

I am a person who likes to keep up with the future. I am a person who finishes college work in advance. I am a person who is loyal to the people I love and I do everything to make sure that they are taken care of. But me being such a person is not "crazy" and "cool" enough in this world. And that is why I am writing this mail in sorrow and dismay.

I feel sad for the world because only being reckless and stupid can define someone as "cool".

However, any of this definitely does not change the person I am. I am very happy and content being a "mumma's boy". I am very dedicated and motivated to work hard for the rest of my life and pay back to my father for everything he has done. And I am so focused and strong headed about my morals, that my school can proudly say that "Rajiv is our child and that he belongs to Riverside."

Thank you for everything that you have done for me. And today whoever I am is only because of Riverside.

Lots of love and hugs to you.



10
STUDENTS
got employed in positions
such as analyst, editor,
graphic designer



Rohil Khakhar

Computer Programming
Seneca College of Applied Arts and Technology , Ontario, Canada

2016-2017



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COMPOSE A moment of pride Inbox x [Print] [Share]

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The Riverside School Nov 2, 2017 at 6:50 PM ☆ [Back] [Forward]

Greetings from the Ice country. This mail is not only a chance to regularly stay in touch with you but to express my absolute pride towards something that I encountered earlier this week.

I got a chance to take a look at the song which you all superheroes came up with. It was an absolute joy to see everyone having fun and dancing to the beats. That itself was an embodiment of the camaraderie that Riverside is known for. For a moment, I actually pictured myself standing with you guys in the recording studio, dancing and spending quality time with my Riverside family (for the record i am a terribly funny dancer). That time will soon come. And always a delight to see the energetic Niall Sir setting the tone with his moves :). He is the one teacher that never stopped believing in me, trusted my skills as a goalkeeper and now as the 2nd term takes center stage, everyone must be enthusiastic about spending the rest of the year with him. I really miss it.

Upon finding out that nearly everyone in India makes it a point to visit school, I feel bad that I do not have that freedom at the moment. Every time I see the happenings at Riverside, I feel like I am right there.

Listening to K'ma'am's morning conglom quotes, to kick-starting persistence discussions with Deepa ma'am and Priti ma'am. From the melodious tunes played by Josh sir's guitar, to Nilesh sir's exciting Friday challenges. From Amit sir's dance moves, to Suja ma'am's congloms on morning sports. From Fozia ma'am's biryani, to Anukul sir's morning sessions. From Monisha ma'am's and Sarrah ma'ams cheerful presence to Ankita

ma'am's motivational college meets. And many more unforgettable conversations which follow. From the key stage 1 buddy interactions with Sabina ma'am to cheerful discussions with Jaya ma'am in the teachers room with a biscuit or two. From Nilu ma'am and Parul ma'ams constant morning hugs to meetings with Jasu bhai in the office regarding cheque deposits. All of this is being thoroughly missed. But I don't want to make this mail any more emotional than it already is! No tears. Not a chance!

Well, on a personal note, this month has been the most challenging one. With the ongoing strike (which looks to be concluding hopefully in the coming week) and the Halloween mood that my college is celebrating, my resilience has been tested to the most ultimate. By this, I am referring to partying and alcohol.

I promised my parents to not get engaged in even a single night party (something that is very common in my age but not for my family values) nor drink a sip of alcohol. I haven't drank in my entire life and never will and when everyone here asks me why, I am proud to say that this is a joint decision I made with my family and I am going to respect it, even if the temptation rises. I am not going to succumb to any sort of pressure. Speaking about night partying, well 90 % of my mates in the college attend it literally every time weekend approaches. In other words, I am part of the other 10% who is able to say no, even though I am the one who ends up staying in the hostel. That is when i look back and realize that I am going on the right track.

In a room of 11 people, one won't drink nor party. And I am that one person who respects choices, even though watching others tempts you. It does feel isolating, but for the right reasons. I feel proud.

I am not taking any pressure of my work since it will damage my health. I am getting a desire to keep learning new things and yes lethargy is inevitably creeping in especially after the 3rd week of the strike. I am enjoying this life (not the 2 degree nights). I am motivating myself to keep studying unlike some of my friends who have lost track of work. I am setting targets and doing my best to achieve them. When my code finally works on the computer, it is a new sense of joy that is unmatched. For some reason, I like studying better at night, quietly by myself away from the hustle and bustle. If at all i miss out studying one day, I make it a point to recap before proceeding. And I also make

it a point to keep seeing pictures of Riverside, reigniting the fresh memories.

