



ANNUAL REPORT

2019 - 2020



THE
GATEWAY
SCHOOL OF
MUMBAI

THE KESHAVAL V. BODANI EDUCATION FOUNDATION

MESSAGE FROM THE SCHOOL

It has been a truly unique and memorable year for Gateway and indeed every educational institution. We started 2019 like every other year, diving into our everyday lives as educators, catering to the needs of our students and the community at large. We organized events, field trips, teacher training programmes and continued with our research and outreach activities that are at the core of our school's philosophy. But as we marched ahead into our final term, nobody imagined that the world was about to change.

Gateway has faced many challenges over the years, come out on top and changed for the better. Our vision and mission have been to transform the landscape of special education, so we know better than anyone what it means to have to carve our own path. But we felt backed up against the wall when the notice came to close school overnight, with no certainty of when we could reopen.

How do we conduct virtual learning with our students? How could we possibly optimize learning for students who thrive on movement, need routine and structure, and benefit from the close interactions and multi-disciplinary inputs of team members? We were stumped. When we broke the news that we might have to close, there was silence. Virtual occupational therapy? You could have been asking us to fly to the moon.

But then something changed. Gateway mobilized as it has done in the past, and will continue to do as new challenges come our way. Ideas came pouring through and you could feel the excitement when you walked into a room. The next day, all homerooms had individualized plans for students, ready to kickstart the following week. That same enthusiasm and commitment continued as we reopened school virtually for the next academic year. The team started planning and conducting lessons and therapies virtually, to ensure that our students and parents continue to receive the highest level of education and support. The distance only brought us closer together as a school and community.

We are so grateful to our students, parents, team members, founders, and well-wishers. Thank you for continuing to believe in us and supporting us. None of this would be possible without you.



WHY ARE WE HERE?

7.8 Million
children with
disabilities

**40% of
Children**
with disabilities
have no access
to education

**1 in Every
2 Persons**
with disabilities
cannot read

WHO WE ARE

The Gateway School of Mumbai is a not-for-profit organisation, dedicated to empowering children with learning difficulties.



Children with learning difficulties lead productive lives and are contributing members of society

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Technology for Independence



Vihaan Chitnis loves drawing. With three original hand-drawn stories already to his credit, last year we integrated technology in the form of a digital drawing app on the iPad for Vihaan. Through the 1:1 Vihaan learned to synthesize the digital tools with the elements of art to create digital drawings. He can now independently use tools to render 2-D illustrations on his iPad and convert them into animations. The tech integration added an extended toolkit to Vihaan's creative endeavors.



Some of us may find it difficult to keep up with the advancement of technology and social media in particular. But young people are using social media more and more to express themselves. **Soham Sharda** has been making use of social media to express his ideas, personality and style. It also helps when he uses social media to demonstrate his learning, documented in his own unique way. Take for example the vlog that he created about a 2-day field trip to a village. He is on the constant lookout for creating content using technology that aids his own self-expression. He also uses technology creatively to interact with his peers, teachers and the world.



Arnav Sethna followed the writing process taught in Language where he would brainstorm a topic, revise and edit it, and add pictures to publish. He also came up with his 'Weekly Health Tips', where he would research a health concern that was either current or common and then share remedies via email with the teachers, students, and parents.



Swami, from our Lower School, was part of a Language remedial programme in school to support his writing and provide an outlet for his creative ideas. He was equipped with strategies like using a mind map to visually create a story. As virtual learning started, he took the opportunity to convert one of his stories into an online storybook using the Storyweaver platform. He created and uploaded original colourful illustrations of insect turned superheroes, and then completed the story online.

OUR GRADUATES TODAY

ANIRUDHA DESAI

Graduated in 2019 from 12th Grade

"After graduating from Gateway, I am doing my Bachelor's in Mass Media, and also an advanced 2 years course in VFX and animation. Gateway has been the core of my life, like an important part of my life. Gateway has always helped me a lot. It has given me an opportunity for the internship which has helped me to interact with random people with confidence and without any fear. I miss Gateway as it is family to me and has a cheerful environment always. Gateway is like a WOW moment to me! In future, I would like to work with organizations like Red Chillies, Pixel, Dreamworks, in the field of VFX and animation. I have already started my research for my future work and its requirements."



