



Educating persons for and with others



VOICE OF XAVIER'S

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Alumni Special edition



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Ms. Khushbu Darji

Fr. S. Arul Rayan, S.J.**Dear Alumni,**

Recently I met a medical doctor, a retired radiologist. He brought with him the mark sheets of class 8 and 10 issued to him in the year 1973 and 1975 respectively. He spoke to me about how fondly he remembered the sister who took personal care to teach him geometry in class 7. I could feel that he valued the institution and came to visit on the death anniversary of his mother. I am happy to have met him and I am confident that the values that school has stood for ever since its inception has been impacting the lives of its pupils tremendously and the journey continues.

Each of you play a crucial role in shaping and sustaining the life of a school, serving as living testaments to the institution's values, mission, and achievements. Your influence extends far beyond the years you spend on campus; you become lifelong ambassadors who carry the school's legacy into the wider world. Each of you embodies the spirit of the school, showcasing the impact of the education and experiences you received, and often return to contribute in meaningful ways.

We deeply value each of you for both your tangible and intangible contributions. You serve as mentors, offering guidance, career advice, and support to current students, helping bridge the gap between academic life and professional success.

You also provide networking opportunities, opening doors for internships, job placements, and collaborative projects that enrich the student experience. It is in this spirit that we include the Alumni corner in all the editions of VOX and we are publishing the fifth volume of the alumni special edition.

We celebrate your achievements as it inspires current students to aspire to excellence. While reunions, alumni gatherings are in the pipeline, social media platforms keep the connection alive, creating a dynamic network that benefits both the school and its graduates. Ultimately, the relationship between the school and each of you is a reciprocal one—while you support and enrich the school, the institution continues to nurture and honor its graduates, fostering a lifelong bond rooted in shared experiences and mutual growth.

I sincerely thank each of you for your consistent contribution to the school and especially taking time out to share your life's journey. I assure you my sincere prayers.

May God bless us all !

Dr. Angel Bennet

(DIG(Medical)/ Med Superintendent

BSF Composite Hospital, Shillong, Meghalaya.)

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world”. -Nelson Mandela

I had the privilege to study in the then Mt Carmel & St Xavier's school in Sect-20 from the 5th std to 10th std (passed out in 1982). These formative years of my life was shaped by the teachers of this elite school who were passionate, dedicated and educationist to the core. Their personal involvement in honing our skills has instilled a value in me which is unfathomable. I cherish the sweet memories of my school and re-live them when we have our school get-togethers!

Inspite of the fact that my father was an ailing heart patient, my teachers left no stone unturned to help me out in my times of need and ensured that I catch up with my lessons. Their faith in me lead me to be a star performer throughout my school days, despite of all adversaries I faced in the home front.

I did my 11th & 12th from AG Higher Secondary School, Ahmedabad and further completed my MBBS and MD (Pediatrics) from M P Shah Medical College, Jamnagar. Thereafter I joined Guj Health services and served as a Pediatrician in GH Surendranagar, CHC Mansa and GH Gandhinagar.

After getting married to a dashing BSF Officer and seeing the challenging working environment of the defense personnel, I joined the BSF in 1994. It was a far cry from the civil workplace, but nevertheless adventurous and demanding as well.



In BSF, I had the opportunity to serve the nation in various places like Srinagar, Gwalior, Delhi, Siliguri, Shillong etc. From going to the farthestmost Border outposts for evacuating casualties, rendering my services during Amarnath Yatra, to managing children in the hospitals- the BSF gave me a lifetime opportunity to broaden my horizon and experience India in all its true colours first-hand.

BATCH 1982



In my office chamber

During my stint with BSF, I also did a WHO Fellowship in Neonatology from AIIMS, New Delhi and an Observership in Ultrasonography from Safdarjung Hospital.

Apart from my professional work, I take time out to indulge in my hobbies. I am a passionate birdwatcher and do wildlife photography as well. My passion led me to publish a book “Birds of Tekanpur” which is a pictorial documentation of 189 bird species recorded over a period of three years within the training academy campus area of BSF located 32 kms south of Gwalior, MP. My other interests include gardening, baking, philately, travelling and trekking.



My book release by DG BSF

With my hospital team of doctors

I am currently in the rank of Deputy Inspector General and posted as Medical Superintendent of a 50 bedded Composite Hospital in Shillong, Meghalaya.

My words of wisdom to the youngsters is – Believe in yourself and set out with passion in anything you do and you will surely achieve success!

Will ever remain indebted to my school and my teachers for all my achievements in life!

Hiren Shastri

BATCH 1982

(વિકાસ અધિકારી એલઆઇસી ઓફ ઇન્ડિયા, ગાંધીનગર)

જોય ઓફ ગીવીંગ
સેંટ ઝેવિયર્સ અને જીવનકલા
તમે શું ધારો છો ?

પરમેશ્વર તો પહેલું પૂછશે,
કોઈનું સુખદુઃખ પૂછ્યું'તું?
દર્દભરી દુનિયામાં જઈને
કોઈનું આંસુ લૂછ્યું'તું?

ગેં ગેં ફેં ફેં કરતાં કહેશો
હૈં હૈં હૈં હૈં! શું શું શું?

કબૂતરોનું ધૂ ધૂ ધૂ
કોયલ કૂજે કૂ કૂ કૂ!



અવશ્ય બની રહ્યો હશે !

પછી તેનું સ્વરૂપ ગમે તે હોય

આપણો ખુદનો સ્વાર્થ છોડી બીજાને મદદરૂપ થવું !

કોઈને કામ આવવું !

વડીલોને આદર આપવો !

મિત્રો અને સગાસંબંધીઓ સાથે પ્રેમ , સ્નેહ, આદર , સહકાર અને

સહાનુભૂતિપૂર્વક રહેવું !

મોટીવેશનલ ઓથર ડેન કલર્કની એક સુંદર વાર્તા 'ધ સરકસ'...

એક ટીનએજર બાળપણમાં પિતા સાથેની સરકસ જોવા જાય છે

ત્યારે ટીકીટબારી પર પરિવાર સાથે સરકસનો આનંદ માણવા

આવેલ, તેમના કરતા લાઇનમાં આગળ ઉભેલા પરિવારને ટીકીટ

ખરીદતી વખતે જ્યારે ૨૦ ડોલર ઓછા પડે છે, ત્યારે તેમના પિતા

પોતાની ૨૦ ડોલરની નોટ ચૂપકીથી કોઇ ને ખબર ન પડે તેમ જમીન

પર ધીરેથી સેરવી દે છે અને એ પરિવાર સાથે સરકસ જોવા આવેલા

પરિવારના વડાને કહે છે કે જુઓ તમારી ૨૦ ડોલરની નોટ જમીન

પર પડી ગઇ છે, તેવું કહીને આડકતરી રીતે ટીકીટ ખરીદવામાં એવી

રીતે મદદ કરે છે કે જેથી મદદ લેનારની પણ ગરીબા જળવાઇ રહે !

