

Druk Padma Karpo School summer 2026

25th Anniversary Lotus Leaves annual newsletter

2026-28

925+ students, new classrooms for science, commerce & humanities, and a library.

2023-25

890 students, 4 new classrooms & health centre, 100% pass rate

2020-22

873 students, four eco-shower buildings, 96.7%-100% pass rates

2017-19

800 students, seismic upgrade started, 94.4%-100% pass rates

2014-16

711 students, 10 secondary classrooms, 96.3%-100% pass rates

2011-13

627 students, 278 residential students, 92.3% pass rate

2008-10

500 students, 200 residential. Branch school Phokar opens with 21 students

2005-07

288 students, music/art/science rooms

2002-04

128 students, junior school, 2 residences, kitchen & dining hall

2001

88 students, nursery & infants

School growth in student numbers, facilities and matriculation exam results

Twenty-five years of striving, succeeding and serving

As we proudly celebrate 25 years of our school's success, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude and sincere appreciation to all our generous supporters whose steadfast encouragement and contributions have made this journey possible. I pray that our institution continues to grow and flourish in the years to come, and I sincerely hope that all our students develop into compassionate, responsible, and exemplary human beings.

With Prayers
Drukpa Thuksey Rinpoche
Founder Director DPKS.



On the joyous occasion of our Silver Jubilee edition, I extend my sincere gratitude to all our well-wishers, supporters, and members of the extended school community who have stood by us with unwavering trust and encouragement through this remarkable journey of 25 years.

What began with just 88 students and 7 dedicated staff has blossomed, into a thriving community of 925 students and 93 staff. The journey has not always been easy. Through difficult seasons and joyful ones alike, this community has shown a remarkable capacity to rise, adapt and thrive.

Twenty-five years on, we celebrate not only extraordinary growth, but a legacy of architectural and academic excellence that has earned recognition far and wide. Our alumni are the truest measure of all that has been achieved. As construction of the senior secondary school enters its final three years, we look forward with great anticipation to the day it stands complete. The next twenty-five years hold more promise than we can yet imagine.

We deeply acknowledge the contributions of the construction team, Drukpa Trust, the Arup Design Team, our dedicated staff, committed parents, enthusiastic students, and all our partners who have walked alongside us, sharing our vision and strengthening our mission. I look forward to your continued blessings and support as we embark on the next chapter. Your continuous support has been the cornerstone of our growth, enabling us to nurture young minds, uphold values, and strive for excellence in all that we do. Thank you for being an integral part of our success.

Principal Mingur Angmo

Druk Padma Karpo School alumni

In 2013, the first cohort of students completed their education at the school. Six hundred and fifteen students in total have completed their matriculation examinations and left the school. Some have moved directly into fields such as local government or tourism or have set up new businesses. Others have followed a further two-year academic course that can lead to university, and some take other paths. Two alumni have kindly shared a short biography with us, and we have updates on two others.



DPKS gave me a sense of purpose

My name is Rigzin Angmo and I come from Achinathang, a village in the Sham Valley, about 130 km from Leh. Looking back, I feel I was truly fortunate to have been enrolled at Druk Padma Karpo School, where I spent 13 years as a boarder.

DPKS is where most of my childhood unfolded and it shaped me in ways I understand more clearly now in my 20s. The school was not just academic, it taught me discipline, empathy, resilience and the ability to face life with courage.

I remember how we used to have story reading sessions at the end of the day and this habit has stayed with me today. I also enjoy giving speeches and writing journals.

It has been eight years since I left but still visit the school whenever I can. Returning there reminds me where I come from and helps me stay grounded.

I have a dream to become an Indian Administrative Service officer and one day return to serve Ladakh. The dream stems from the education and spirit that DPKS nurtured in us, the belief that our learning should ultimately serve the community we come from.

I eventually moved to Delhi where I graduated with a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Delhi. I am now preparing for the civil service entrance exam. For me, DPKS will always remain more than an institution. It is a place that shaped my character, my hopes and my sense of purpose. Whatever I become in the future will have the imprint of the years I spent there.

School felt like a second home



I am a former student at Druk Padma Karpo School. My name is Nawang Namgail, and I come from Tarchit Village, a small hamlet in the Rong Valley. My school journey began when I joined in 2010 at the age of four and I was a boarder throughout my school life. As I move into my final year at senior secondary school, I look back on my time at DPKS with deep gratitude.

I left the school in 2023 and am now in the 12th grade studying commerce at the Government Boys Higher Secondary School in Leh. I am pleased to have this opportunity to share my gratitude to my beloved DPKS family, and to my sponsor who has helped me move closer towards realising my dreams.