FARHAN DABHOIWALA

Graduated in 2019 from 10th Grade

"Right now I am pursuing my 11 grade (NIOS) in Jasudben M L School (Khar). I will be appearing for exams in July. Gateway prepared me to face the outside world a lot. It has taught me to work as a team, no matter how tough things go and no matter who you are paired with. I have learned to accept the team players and also to deal with new people. I have also learned to interact with new people out of my comfort zone. Gateway has helped me to organize my work properly. I miss my friends and teachers in Gateway. We do chat and speak sometimes. Teachers in Gateway have always supported me by prompting and helping me to get my focus back whenever I lost it. In the future I am planning to get someplace in the media, advertising and entertainment field."

STUDENT IMPACT

HIGH SCHOOL ARTS SHOWCASE

'The Rising City', by our High School students, was the first time ever that a drama-music showcase was performed at an external venue. The production saw our students perform four segments, set across four time periods, that highlighted the evolution and spirit of the maximum city, Mumbai.



SERVICE LEARNING PROGRAMME

Our Service Learning Programme continued with visits to schools every week, and other school students visiting our campus as well. What a spectacular example of collaboration with the community!



LEARNING IN AND WITH THE COMMUNITY

FIELD TRIPS

A 2-day field trip to Darewadi village in Ahmednagar district was organized to give the IGCSE students an out-of-class learning experience on water management techniques.

INTERSCHOOL FOOTBALL

For the first time ever, Gateway students participated in an inter-school football tournament at the tournament hosted by Vibgyor, Kharghar.



COMMUNITY HELPERS

As part of the unit on "Community and Community helpers", the HSAP Sr. students visited a post office in Deonar and interacted with the postmaster.



GRANDSTAND SHOWCASES

The Bombay Project + We Are The World - Students were given opportunities to take ownership for their own learning. They drove committees, collaborated, put in hours of research and practice to present two major showcases this year.



LANGUAGE ARTS WEEK

The Language and Arts teams collaborated to celebrate a schoolwide Language Arts Week. The objective was to experience diverse means of expression in Language and Art, which saw a week full of workshops, performances, talks and read-alouds by guests and in collaboration with the extended community.



SPORTS DAY

This year's event themed 'Sports for All' demonstrated a variety of new components where our students showcased skills ranging from Gymnastics to Yoga and were trained by external professionals in these areas.



STUDENT INTERNSHIP

Every year the students in the High School programme get an opportunity to experience internships to help build work readiness skills. Internships range from our in-house school cafe and radio show, to working with various organizations and independent firms. The partners at these sites look forward to having our students come in every week and the students also greatly benefit from this enriching experience.



To top it all, we had

100%

students successfully pass their board exams in 2019.



GATEWAY CARES

At Gateway, we follow a holistic approach to education, that along with academics gives equal importance to student and parent mental health and well-being. Our team of therapists and teachers provide timely emotional support and reinforcement, to encourage positive behaviours and actions among our students.

PARENT SUPPORT GROUPS

This year our parent community came together more than ever before to support and learn from each other as parents facilitated sessions to help us all overcome the many challenges life may throw our way.



PARENT WORKSHOPS

Among many workshops conducted through the year, one was organized by our social-emotional team. The facilitators spoke about "what" behaviour is, the "why" behind those behaviour, and ended by discussing "how" to support.



THERAPY OPEN HOUSE

Our therapists across departments - Social Emotional, Speech and Sensory-Motor- held an open house for lower & middle school parents. They shared the broad areas that each therapy supports the students with, and discussed Gateway's therapy modes.



COMMUNITY IMPACT

CAPACITY BUILDING

IN-HOUSE CAPACITY BUILDING

50% of our team participated in school outreach activities, such as mentoring and coaching external professionals, conducting workshops, hosting visits and debriefs, driving innovation as part of in-house task forces and the R&D team, and making presentations at conferences across India and internationally.