તે ઘટનાનું સુંદર વર્ણન સાથે એક અદભૂત મેસેજ કે જીવનની

સાચી મજા બીજાને મૂશ્કેલ સમયમાં મદદરૂપ થવામાં છે !

અને એનું બીજું નામ જ જીવનકલા ! મરીઝનો એક સુંદર શેર છે,

“એવો કોઇ દિલદાર
જગતમાં નજર આવે,
આપી દે મદદ કિતું,
ન લાચાર બનાવે”
બસ આજ તો છે ,
કબૂતરોનું ધૂ ધૂ ધૂ,
જોય ઓફ ગીવીંગ,
જીવનકલા

અને
સેંટ ઝેવિયર્સ સ્કુલ !!

જીવનની સાચી મજા તો જોય ઓફ ગીવીંગમાં જ છે એ બાળપણમાં અમારી સેંટ ઝેવિયર્સ સ્કુલના દિવસોમાં ભણવામાં આવેલી અને તે વખતે ન સમજાયેલી 'મીનપિયાસી' ઉપનામથી સુંદર કાવ્યરચના રચતા દિનકરરાય કેશવલાલ ભટ્ટ (વૈદ્ય) ની રચેલી પ્રખ્યાત કાવ્યરચનાની સમજ અને તેની યથાર્થતા હવે સમજાઇ રહી છે! આ સ્કુલના દિવસોની યાદો અદભૂત છે !!!

એક સમયે ગાંધીનગરની બહાર કહેવાતી ચ-૩ સર્કલ પાસે આવેલી અમારી સુંદર સ્કુલ આજે વિકસિત ગાંધીનગર મેટ્રો સ્ટેશનની નજીક કેપીટલના સેન્ટરમાં આવેલી ગણી શકાય !!

આજે જ્યારે અતીતમાં ડોકીયું કરું છું તો શાળાના દિવસો સ્મૃતિપટ પર એક ચલચિત્રની માફક તાદ્રશ થઇ જાય છે !!

સ્કુલમાં ભણેલા વિવિધ વિષયો આજે જીવનના દરેક તબક્કામાં પથ દર્શક બની રહ્યા છે ! તેમાં પણ ખાસ કરીને જો આજે મને પુંછવામાં આવે કે સૌથી વધુ જીવનમાં સ્કુલમાં ભણેલા વિષયોમાં કયો વિષય ઉપયોગી થયો તો નિઃશંક હું જીવનકલાને સૌ પ્રથમ સ્થાન આપું કારણકે જેનાથી જીવનમાં બુદ્ધિમત્તાની સાથે પ્રમાણિકતા અને નીતિમત્તાનું મહત્વ સમજાયું જે સફળતાના પાયારૂપ ચારિત્ર્યના ઘડતરમાં ઉપયોગી રહ્યું !

તમે શું ધારો છો ???

નો જીવન કલાનો સવાલ જીવનમાં ઉદભવતા વિવિધ પ્રશ્નો અને સમસ્યાઓનો સામનો કરી તેનું નિરાકરણ કરવામાં પથદર્શક બનવાની મહત્વની ભૂમિકા કોઇ પણ ઝેવિયરાઇટ્સના જીવનમાં

BATCH 1991

Mauli Vora

(Senior Engineer at San Francisco)

My K-12 education at St. Xavier's school Gandhinagar gave me many unforgettable memories, life long friendships, a sense of community, a safe and supportive environment, along with endless opportunities to grow, explore and find my identity.

I am so grateful to my teaches who inspired me to gain knowledge beyond textbooks. Their kindness, wisdom, and compassion gave me courage to find my own paths. My husband who is also St. Xavier's graduate and I still talk about teachers and share our memories with each other and our children.

I am thankful to my friends with whom I stayed up many nights to study, who supported me, had fun with me, but also gave me healthy competition to challenge myself and reach my full potential. .



The school gave me opportunity to represent Gujarat state at a cultural event at national level in Bangalore, and sing on a national radio station. Other co-curricular activities such as dance and drama performances on stage, participation in competitions such as debate, singing, drawing etc. helped me cultivate positive personality traits such as self-confidence and resiliency

My school experience gave me ability to think outside the box and solve any problems that may come my way. My ability to work in teams, and be able to solve technical problems gave me opportunity to work on \$4.6 Billion infrastructure improvement project for San Francisco water system, environmental mitigation projects and climate resilience projects where I managed large team of engineers and contractors. Currently, I am working as a senior engineer at San Francisco and mentoring new generation of engineers. I can trace back my skills and success to lessons learnt at St Xavier's.

*"It does not matter how slowly
you go as long as you do not
stop"*



Freeda Taral

(Assistant Commissioner of GST)

BATCH 2008

Perseverance Over Strength: My Journey from St. Xavier's to Becoming an Assistant Commissioner of GST

"Great work is performed not by strength, but by perseverance."

Looking back at my journey, I firmly believe that success is not just about talent or strength but about unwavering perseverance. I am Freeda Taral, an alumna of St. Xavier's School, Gandhinagar, and I recently achieved my dream of becoming an Assistant Commissioner of GST after passing the GPSC Class 1 & 2 examination. This milestone fills me with gratitude—towards God, my family, and the institution that shaped me.

The Foundation of My Growth: St. Xavier's School

Spending my formative years at St. Xavier's, from nursery to 12th standard, played a crucial role in my academic and personal development. My school was more than just a place of education; it was where I built my personality, honed my skills, and learned invaluable life lessons. Beyond textbooks and exams, Xavier's nurtured my ability to communicate effectively, speak confidently in public, and understand the importance of etiquette and behavior.

The Importance of Extracurricular Activities

Academics were, of course, a priority, but my involvement in extracurricular activities helped me grow in ways that traditional learning couldn't. Whether it was performing on stage, delivering speeches, or participating in competitions, these experiences refined my confidence and leadership skills. More importantly, they taught me resilience—an essential trait for any journey toward success.

Learning from Failures

Failure and rejection were also part of my path. There were moments when things didn't go as planned, but my school taught me how to rise above setbacks. Instead of being discouraged, I learned to embrace challenges, move forward, and keep striving for excellence. Perseverance became my greatest strength, a lesson that stayed with me beyond school life and helped me navigate the challenges of competitive exams.



The Xavierite Spirit: A Lifelong Strength

Today, as an Assistant Commissioner of GST, I carry the values instilled in me by St. Xavier's with immense pride. I am, and always will be, a grateful Xavierite. The discipline, dedication, and strong foundation I received here played a pivotal role in my success.

A Message to Current Xavierites

To every student studying at St. Xavier's, know that you are in safe and nurturing hands. Your school is not just shaping your academic knowledge but also your character. Stay disciplined, work hard, and actively participate in extracurricular activities—these experiences will shape your personality and prepare you for the future. No matter the challenges you face, remember that perseverance and dedication will always lead you to success.

