

# Friends of Taktse *UPDATE*

Taktse International School  
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[www.taktse.org](http://www.taktse.org)

## Thank-you Edition February 2022

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### Academic Excellence in the Face of Adversity *by Dawa Lahmu Yolmo, Upper School Divisional Head*

Like every educational institution, Taktse prides itself on academic excellence. But what makes us even more proud of our results in 2021 is the fact that they were achieved despite arduous constraints imposed on us by the pandemic. In 2021,

our Grade 10 students in the Cambridge International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) program had to overcome many uncertainties and hurdles to prepare for their exam. A year of only online learning followed by preparing for the IGCSE exam in the hostel away from the comfort of home and family, and adhering to rules to ensure that they were all safe and secure - the tenth graders did it all. The teachers had to shift in with them in the hostel too as the world plunged into more uncertainties and even the daily commute from home to school posed a threat to the security of everyone.

In addition to the physical challenges we faced, we also had to contend with deep emotional and psychological turmoil. Hence, when the results for the exams were announced in January 2022 we were tremendously relieved and gratified. The results represent our achievement for the year, but what we are most excited about is the fact that all our students not only went in and did well, but they produced one of the best IGCSE results that Taktse students have ever attained. Three of them – Riga Yousal, Madhabi Deuri and Dechen Tamang – received straight A's in all the subjects. This is definitely something in which we take great pride, but at the same time we are very proud of the individual successes that all these students achieved in spite of the extra difficulties imposed on them by the pandemic.

Creative, critical thinking is the focus at Taktse. While excellent teaching and learning doesn't always align with superlative test scores, it is gratifying when it does. The entire Taktse community congratulates these students on their outstanding achievements!

Click [HERE](#) for a short video about Taktse.



Click [HERE](#) for a short video about IGCSE results.

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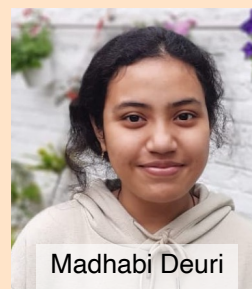
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*Thank you Mr. Namgyal, and to all who contributed to this newsletter!*



Riga Yousal

Syllabus Title	Result
Information & Communication	A
Literature in English	A
Biology	A
Physics	A
First Language English	A
Chemistry	A
Mathematics	A



Madhabi Deuri

Syllabus Title	Result
Information & Communication	A
Biology	A
Physics	A
Chemistry	A
Literature in English	A
First Language English	A
Mathematics	A



Dechen Tamang

Syllabus Title	Result
Chemistry	A
Economics	A
Mathematics	A
Information & Communication	A
Literature in English	A
First Language English	A
History	A



## Parents' Impressions of Taktse

**Q:** Why did you choose to send your child to Taktse?

**A:** We wanted a different experience, unlike the orthodox traditional schools in the region. Taktse had a family feel – small and closely knit. We thought that if we sent our children to boarding school at Taktse, they would be well taken care of. The faculty members we met made us feel comfortable. Teachers were called by their names, and seemed to work together with students without a formal hierarchy. Taktse felt like a second home for our child.

**Q:** What do you remember your child telling you about their Taktse days?

**A:** Loved the field trips, such as rice planting, Bookaroo, and Young Leaders Retreat

Loved the sports culture at Taktse, especially when Taktse became the inter-school basketball champions.

Loved the summer trips to the United States and the connections with U.S. schools such as Gann Academy and Waring School.

**Q:** What changes did you notice in your child after they joined Taktse?

**A:** Huge growth from Primary to High School. Problem solving, asking questions, ability to reason out things. Writing skills are strong.

**Q:** How was your own school experience different from your child's experience at Taktse?

**A:** My Orthodox Christian missionary school:

- Rigid hierarchy, super disciplined.
- Had to do a lot of cleaning and lot of chores.
- Bullying was a big issue.
- Compulsory sports.
- Rote learning, and many exams.
- Teacher is always right.

Taktse:

- Very holistic
- Small school: student/teacher ratio was very good
- Student centric
- Students given a lot of attention, good bonding between students and teachers.

**Q:** How different would your child have been if he/she hadn't gone to Taktse?

**A:** Very submissive and obedient  
Less articulate and able to reason  
Less command of English (reading and writing)



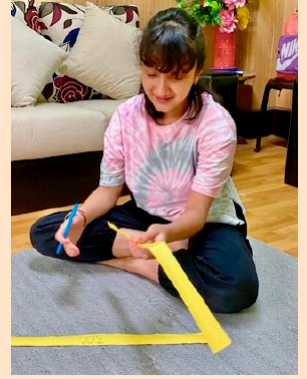


## Learning about geometry at home

Mr. Sonam Pradhan, Middle School math teacher, introduced a unique and fun home project to reinforce the concept of angles to the 6th graders. The student makes a large protractor on the floor underneath a door. Whenever the door opens, the student gets exposed to the concept of angles and degrees. This project also helps the student to understand and identify various types of angles such as acute angles, right angles, and obtuse angles.

Check out these two videos made by Lolakshi Sinha and Knorsel Gensapa:

<https://youtube.com/shorts/kakX490Xvsg?feature=share> and <https://youtu.be/ZWjWgsmZues>



## Educators Wanted

Are you an experienced educator?

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Rinchen Pakhrin at:  
[rinchen.pakhrin@taktse.org](mailto:rinchen.pakhrin@taktse.org)

## Newsletter Archive

To see past issues of the Friends of Taktse *UPDATE*, click [HERE](#).



Students explain Taktse's rigorous Covid hygiene practices in this short video. To watch the video, click [HERE](#).





Photo credit: Ms. Shreya Lama



The Taktse Board of Directors, faculty, staff and students are deeply grateful to the following donors for their generous support over the past year. We also acknowledge the generosity of the many in-kind donors, especially His Holiness the late Dodrupchen Rinpoche, and past donors, whose support has contributed so much to our success.

If you gave to Taktse in 2021 and don't see your name listed here, please accept our apologies and send us an email at [lonnie.friedman@comcast.net](mailto:lonnie.friedman@comcast.net).

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☆ Also gave in 2020