When I look back on the past 13 years, I feel blessed to have been a part of this institution. Besides the academic knowledge I have acquired, I have learned so much more. What makes this institution special is the guidance and teaching of the school founders, the support of our principal, teachers and staff who treat every student as their own child. I was fortunate to make wonderful friends who have stood by me in difficult times. From morning prayers to the lessons and experiences of the day, every moment was filled with learning, care and inspiration. Because of this, the school has always felt like my second home.

Once I have completed my school exams, I am hoping to study for a Bachelor of Commerce degree. My ambition is to become an entrepreneur and one day, like my own sponsor, to fund education for children from remote areas of Ladakh and beyond.



Hello everyone, my name is Stanskit Dolma. I am 20 years old and come from Nubra, Ladakh. I am an ex-student of Druk Padma Karpo School now studying in South India for a bachelor's degree in commerce. I am working as a volunteer at a three-day event in Darjeeling, helping to sell jubilee merchandise to visitors from Europe, Asia and the Himalayas.



My name is Sonam Tsering from Shey, Ladakh, and I am 21. I studied at Druk Padma Karpo School and graduated in psychology from New Delhi. I hope to go back to Ladakh, serve my people and live there happily. My passion is working in photography and film, and I am currently volunteering at a three-day event in Darjeeling.



Fundraising and construction – 2026 to 2028

We are delighted to report that funding for the Grade 11 and 12 science building (for students aged 16–18) is almost in place, and that excavation and construction of the foundations has already begun.

The next major project, due to start in 2027, is a four-classroom building for Grade 11 and 12 commerce and humanities, for which we need £364,500.

These facilities will allow more students to achieve Grade 12 national qualifications without leaving Ladakh, and enable remote area students, particularly girls, to extend their education.

The growing student numbers also mean that additional dry latrine provision is needed, for which we are seeking further funding. Designed by Arup, the ventilated improved pit latrines are an excellent example of old and new technologies working together, combining design resilience with sensitivity to Ladakh's high-altitude desert environment.

Looking ahead

As we celebrate the achievements that have brought us to this Jubilee milestone, it is equally exciting to look to the future. 2026 marks the third year of the school's five-year infrastructure expansion.

By 2028, we hope to have completed the seismic upgrade of all existing buildings, along with a new library, health centre and latrines, and nine new classrooms and laboratories for senior secondary school students aged 16–18.



Because of Ladakh's increasingly frequent and heavy rainfall, new buildings and upgraded classrooms will have a sloping metal roof, replacing the flat mud design that is no longer suited to Ladakh's weather conditions, as seen in these photos. To bring this stage of the school's development to completion, we would greatly appreciate your support and funding

Celebrating the diversity of extra-curricular activities

Besides the mandatory academic subjects set out by the Central Board of Secondary Education, extra-curricular activities are an important part of school life. In celebration of this, we showcase here and overleaf images of some of these.



Being a leader

Every organised activity needs a leader. Leadership is ability to motivate people, to take up a task and do it well. Wherever people have to work together leadership becomes necessary and important. Whether it is for minding a class or managing a cricket team or for running a government or putting a man on the moon, leaders are necessary. Only a few people become national leaders, but all of us have opportunities to be a leader in some area or the other. Leadership is a skill. Like all other skills, this too has to be developed. Now is the right time to develop your leadership skills. Let's get inspired by leaders around us.

Jigme Chusket, age 12 .



Extra-curricular activities continued

More of the extra-curricular activities enjoyed by students over the years above and beyond their mandatory academic subjects.



The colours of the world

What is the colour of the world? Actually on the globe and the map the colours are green and blue. If we look towards the village it is very colourful. Trees are green the sky is blue with white and grey clouds, mountains are brown and houses are white and yellow!

Now the city is even more colourful. Roads are grey and black and vehicles on them are all colours of the rainbow!

Towards evening the skies are radiant and blush with colours of crimson and gold! In winter, the mountains shine in the light of snow, a mysterious shade of white!

Is the world really as colourful as it looks? Or, green, brown and blue as on a map.

Jigmet Lundup, age 14.



Our place in space

A city may seem like a big place. But most cities are tiny compared to the whole nation. Countries are smaller than the continents. And all the continents cover less than one third of our planet – the huge thing called Earth. So, when we try to imagine that Earth is just one out of the countless celestial bodies in this vast Universe, it makes one reach at wit's end to imagine the size of the Universe. Always remember that we are all part of this infinite Universe and we have a reason to feel special.

Stanzin Thinles, age 14.

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