Thank you, St. Xavier's, for everything you have given me.



Niyati Thaker

(Assistant Manager , Urban Planner)

BATCH 2009

As a proud alumna of St. Xavier's School, Gandhinagar, I, Niyati Thaker, have had a transformative educational journey that has shaped me into the person I am today. Having completed my 10th grade in 2009, I went on to pursue my 11th and 12th grades in Science (A group) from another institution. The values and skills I acquired during my time at St. Xavier's School have been invaluable in my personal and professional growth.

As a Xavierite, I was encouraged to be an all-rounder, and this mindset has helped me navigate various challenges with confidence. Despite being from a Gujarati medium background, I never faced language barriers, thanks to the school's emphasis on preparing students for a diverse and global environment. After completing my schooling, I pursued a Bachelor's degree in Planning from CEPT University. The dynamic educational programs at CEPT, which combined theoretical lectures with practical, real-site studios, were a perfect fit for the skills I had developed at St. Xavier's. My undergraduate education laid the foundation for my future academic and professional pursuits.

I furthered my education by completing a Master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning with a specialization in Urban Infrastructure Planning. This led to a campus placement at Ahmedabad Metro as an Urban Planner, where I worked on various metro projects in Gujarat. Subsequently, I joined Grant Thornton Bharat LLP, a multinational consulting firm, where I served as an advisor for the implementation and monitoring of various state projects and schemes for the Government of Gujarat.



As I prepare to embark on a new chapter in my career with Ernst & Young LLP (EY), I am excited to contribute my expertise as an Urban Planner to the Olympic 2036 project, which is slated to be hosted in Gujarat. I look forward to being part of the planning team for this prestigious project.

In reflection, I am grateful for the strong foundation that St. Xavier's School provided me, which has enabled me to achieve my goals and pursue my passions with confidence and determination.

“असफलता रास्ता नहीं बंद करती, ये बस बताती है कि चाल में थोड़ी तेज़ी की ज़रूरत है।”



Major Bismy Bose

(M-tech in civil engineering)

BATCH 2010

From the school grounds to the Nation's Service.

As I sit down to pen this article, memories of my school days flood my mind—each moment, each challenge, and each triumph shaping the person I am today. Walking through those corridors, hearing the echoes of laughter, and feeling the rush of adrenaline on the sports field—those were the days that built my foundation, instilled my discipline, and prepared me for the journey ahead.



Sports was more than just a passion for me; it was my way of life. Representing my school at the national level in athletics, basketball, and football was an honor I carried with immense pride. Every race I ran, every game I played, and every medal I won was a testament to the unwavering support of my mentor, Kiran Sir. His belief in my abilities and constant motivation pushed me to break my own limits.

Beyond the sports field, I was blessed with a school that nurtured not just my athletic spirit but also my artistic soul. As a Bharatanatyam dancer, I found solace in every graceful movement, every rhythm, and every performance. Whether it was on our school stage or competing at inter-district cultural events, dance was my expression, my silent poetry. The encouragement of Marshal Teacher, Preeti Teacher, Leena Teacher, Smitha Teacher, Koshy Teacher, Ramola teacher, Chaya sir and Hema Teacher played a crucial role in balancing my academics, sports, and passion for dance.



School was not just about achievements but also about the people who stood by me. Principal Father Hector, Brother Harry, and Sister Mary were pillars of strength who believed in my potential even when I doubted myself. Their faith in me was a silent force that kept me striving for excellence. I further pursued M-tech in civil engineering from MS university Vadodara.



Fast forward to today, I serve as a Logistics Officer in the Indian Army—an honor that I owe in many ways to the discipline, resilience, and determination that my school instilled in me. My journey has taken me across Chennai, Assam, Bangalore, Rajasthan, Leh, and Chandigarh, where each day brings new challenges and new responsibilities. But no matter where I go, the lessons I learned within the walls of my school remain my guiding light.

To every student walking the same corridors I once did—believe in your dreams, embrace your struggles, and cherish the people who support you. Your school days will pass, but the memories and values you build here will stay with you for a lifetime.

Dr. Riddhi R. Bhatt**(MBBS, MD (Pharmacology)****Working as Assistance Professor in Sal
Institute of Medical Science)****BATCH 2010**

હું, ડૉ. રિદ્ધિ ભટ્ટ, સેંટ. જેવિયર્સના મારા અનુભવને મારાં શબ્દોમાં વર્ણવવા જઈ છું ત્યારે કહેવાનું ઘણું હોવા છતાં મને શબ્દોની અછત વર્તાઈ.

મારા માતા પિતાના નિર્ણયને પગલે મારું અને મારી નાની બહેનનું શિક્ષણ સેંટ. જેવિયર્સ સ્કૂલમાં થયું છે. મેં સેંટ. જેવિયર્સ સ્કૂલમાં નર્સરીથી ધોરણ દસ સુધીનું ભણતર પ્રાપ્ત કર્યું છે. તે દરમિયાન અવારનવાર સ્કૂલમાં પ્રથમ આવી છું. સ્કૂલમાં યોજાતી વક્તૃત્વ સ્પર્ધા, એન્યુઅલ ડે તથા અન્ય ઈત્તર પ્રવૃત્તિઓમાં પણ ભાગ લેવાનો મારો પ્રયત્ન રહેતો. ટીચર્સના માર્ગદર્શન હેઠળ કરેલા અથાક પરિશ્રમ, પરિવારજનોના સાથ અને આશીર્વાદથી મને જીએમઈઆરએસ મેડિકલ કોલેજ, ગાંધીનગરમાં એમબીબીએસમાં એડમિશન મળ્યું. એમબીબીએસ બાદ ગાંધીનગર સિવિલના સર્જરી વિભાગમાં છ મહિના જુનિયર રેસિડેન્ટ તરીકે ફરજ બજાવી. ત્યારબાદ મેં ફાર્માકોલોજીમાં એમ.ડી ની ડીગ્રી મેળવી. હાલમાં અમદાવાદ ખાતે આવેલી સાલ ઇન્સ્ટિટ્યૂટ ઓફ મેડિકલ સાયન્સિસમાં આસિસ્ટન્ટ પ્રોફેસર તરીકે ફરજ બજાવી મારા ભણાવવાના શોખને પૂરો કરું છું.

સેંટ. જેવિયર્સ સ્કૂલ - આ નામ મારા માટે ફક્ત એક સ્કૂલ નથી, લાગણી છે. આજે જ્યારે મારી સ્કૂલના મારા અનુભવ વિશે લખું છું ત્યારે મને યાદ આવે છે એ દિવસો જ્યારે ઘેર થી નિબંધ લખીને આવવાનું ટીચરએ કીધું હોય. અવનવા વિષય પર લખાયેલા નિબંધ, વક્તૃત્વ સ્પર્ધાની કે સ્કૂલમાં થતાં અલગ અલગ પ્રોગ્રામની સ્પીચની મને યાદ આવે છે. મારા માટે જેવિયર્સ એટલે સ્ટેજ પર બોલવાની તક - ટીચર્સએ ઉભી કરેલી તક.