That's all for now. Wishing you all the best for the 2nd term. Will video call you guys when everyone is at school.

Take care. Returning lots of love, hugs and imported sweets.

Sending a live picture (the one I took while writing this mail). I hate this hair cut.



Ruhaan Zamindar

2016-2017



← [Attachments] [Info] [Delete] [More] 14 of many < > Ελ [Settings]

COMPOSE Greetings from New Zealand [Inbox x] [Print] [Image]

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The Riverside School Jan 1, 2018 at 9:03 PM ☆ [Reply] [Dropdown]

Hello everyone,

Wish you all a very happy new year, hope you're all doing really well. It has been three months since I have lived here and before I go on I would like to tell all of you that I miss school, I miss all the teachers that made sure I had memories to take along when I graduated. Even now when I am writing this mail, the feeling of being distant does not come in, my memories serve me well.

I have successfully been able to clear 5 of the 12 required theory exams in my first attempt. The exams are in the form of multiple choice questions with the minimum passing percentage set at 70%. I have through my time here seen people who have been here much longer than myself fall behind in their course only because of their subjects, irrespective of how well they are at flying. The focus on academics is stressed upon just as much if not more than how you fly the plane. The aim of these examinations being that each and every student has sound technical knowledge.

The first thing that I was taught when I learnt to fly was to respect the aircraft, to take care of it and to make sure to report it whenever you find any anomalies. The day consists of reaching half an hour earlier than the time school starts, pulling the planes out, visually and physically inspecting the one that you would be flying and preparing it for your flight. Cleaning the windscreen, checking the propeller blades, tyre pressure, oil quality and controls are some of the checks that need to be done before every flight.

The one moment that I remember the most is when I got my first solo. The way it goes is the chief flight instructor comes with you and assesses your flying until they feel satisfied. I was nervous then when my instructor sat beside me, the sun glaring through the glass roof and the radio constantly busy with other people talking over the communication frequency. Throughout the flight I was anxious with my hands sweating, eyes fixated at the landscape and my mind going crazy trying to pre-empt my instructor's thoughts. When we landed, he looked at me and asked me, will you be okay out there alone? "Yes" I replied back, overjoyed and relieved to have passed this testing time. Nervousness made its way too but the feeling of being in control and flying over beautiful New Zealand landscapes was mesmerizing. I still get the same thrill every time I put the throttle into motion.

In the past three months, I have learnt to cook more dishes than I have in my whole life, cleaned my room every week and developed a schedule for myself.

At the end of the day, even when I'm tired, the feeling of being independent brings me comfort. I have something to look forward each day. Even though I fly over the same places, each day is a different adventure.

I hope you all have a wonderful year ahead. I hope school is going well and December was as jam packed as always with prom, sports day etc. Hope you are enjoying your much needed break!

P.S. I have attached a few photos and videos of my time here.

Thank you



Sakshi Bhansali

Media & Communication
ISDI, WPP School of Communication, Mumbai- Maharashtra-India

2014-2015



COMPOSE

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Categories

14 of many

Hi K Ma'am

The Riverside School Sep 10, 2015 at 8:52 PM

Hi Kiran Ma'am

How are you doing? I hope you are taking care of yourself as well.

Ma'am, there is so much going on in college here - it's crazy! ISDI reflects so many elements of Riverside like student teacher interaction, learning from experts, going out and actually interacting with industry experts and just seeking for multiple diverse opportunities.

It's been 1 month into college and I have learnt so much, it's amazing! We started off with an ice breaker week where we did theatre exercises, creative workshops around the book, *The Little Prince*. They were so similar to Hjlamar Sir's theatre workshops, that I found myself open up and feel more comfortable instantly.

As per our classes, we have some very interesting teachers that make the sessions so interactive and personal with stories. WPP experts accompany our anchor faculty and we learn from their mistakes and experiences. We have had classes like advertising and storytelling, how to build successful brands, and they are so practical in nature. We also attended a BrandZ Next Camp where they were celebrating the top 59 brands of India, and we met so many professionals, and also interacted with CEO's and CMO's of companies like Asian Paints, Ola and Micromax. The amount of exposure we are getting is great!