BOOK CLUB

We read 4 books this year, had between 25 to 35 people sign up for each book, with over 50% of sign-ups from external professionals.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (PDP)

In our second cohort of PDP, we had 49 external participants from over 15 institutions, participating in our 6-month long programme. Through our partnership with Gati, we received a grant from the Australian embassy that subsidized fees for teachers from low- and middle-income schools.



INTERNS AT GATEWAY

23 teacher trainees from various organizations including TISS, Teach For India, Hashu Advani, SNTD, spent 2-4 weeks of internship with us, observing classes, interacting with teachers and supporting teaching practices to enhance their own learning experiences.



"I interned at Gateway at various points during High School, and am now back here, interning as a college student. The reason I love coming back is because of the infectious positive environment. Gateway has taught me so much—both educational best practices and life lessons—that I will benefit from for years to come"

- Gayathri Meswani- Intern at The Gateway School of Mumbai

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Gateway continues to invest in research and development to support our students and the community at large.

MLU (MULTI-DISCIPLINARY LEARNING UNITS) INITIATIVE

Our most ambitious initiative yet has been to develop an integrated curriculum. Our curriculum attempts to integrate standards from Language, Social Sciences, Mathematics, Arts, Physical Education, and Therapy, in order to promote deeper understanding, emphasize critical thinking and creative problem solving. We're excited to see this kickstart in the academic year 2020-21.



TEACHER COACHING APP

Last year we had a school-wide rollout of our teacher coaching app. We will continue to develop and grow the app over the next couple of years, as an easy and efficient way to observe, assess and document teachers' practices. Thank you to our generous donor, The Amita Mehta Trust and family, for making this happen.

FABLe (FLUENCY ASSESSMENT FOR BENCHMARKING IN LITERACY EDUCATION)

FABLe, India's first mobile app that assesses and builds foundational literacy skills, is live! FABLe is the product of 2 years of dedicated work by the team, and draws on 10 years of experience. We're in the process of partnering with schools for data collection. Thank you to our generous donors, Mr. Dharmendra and Bobby Deol, and Mr. Sanjay Kanungo; the Pangea team at Columbia Business School; Zaya, our tech partner; and our partner schools who continue to support us with this effort.



STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE

Gateway is being recognised for the work we are doing!

We continue to be recognised as an



Varsha Makhija was part of Government panel on **National Education Policy (NEP)**, advocating for kids with disabilities.



Dr. Radhika Misquitta was invited to be a speaker at a National Conference on **"Addressing Environmental Barriers and Universal Design"** organized by the Department of Special Education at SNTD, in collaboration with the National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities (NIEPMD)

GREAT PLACE TO WORK®

The Gateway School of Mumbai is proud to be certified as a Great Place to Work, and among the Top 10 NGOs in 2019! It is a recognition of our commitment to create a work environment that enables us to deliver to the best of our potential. A big hurrah to our founders, teachers, parents, staff and leadership team, who make this truly a great place to work, every day!



UNESCO REPORT

Gateway was featured in a research report commissioned by UNESCO, New Delhi and prepared by a team of researchers at Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS). The team from TISS asked Gateway to share a case study regarding the use of technology or assistive devices in schools.





PARTNERING FOR CHANGE!

Gateway's vision is to transform the landscape of special education. We cannot do this alone. We are partnering with organizations that will help us realise this vision.

SCHOOL IN INDORE

Our partnership with Shridha is in full swing! The Indore team was a part of our Professional Development Programme and also interned at Gateway for a few weeks. Our team made 3 visits to Indore and will continue to support them with their venture.