પહેલેથી જ અવારનવાર મળતાં આવા અવસરએ મારામાં આત્મવિશ્વાસ કેળવ્યો છે. પહેલેથી કેળવાયેલી ગુડ કોમ્યુનિકેશન સ્કિલ મને ઇન્ટર્નશીપ દરમિયાન પેશન્ટની સાથેના વ્યવહારમાં ખૂબ મદદરૂપ થઈ. તે સમયનો માઇકમાં બોલવાનો શોખ આજે પણ મેડિકલ કોલેજમાં લેક્ચર લઈને પૂરો કરું છું. આજે હું પણ મારાં ટીચર્સની જેમ શીખવું છું.



મારાં માટે જેવિયર્સ એટલે પરીક્ષા સમયની 'હેલ્થી કોમ્પીટીશન'. ટીચર્સના પ્રોત્સાહન, મિત્રો સાથેના પેપરની ચર્ચા આજે પણ યાદ આવે છે. ઊંચું ધ્યેય રાખવાની સીખ અને હું તે કરી શકું છું એવો મારાં ટીચર્સનો વિશ્વાસ મને એ સ્કૂલની પરીક્ષાથી જોતજોતામાં એમબીબીએસની અને એમડીની પરીક્ષા સુધી પહોંચાડી ગયો.





કોઈ એકાદી વાત હોય તો ગણાવું પણ મારા વ્યક્તિત્વના ઘડતરમાં અનેરો ફાળો મારી સ્કૂલ અને તેના તમામ ટીચર્સનો છે. ચાણક્યએ સાચું જ કહ્યું છે કે "શિક્ષક કभी साधारण नहीं होता। प्रलय और निर्माण उसकी गोद में खेलते हैं।"



હું આજના વિદ્યાર્થીને એ જ સલાહ આપીશ કે સ્કૂલના આ દિવસોમાં શીખવાનો આનંદ માણો, ટીચર્સનું સન્માન કરો અને બની શકે એટલી વધુ પ્રવૃત્તિઓમાં ભાગ લો. રાતોરાત કોઈ સફળતાના શિખરો સર કરી શકાય નહીં. ધીરજ પૂર્વક કરેલી વર્ષોની મહેનત, પ્રયત્નો, સાચા ગુરુનું માર્ગદર્શન અને પરિવારજનોના આશીર્વાદ જ જીવનમાં આગળ વધવાના માર્ગ ખોલે છે.



મારાં માટે ઝેવિયર્સ એટલે કેન્ટીનના ચીઝ પફ અને હોટ ડોંગ, પીટી ના પીરીયડની બાસ્કેટ બોલની મેચ, ફાધર હેક્ટરની મોર્નિંગ પ્રેયર્સ, વિશાળ સુંદર કેમ્પસ, શિસ્ત અને શિષ્ટાચાર. સ્કૂલની નજીકથી પસાર થતાં આજે પણ 'મારી સ્કૂલ' કહીને બતાવતા હું નથી થાકતી. મારા માટે ઝેવિયર્સ એટલે મારી સ્કૂલ, અમારી સ્કૂલ.

Zalak Rajpurohit

(RANK - 6, Assitant Commissioner Of State Tax, GPSC)

BATCH 2015

As we chase our goals, likewise, our goals are also chasing us. Our duty is to reduce the distance by doing hardwork and remaining honest towards our goal

I am writing to express my heartfelt gratitude to Gayatri Ma'am , Ankita Ma'am and the entire St. Xavier's school community for playing a pivotal role in shaping my academic foundation and nurturing my dreams. As a proud alumnus of St. Xavier's school , I am thrilled to share that I have recently cleared the Gujarat Public Service commission - Class -1&2 examination , a milestone that would not have been possible without the knowledge, skills, and values imparted to me during my time at the school.

The academic rigor, discipline, and encouragement I received at there helped me develop a strong work ethic, critical thinking skills, and a passion for learning that has served me well throughout my academic and professional journey. The school's emphasis on excellence, perseverance, and community service instilled in me the confidence and motivation to pursue my goals with determination and resilience.



I am grateful for the dedicated teachers, staff, and administrators who created a supportive and inclusive learning environment that allowed me to grow and thrive. Thier tireless efforts, guidance, and mentorship have made a lasting impact on my life, and I am forever indebted to the Gayatri Ma'am , Ankita Ma'am and St. Xavier's School community.

Thank you for helping me lay the foundation for my future success. I look forward to staying connected with the school and giving back to the community that has given me so much.



“ स्कूल जीवन का मतलब सिर्फ पढ़ाई करना नहीं है, बल्कि जीवन के मूल्यों को भी सीखना है।”



Akshaj Shah

(Ather Energy as a Product Analyst)

From Chalk Dust to Clean Tech

By Akshaj Shah, Class of 2016 (Class 10th)

If someone had walked up to my younger self at Xavier's and said, "One day you'll be writing an article about your school days," I would've stared blankly, clutched my tiffin box tighter, and asked, "Voluntarily? Like... without marks involved?" And if they added, "Also, you'll be working at an electric vehicle company, using data to make cleaner, smarter, better tech," I'm pretty sure I'd have just blinked and asked the most important question of all—"But do I get to drive the scooter?" Back then, essays were the nemesis of my fingers, electric scooters were a sci-fi concept that seemed impossible, and 'data' was just a fancy word adults used to sound serious. But here I am—older, slightly wiser, and still confused about where all my geometry box items disappeared and what exactly the role of a divider is.

So, here's a story about how it all happened—how a talkative kid with no clue about what he wanted in life, ended up shaping products in the tech world, guided by the memories and experiences that he had at our beloved school, often without even realizing it.

I joined St. Xavier's in nursery—just tall enough to hold a pencil but not tall enough to reach the top of the blackboard. It's difficult to describe what it's like to grow up in one school for over a decade. Faces may change, teachers may leave, classes may be repainted but somehow the feeling of walking into that red-brick building, dressed in the familiar white shirt and grey pants, stays exactly the same.

Some of my earliest and fondest memories come from those years: the elation of being made class monitor for a period, distributing chocolates on my birthday, the thrill of racing to be first out of class in recess. It wasn't always about academics. It was about the energy of being part of something—this is one big lesson that I learned at Xavier's.

Xavier's didn't just teach me math and grammar. It taught me how to speak up when I had an idea. It taught me how to lose and try again. It taught me that learning isn't always about getting full marks—it's about being full of questions. It laid the foundation in me for what I now believe are the three biggest qualities that have shaped my journey: curiosity, consistency, and confidence.