One specific workshop that I have connected to is what I would definitely like to share with you. We have spent a lot of time understanding how we can build our own Personal

Brand. We had a couple of examples, case studies and introspection to understand how and why personal banking is so relevant. We then went on to create and present advertisements we made to market ourselves.

It was such a different experience because the audience is still largely unfamiliar, but I got immense confidence because of Riverside and how I have been nurtured there.

Some of the other students are very superficial in their understanding and thought level, but there is large portion of the class that is enthusiastic, interactive and creative. It's such an unique experience. I really think personal branding workshops should be undertaken in school as well.

There are so many more stories to share and I cannot wait to come back soon. Sending all the teachers and students a warm hug from me, and I cannot Thank you all enough for everything that the space has done for me. I have also started taking a research assistantship with this start-up called LPID (Lower Parel Innovation District) - it is trying to get all the creative Industries in this district to collaborate on events, and I am enjoying this as I am getting to network a lot.

All of this is great, but I miss the comfort that Riverside provided :(

Miss Riverside and I hope Riverside continues to do great. I will visit soon.

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on college preparedness



Shubham Kedia

Chemical Engineering
University of Manchester, UK

2015-2016



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My months away from Riverside

The Riverside School

Dec 2, 2016 at 11:03 PM

Hi Kiran mam,

I have settled really well into university now and totally enjoying every minute here. I have made loads of amazing friends, interacted with people from various regions and been part of great projects.

We got a project of designing a milk powder plant in the first week which went really great and got me really pumped up for the course.

The labs over here are also really interesting. We have a 3 hour lab session every two weeks and i am loving the experiments we perform.

I have also interacted with the professors here and would really thank you for building the confidence in me to do so.

I think i have been balancing very well between studies and extra-curricular activities and i am the part of the football and cricket team of the Indian Society of University of Manchester.

I am really really missing India, my parents, and Riverside. I will be back on the 19th December and am very excited to meet everyone. I really want to thank you so much for transforming me into a different Shubham through my 5 years in Riverside.

Thank you,

Stuti Agarwal

2017-2018



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Insane has stayed

The Riverside School

Feb 9, 2018 at 12:03 AM

Hello,

I think the school and you constantly live with the fear of whether a process such as Insane, that focuses so heavily on the character and how we reflect upon ourselves and where we stand, will stay with us or not. Or is it only that momentary realization where we listen to you and after two days go back to who we were.

Starting from the fact that we were disrespectful and took the love we received for granted, I think Insane has kept the motto of 'people before anything else' deeply embedded in us. Even now, after nearly more than a week, I still think about the visit to the graveyard and the time when we introspected about who all we are grateful for since childhood. I never really got past the first few years in that 20 minute reflection. I think that was the time that defined how I perceive my relation with my family now and feel grateful for what they have been to me. Even the blind school visit- the fact that we judge so naturally and unknowingly; but now I think twice before saying anything. I don't want to be blind with my vision, and that's almost like a mantra that I will follow.

After the experience, we came to the same food we eat everyday back at home, the same bed and the same people. But what changed was the way I look at it all now. Even today, when I look at my bed, I remember the day we were totally fatigued, going hungry to save money and working from morning to evening in the blistering sun. It reminds me of all the privileges I have that I never even thought of, let alone being grateful for them.

I think this experience has enabled me to think, more than anything. Think with a broader, more open mind ignoring all the pettiness and mediocrity that we are surrounded by every single minute. The clutter is only corrupting our minds, and we complain about development. If there's no development internally, there won't be development externally.

Plus, on a personal note, I think this was a perfect kick start to my own journey of acceptance and optimism where I start to shed my inhibitions and let go of the past to start afresh and show to myself, more than anybody, what I'm worth.

Thank you for this, and I am confident enough to say that this experience has not dissipated and I won't let it. So I think you can stop fearing that now :)

Regards





Varunika Lalchandani

Business Management
Narsee Mongee Institute of Management Studies(NMIMS), Mumbai- India

2014-2015



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First semester college experience

The Riverside School

Oct 17, 2015 at 10:03 PM

Hi Kiran Ma'am,

A semester has passed by in college and there is not even a single day I come back without thinking how much I miss school. I am writing this mail to you to share my college experience with you :)

College is great but there is a different approach to how we have been taught throughout our lives, and how we are being taught now. The learning here is completely textbook based and it's a very traditional way of teaching; there is no practical learning here whereas all business really needs the most is practical knowledge.