GATI

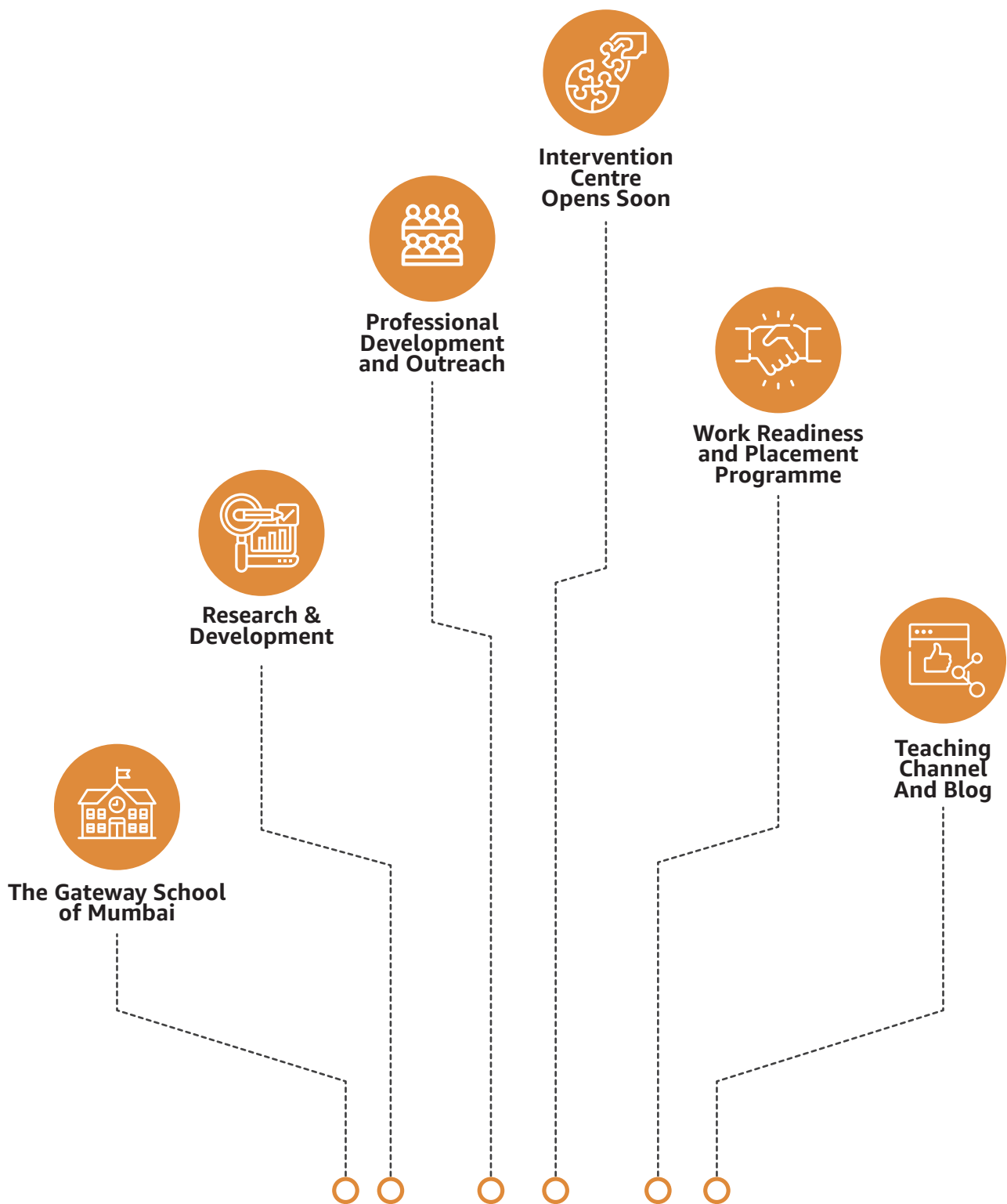
Gateway has partnered with like-minded organisations serving students with special needs through Gati, a consortium of organizations and schools driving inclusion. Together we have committed to supporting inclusion for low and middle-income schools in Mumbai.



ZAYA LEARNING LABS

Zaya Learning Labs is a product development organization that specializes in creating products for the education sector. We are happy to partner with them to develop education technology that benefits not only Gateway, but the field as a whole.





THE FUTURE FOR KESHAVLAL V. BODANI EDUCATION FOUNDATION

thank you

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