BATCH 2016



First day at IITM

Curiosity is what pushed me to explore things outside the textbook—whether it was wondering how websites work back in 9th grade or later, asking why a scooter can't be better, smarter and faster. That "why not?" mindset led me into product and tech.

Consistency showed up quietly but powerfully—every time I showed up for JEE prep, even on days when I really didn't want to, or when I kept refining the same analysis deck at work until it clicked. Success isn't one big leap—it's a lot of quiet, stubborn steps.

And confidence—it began in a Xavier's classroom, when I stood up (terrified) to answer a quiz question or spoke at my first elocution competition. Years later, that same nerve helped me present ideas to leadership teams. It wasn't about being fearless—it was about backing myself and being confident in my own abilities, even with a shaky voice.

After Class 10, I got selected for KL-YES, an exchange program to the U.S.A. I was excited—but nervous. For the first time in my life, I was stepping out of Xavier's—and out of India—into a completely different environment. I had to adjust to new ways of learning, new accents, and even newer food.

But here's the thing: I wasn't alone. Because Xavier's had already taught me how to adapt. I'd learned how to make friends from scratch. I'd learned how to ask questions when I didn't understand something. And I'd learned to trust myself, even when things felt unfamiliar. That year gave me confidence. It also gave me perspective.

When I returned to India, it was time to get serious about entrance exams. Like many science students, I had the same dilemma about whether I should prep for my boards and GUJCET or should I jump into the world of JEE prep. Let me be honest—this decision and the phase which followed wasn't easy. I chose JEE. It was a long grind. The stakes felt sky-high. There were moments when I questioned everything, moments when I felt behind, and moments when I just wanted to take a break.

But again, I found strength in habits built long ago. At Xavier's, I had learned how to plan for exams, how to stay calm when the question paper looked unfamiliar, and how to bounce back after a bad result. I carried those lessons with me into my JEE preparation.

Slowly, the concepts began to click. My mock test scores started inching upward. And when the results finally came, I had not only made it to the top colleges I'd aimed for—I had made it to all of them. An old IIT, a top NIT, BITS Pilani, DAIICT, LD College of Engineering. Every single one.

I had also scored in the top percentile in GUJCET, securing every admit I had dreamed of. That day taught me something I still hold onto: I may be lazy at times, but I've never been afraid of hard work. And preparing for JEE—relentlessly and honestly—paid off.

The relief I felt on result day wasn't just about the rank. It was the quiet satisfaction of knowing that every small step, every late night, and every bounce-back moment had led me here.



St. Xavier's School, Gandhinagar- 2012-13
Std. VII A

Class photo (I am the one with the horns)

IIT Madras was a whirlwind—new friends, crazy hostel life, and some of the toughest coursework I've ever seen. But it also gave me something precious: the opportunity to build. I discovered my interest in product thinking—understanding people's problems and building digital experiences to solve them. I realized that data wasn't just numbers; it could tell stories, uncover patterns, and shape the future. I focused on academics but also on extracurriculars; I ended up running one of the biggest college teams on campus called the Career Development Cell where my team of 20 and I worked tirelessly to guide the students in our college to plan what they wanted out of life and how they should prepare for it.

After graduating, I joined Ather Energy as a Product Analyst. Today, I work on products that help people transition to electric mobility—a cleaner, more efficient future. I get to work with engineers, designers, and users, making sure that what we build isn't just smart, but meaningful.

And yes, I did finally get to ride that electric scooter. I also realized that I am more of a bike person. So I bought myself a bike which I had always dreamt of. When I was asked to write this article, Ms. Shalia said, "Share your journey—but also share what helped you." So here are a few thoughts I'd like to pass on to anyone reading this, especially those of you in Classes 9 or 10, figuring out where life might take you next:

1. You don't need to have it all figured out.

At 15 or 16, I thought everyone else knew exactly what they wanted to be. They didn't. Neither did I. It's okay to change your mind. What matters is being curious and open.

2. Small habits matter more than big plans.

Whether it's studying, working out, or learning something new—consistency beats intensity. Build tiny habits. They compound.

3. Don't fear failure.

Every time I had a bad test or messed up a presentation, I thought it was the end. It never was. If anything, those moments taught me more than success ever could.

4. Ask questions.

In class, at home—wherever you are. Curiosity is a superpower. It's what turns good students into great thinkers.

5. Be kind. Especially to yourself.

School is hard. Life is harder. Be the friend who lifts others up. And when you fall (because you will), speak to yourself with the same kindness you'd offer a friend.

6. Keep your school memories close.

Years from now, when you're working in a new city or pulling late nights at a job, you'll think back to the Xavier's prayer song, or that one teacher who believed in you. These memories will ground you.

Today, when I walk into meetings or lead projects, there's still a part of me that's the same kid who ran around Xavier's during recess with his friends. The world has gotten bigger—but those roots still hold strong.

To everyone reading this—know that your journey is already unfolding. Whether you go on to become a doctor, engineer, artist, teacher, or entrepreneur, these school days are your launchpad.

And if you ever feel lost, just remember: even the tallest trees started as seeds. And even those seeds needed the right soil, sunlight, and a little bit of faith. For me, Xavier's was all of that. And more.



First year into IITM (Bit Wiser, about to hit Covid)

Ayushi Mistry

(Computer Engineer, Freelancer doing Project Work)

BATCH 2017

Dear Xavierites,

I never imagined that one day I would be writing for this alumni corner—a space I once eagerly read as a student. Having spent 13 memorable years at St. Xavier's, I can truly say this school has been more than just an institution; it has been the foundation of who I am today.

After completing my studies, I pursued a degree in Computer Engineering and eventually stepped into the corporate world, contributing to the ever-evolving field of Artificial Intelligence. But this journey didn't begin in a college lecture hall—it began right here, in the computer labs of St. Xavier's.

It all started with those iconic LOGO designs—simple yet fascinating—that sparked my curiosity and passion for technology. Those early moments, filled with excitement and wonder, laid the groundwork for the path I chose, and they remain unforgettable.

Memories That Last a Lifetime

During my school years, I actively participated in a wide range of events—from poetry recitations and elocution contests to sports competitions and science fairs. I had the privilege of serving on the discipline committee, a role I took immense pride in. Volunteering at various school events further enriched my experience and strengthened my sense of responsibility.

One of my proudest moments was representing St. Xavier's in storytelling competitions, along with earning accolades in science fairs and annual sports days. These achievements brought not only joy but also a deep sense of belonging and accomplishment.

Beyond academics, it's the simple memories that are etched in my heart—free periods spent wandering the playgrounds, sitting under the shade of trees, and watching tiny red velvet mites during the rainy season. These peaceful moments hold a special place in my heart and remain woven into the fabric of my life.