Coming to the students they have absolutely no respect for teachers and peers, using their phones during classes, back answering the teachers, not being attentive in class, not attending college regularly is all that students do here. And on the other hand if I regularly attend college and am very attentive and participative in college, I am given the 'scholar' and the 'teacher's pet' name tag. There are 180 people in my batch and till date I don't know all of them. It's very strange how you need to 'fit in' to get into any group you wish to, for being cool you need to drink and smoke is what students here believe. The first few weeks had been extremely difficult for me since I did not drink or smoke and majority of my class did but eventually I knew that Riverside had taught me to take wise choices and do what you think is right! I went ahead with this choice and therefore there were times I was asked to leave the group since I didn't fit in well. But at the end I am happy with the decision I made.

It's been a difficult journey but these few months have shown me how to be strong and deal with things differently. You would be happy to know I am known as one of the 'bright child' of the class :)

and, that my exams went very well :)

I owe a lot to you and to Riverside. Riverside is truly a magical place and I miss Riverside a lot, I miss you the most!! Thank you for making me this confident young girl Kiran Ma'am :)

Loads of love :)



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on college preparedness

Yamini Mehra

2016-2017



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1 month spent at Kings! Inbox x [Print] [Share]

The Riverside School Fri, Oct 20, 2017 at 8:58 PM ☆ [Reply]

Dear teachers,

It's officially been a month now here at Kings and I'm writing to share my experience with you all. K ma'am, I understand you demanded an email after a week but then I didn't have much to share.

These first four weeks have really been a whirlwind for me. It's been an academic as well as emotional whirlwind. The college is lovely. The campus is open and green and rather different from the architecture of central London where it is based. The caliber of professors is quite high and the staff in general is quite nice. Of course, no take on any of you. I have met such a wide variety of people here, from every corner of the world.

My friends circle consists of people from Bulgaria, Romania, Spain, Thailand, Germany, Denmark and of course India! I've found my tribe.

The academic load here is immense. Checkpoints and evidences now seem like heaven in front of all this reading I have to do. But somehow, I am really enjoying it. Enjoying getting rid of subjects I don't want to study! I have five subjects for which I have 50 pages of reading for each subject each week. Amit sir, I have stats here! And you'll be pleased to know that I scored a 7/8 on my first assignment.... much to my surprise as well. K ma'am & Deepa ma'am, much to my dismay, no English!! However, I might be joining the creative writing society to keep the writing going just like K ma'am would want me to.

Living alone has been difficult. Doing my own cooking, laundry, money managing, transport etc. has taken time for me to adjust to. But now, I can make you a (limited) selection of Indian vegetables. The guarantee of taste isn't mine though. I'm getting used to the city. I've never liked London as a place to live. The weather is as unpredictable as Riverside's stay back schedule. Which means - A

LOT. A patch of rain followed by a patch of sun. Safe to say I check the weather before the news.

Adjusting to this place has been difficult. In some ways, the romanticized view of going to college that I held before coming, didn't quite hold up. It took me a long time to make friends despite being as outgoing as I am. It felt weird when the professors didn't know my name. It still feels weird when I don't get morning hugs or loud energetic greetings. I feel so far away from home and by home I mean Riverside. I miss school every single day. I miss the times, the people, the memories and hope that I didn't take any of it for granted. Tiraz keeps asking me school or college because he has settled in really well and my answer never waivers and I don't think it ever will. I guess you could say that college will have its own people and memories but somehow it will never have a take on school. But I'm still looking forward to everything because it's all been overwhelming but still exciting at the same time. Really love exploring the city and all that it has to offer.

I hope each one of you is doing well. Deepa Ma'am and K ma'am, I trust English is going well with the batches, especially our dear grade 10. Amit sir, I'm sure the whole syllabus is over by now. Fozia Ma'am, how many more trips to Bombay? How many more exciting things to share?

I look forward to meeting you all in December and tell you tales of my exciting times in college.

Wish all of you a very Happy Diwali & New Year!

Much love





www.schoolriverside.com