Even today, I often find myself dreaming of my beloved St. Xavier's more than I dream of my own home. Such is



the lasting impression this school has left on me—a second home filled with cherished memories and invaluable lessons.

At St. Xavier's, I didn't just gain knowledge—I made countless memories celebrating every festival with joy and enthusiasm, whether it was Christmas, Navratri, Diwali, or any other occasion. These celebrations were not just fun; they taught us the meaning behind each tradition, fostering unity, respect, and cultural appreciation—lessons I will carry with me forever.

A Day of Joy and Gratitude

One of the most unforgettable moments of my school life was when our beloved class teacher Ms. Naina returned after a long medical leave. She had been undergoing treatment for a serious illness, and her absence was deeply felt by all of us. We missed not just her lessons, but her kindness and warmth.

She had a special way of treating us—with respect, patience, and genuine care—which created a strong bond. She didn't just teach us academics; she taught us life lessons, guiding us with a gentle yet firm hand. Her influence shaped the way we approached challenges and inspired us to be better individuals.

When she rejoined us after her recovery, we were overjoyed. We celebrated her return with simple but heartfelt gestures—a day filled with smiles and gratitude. It was our way of honoring her strength and showing how much she meant to us.

Her bravery during that difficult time inspired me personally. Years later, when my father faced severe health issues, I found strength in her example. Her courage helped me stay strong through that challenging phase in my life.

Even today, I'm grateful for her—not just as a teacher, but as someone who made a lasting impact on my life. This school journey has given me lifelong friends, enduring values, and lessons that continue to guide me. These memories will always stay with me, giving me the strength to move forward.



Dear Students,

Let me remind you that you are at one of the best places to begin your journey. St. Xavier's is not just a school—it's a foundation for your future, a place where you will learn lessons that stay with you for life, form genuine friendships, and discover your true passions.

You are surrounded by opportunities to explore, to grow, and to understand who you truly want to become. This is your time to experiment, to learn, and to dream. The Xavier's family will always be there to guide, support, and walk beside you. It's up to you to make the most of what this wonderful place offers.

As I reflect on my own journey, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude and respect to all the staff members who dedicate themselves to nurturing young minds—and a special note of thanks to Fr. Hector for his unwavering support and guidance. May God bless you all with happiness, health, and success.

To you, dear students, I wish the very best for your future endeavors. May you find your path in this ever-changing and fast-developing world. Remember, the world doesn't just need experts and techies—it needs compassionate, thoughtful human beings. And this school will help you become exactly that.

Best of luck, and may you shine wherever life takes you.

"The only limit to our realization of tomorrow will be our doubts of today."

Hetvi Shastri

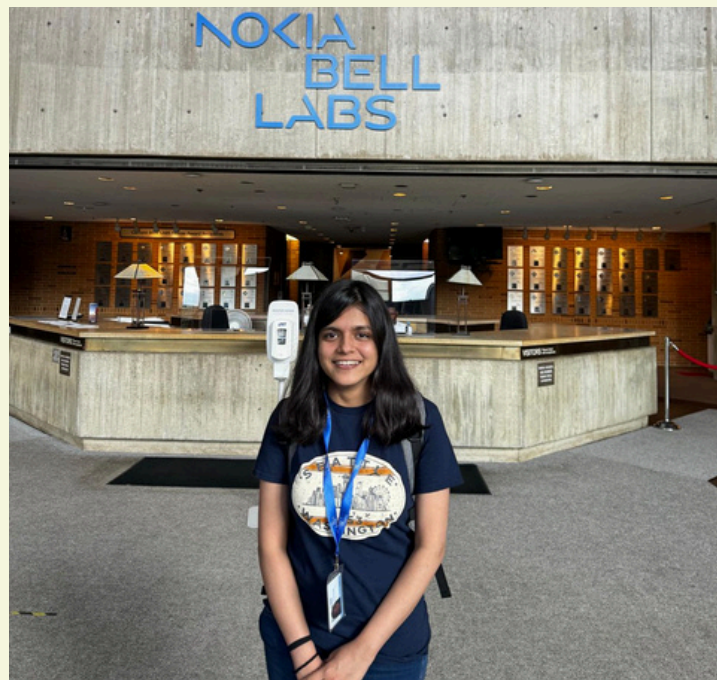
(pursuing a Ph.D. in Computer Science at the University of Massachusetts Amherst)

BATCH 2017

St. Xavier's isn't just a school to me. It's a place where I spent twelve formative years of my life, a place that will always hold a special corner in my heart. I joined school in nursery and studied there all the way to 10th grade. Each year brought new memories, milestones, and lessons in growth and learning. Till kindergarten, I remember how my parents would walk all the way to my classroom to pick me up. The transition from kindergarten to 1st grade felt like a big step toward independence. I still recall my first day in 1st grade, when I cried at the school gate because I couldn't find my parents. Moving from 3rd to 4th grade meant shifting to an upper floor and feeling a little more grown up. But it was the leap from 8th to 9th grade that hit the hardest, because we had to wake up much earlier and adjust to a more demanding routine.



One of the most peaceful memories I carry is from our morning prayers. Whether under the green shade, at Sanskruti Kunj, or in the main corridor, there was something calming about all of us singing together. The harmony of those voices created a sense of unity and peace that I haven't quite experienced since.



St. Xavier's was also full of energy and excitement. Events like 'Quest', elocution competitions, science exhibitions, and the much-anticipated Canteen Day brought the school to life. I remember how, in grade 8, we sold pizza and pasta for Canteen Day. It was the first time I earned money by selling something.



The joy of working with friends, setting up our stall, and interacting with customers was something I'll never forget. And of course, the legendary cheese puff from the canteen remains unmatched.

It was at St. Xavier's that my love for mathematics and science took off. Like many others, my journey began with a small but meaningful moment when my 5th-grade math teacher encouraged me for my performance in the class. I was fortunate to be taught by inspiring teachers like Monica teacher, Shaila teacher, Leena teacher, Shilpa teacher, Anita teacher, Rita teacher, Nita teacher, and many others who always encouraged me to explore and ask questions.

I completed my undergraduate studies in Electrical Engineering at the Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar. Currently, I am pursuing a Ph.D. in Computer Science at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. One of the most important lessons I learned at school and from my parents was to value understanding over getting marks. Memorization was always difficult for me. I couldn't learn something unless I understood it completely.



That habit of digging deeper and focusing on true learning has stayed with me ever since. Research is a journey filled with uncertainty. It often involves trying out different ideas, many of which may not work right away. But the habit of being persistent, even when the results don't come easily, is something I developed early on during my school days.



St. Xavier's gave me more than just education. It taught me to stay curious, to be patient, and to enjoy the process of learning. For that, I will always be grateful!

“Perfection is not attainable, but if we chase perfection we can catch excellence”.

– Vince Lombardi

BATCH 2018

Riya Nitin Rohit

(Master's in Information Systems at UMBC)

Once a Xavierite, always a Xavierite!

I'm Riya Nitin Rohit, currently pursuing Master's in Information Systems at UMBC in the United States, and the roots of my journey trace proudly back to St. Xavier's School, Gandhinagar. I spent most of my childhood and teenage years there, from Junior KG all the way to 12th standard. Those years were not just about studies, they were about growing, learning, laughing, and building memories that still stay with me.

St. Xavier's was more than just a school to me, it was an emotion, a second home. It gave me the foundation that I stand on today. The values, discipline and dedication that were instilled in me back then are exactly what help me now in my master's journey. I often realize how the education I received at Xavier's still plays a major role in my academic and personal life. The clarity of concepts, the importance of time management, teamwork and the motivation to always do my best, these are things I learned early on in those classrooms.



I was blessed to have had some amazing teachers who shaped me into who I am today. They were always encouraging, patient, and ready to guide us through every step. Their support went beyond academics, they taught us to be good human beings, to believe in ourselves, and to dream big. Recently, when I visited India, I made sure to go back to school and meet them. During my last visit, I felt goosebumps walking through the same corridors. It literally felt like I had returned to where it all began.



What made St. Xavier's truly special were the countless experiences outside the textbooks. I still remember how everyone used to wait eagerly all year for QUEST – the interschool competitions that brought energy and excitement like nothing else. The science fairs, sports days, PT periods, and annual day performances were unforgettable. The computer lab was my favorite place, it felt like stepping into a whole new world every week. I also fondly remember the art and craft periods, the canteen breaks and the fun of preparing for the school parade. Those simple moments were the highlights of my school life, and I miss them dearly.



One of the things I treasure most is the friendships I built at Xavier's. I met some of the most amazing people there who continue to be an important part of my life even today. We laughed, studied, participated in events, and grew up together. For that, I am truly grateful.



The safe and nurturing environment of the school helped every student express themselves freely. Whether you were good at academics, sports, arts or something else – there was space for everyone to shine. The school always encouraged us to be confident, respectful and responsible individuals.

To this day, I still have my school uniform as a memory and I often wish I could go back to those days, just for a little while. St. Xavier's will always be my proud beginning and I owe so much of who I am today to that place.

Thank you, Xavier's, for giving me the best years of my life.



“You are stronger than you seem, braver than you believe, and smarter than you think”.

**"The roots of education are bitter,
but the fruit is sweet."
- Aristotle**

Yatharth Pradipbhai Suthar

(CA Finalist Currently working as an intern
in Manubhai & Shah LLP)

BATCH 2020

I began my schooling in my village, where I had a very limited perspective about the world. Back then, I was quite closed-minded and unaware of many opportunities around me. However, everything changed after my 10th grade when I joined St. Xavier's High School, Gandhinagar.

This school became a turning point in my life. The environment was transformative, and the faculty played a crucial role in shaping me. One of the most significant aspects that St. Xavier's instilled in me was discipline. From the very first day, the school emphasized punctuality and commitment. Whether it was adhering to the timetable, following school ethics, or maintaining academic consistency, discipline became a part of my daily routine. It was this discipline that later helped me excel in studies and achieve the first rank.

The teachers were incredibly supportive and played a vital role in my growth. I want to express my special thanks to Gayatri Ma'am, Shivani Ma'am, Francis Sir, and Arun Sir. Their constant encouragement and dedication to teaching motivated me to push beyond my limits. It wasn't just a place to study—it was a place where I evolved.



Looking back, I can confidently say that whatever I am today is because of St. Xavier's High School. It gave me the confidence, the knowledge, and the discipline that shaped my journey to success. And for that, I will always be grateful.



**“Success is not final,
Failure is not fatal:
It is the courage to continue
that Counts”.**
-Winston Churchill

Sai Charan Vihari Katlamudi

(Qualcomm as an Engineer)

BATCH 2021

It is a privilege to share my story with the students of my beloved St. Xavier's High School, where I spent 13 wonderful years of my life—from nursery to class 10. My school played a crucial role in shaping the person I am today and preparing me for the challenges of life. It was here that I learned the importance of curiosity, hard work, and perseverance—values that continue to guide me.

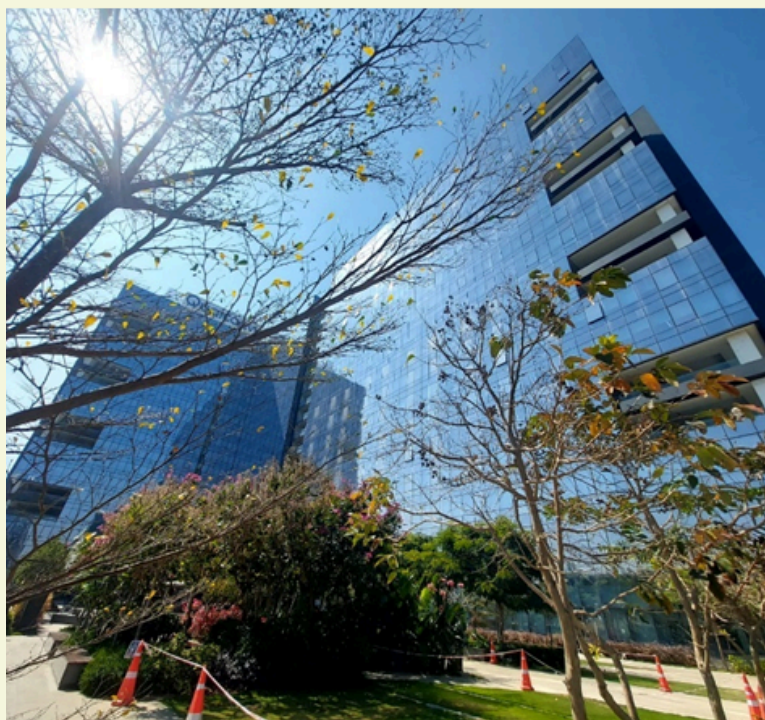
After completing my 10th grade, I embarked on a challenging yet rewarding journey: preparing for the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE). The JEE is renowned for its rigor, requiring a deep understanding of physics, chemistry, and mathematics. Through consistent effort, strategic planning, and a focus on concept building, I was able to navigate the vast syllabus effectively. Regular practice with past papers and mock tests helped me refine my problem-solving skills and manage time efficiently.

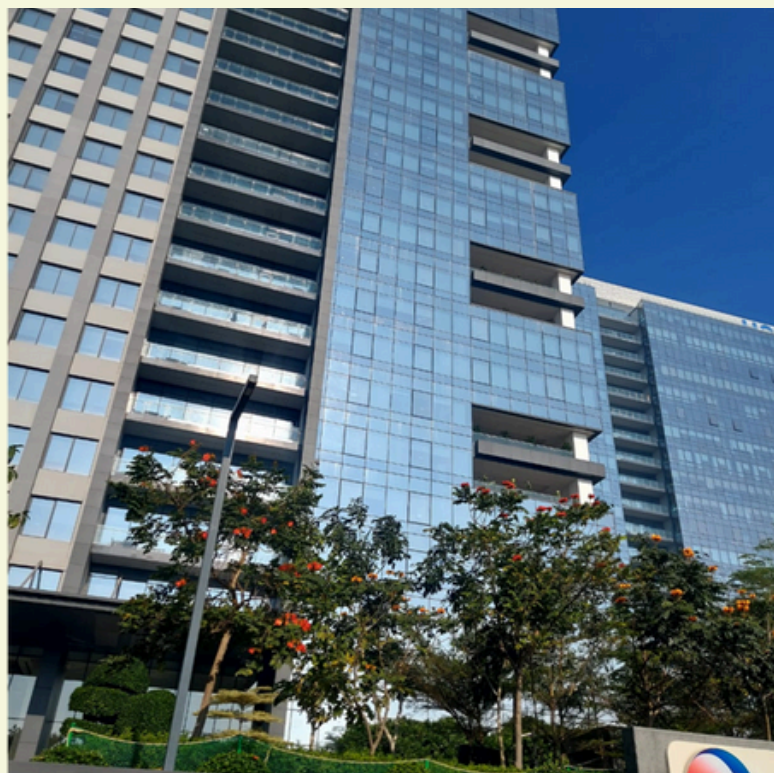
My journey to Birla Institute of Technology and Science (BITS) Pilani was nothing short of a dream come true. Getting into such a prestigious institution felt like a reward for all the hard work, sleepless nights, and endless hours of preparation during my JEE days. But more than just an achievement, it was proof of the strong foundation my school had given me—a foundation built on values, curiosity, and the drive to never give up.



BITS Pilani was everything I had imagined and more. The campus buzzed with energy, innovation, and a spirit of camaraderie that made every day exciting. Those four years were some of the most beautiful years of my life. I made friendships that turned into family, created memories that I will cherish forever, and learned lessons that went far beyond textbooks. Whether it was late-night study sessions, brainstorming ideas for projects, or simply sitting under the starry sky with friends talking about life, every moment at BITS felt special.

Academically, BITS pushed me to think differently. The emphasis on interdisciplinary learning and practical application of knowledge opened my mind to endless possibilities. It wasn't just about becoming an engineer; it was about learning how to solve problems, innovate, and adapt to the ever-changing world. Every challenge I faced there helped shape me into the person I am today.





Upon graduating from BITS Pilani, I was presented with the opportunity to join Qualcomm as an engineer. This role has been a dream come true, allowing me to apply my knowledge and skills in the dynamic field of wireless technology. As part of the Qualcomm team, I have been involved in cutting-edge projects that push the boundaries of innovation in the tech industry. The journey from being a student to becoming a professional at a leading global company has been fulfilling, and I attribute much of my success to the foundational values and academic rigor instilled in me during my school days.

Looking back, I am grateful for the journey that began in the nursery and has taken me to where I am today. My school played a pivotal role in shaping my academic and personal growth, providing me with the tools necessary to succeed in a competitive world. I hope that my story inspires current students to pursue their dreams with determination and passion, knowing that the foundation laid during these formative years can lead to incredible achievements.



Looking back now, I realize how much those years at BITS prepared me for life—not just professionally but personally too. It taught me resilience, teamwork, and the importance of embracing every opportunity that comes your way. It wasn't just a college; it was a journey of self-discovery, growth, and countless unforgettable moments that I carry in my heart even today.



St. Xavier's High School, Gandhinagar - 2016-17

“The key to success is to focus our conscious mind on things we desire not things we fear.”
-Brain Tracy

Krish Macwan

(Bachelor of Pharmacy)

BATCH 2022

From School Days to College Success: A Journey of Growth

School—where it all began! The place where we first held a pencil, stood on stage for the first time, and learned lessons that would stay with us forever. Looking back, I realise that my school wasn't just about academics; it was where I developed confidence, curiosity, and the drive to excel in different areas of life.



From School to College: Expanding Horizons

As I stepped into college to pursue a Bachelor of Pharmacy, I realised how valuable my school experiences were. The discipline, time management, and curiosity I developed in school became my strengths. In college, I found new passions—scientific research, rock climbing, powerlifting, film-making, and music.



School Days: The Foundation of My Journey

I still remember my early years in school—the excitement of learning new things, participating in activities, and dreaming about the future. Whether it was solving tough math problems, performing in cultural events, or simply playing with friends, every experience shaped who I am today.

One of the biggest lessons school taught me was to never stop exploring. I actively participated in competitions, stage performances, and science exhibitions, which helped me develop my ability to think critically and present ideas confidently. The encouragement from my teachers and friends gave me the courage to push my limits. I wasn't the best at everything, but I learned that hard work and perseverance can take you further than talent alone.

In 2022, I had the privilege of serving on the core committee for St. Xavier's Quest, a prestigious inter-school event held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. In this role, I co-hosted the Declamation event, where students showcased their oratory talents by delivering powerful speeches. This experience not only honed my organisational and leadership skills but also deepened my appreciation for effective communication.

I participated in **national and state-level poster presentations**, where I explored topics like nano-robots, 3D printing of pharmaceuticals, and space medicine—a combination of science and innovation. One of my proudest moments was winning first place at the GFPS Pratibha Season 9, competing against 61 teams with a mix of hard work and creativity.



Beyond academics, I pushed my physical limits through powerlifting, training intensely and competing at the state level. I also pursued my love for storytelling by directing a short film on Gujarati culture, which was screened at **Saptrang FilmFest**. These experiences made me realise that success isn't just about studies—it's about embracing all opportunities that come your way.



Throughout my college journey, I've been deeply interested in startups and innovation. I've actively participated in various national-level hackathons, where problem-solving and creativity come together to build real-world solutions. One of my proudest achievements was being a regional qualifier in Smart India Hackathon (SIH) 2024, where my team tackled a challenging problem statement with a unique approach. These experiences have strengthened my entrepreneurial mindset, and I look forward to applying this knowledge in future ventures.



Lessons for Every Student

If there's one thing I've learned, it's that school isn't just about grades. It's about building confidence, discovering what excites you, and preparing yourself for the real world. My advice to every student:

- Participate in everything — competitions, presentations, sports, cultural events. You never know what might spark your passion.
- Don't fear failure. Every setback is a lesson that brings you closer to success.
- Surround yourself with the right people. Friends, teachers, and mentors shape your mindset and future.

As I continue my journey in college, I carry the values and lessons from school with me. The foundation built during those years has made all the difference, and I will always be grateful for the experiences, friendships, and guidance I received.

To every student reading this: Make the most of your school life. These years will shape your future in ways you can't yet imagine! *Adiós y todo lo mejor!*

