Does Steiner education work?

Former scholars from our schools in the UK and around the world have their say:

“When approached by the news media and asked the question, ‘What did Waldorf education do for you?’ I replied, ‘It encouraged me to always strive to become a better human being.’” Jens Stoltenberg, Prime Minister of Norway.

“Steiner education has taught me to study for the sake of studying rather than to pass exams; the difference is crucial.” Dr. Christian Byrnes, Post-doctoral research student (Cosmology), CERN laboratory, Switzerland.

“Having a Steiner Education taught me how to think for myself, make my own choices and be responsible for my decisions. It gave me the tools to be able to relate to people, be adaptable, creative and sensitive to the needs of others.” Tara Brockelhurst of BNY Mellon, a leading global asset management and securities company.

“My Steiner school was an environment that nurtured free-thinking, well-rounded, passionate and positive young people.” Annielle Williams, Holder of the Prime Minister’s Award for National Civic Service.

“I am deeply grateful for Waldorf education, which woke me up and helped me rediscover my imagination.” Michael Ende, Author: “The Neverending Story”.

“The most important gift I and my children received from a Steiner education is an abiding and life-long interest in the world and how we can work together with our fellow human beings to improve it.” Professor Daniel T. Jones, Author, founder and chairman of the Lean Enterprise Academy.

“Possibly the most valuable aspect of Steiner education is learning to think independently and question everything from what the media tells us to the very nature of existence.” Julia Katarina, Mezzo-soprano and teacher, introducing music education into Palestinian West Bank schools.

“One of the greatest gifts of a Steiner education is a sense of proportion - I work in an industry with a lot of very large egos and a very low ethical standard (not a good combination). I feel privileged to be able to bring another world view into this milieu, and hopefully have some small positive effect. There is no doubt in my mind that a Steiner School education is an advantage, and not a barrier, in the world of ‘conventional’ careers.” JW, partner in a successful city securities firm.

“I have now returned as a parent to the Steiner school I attended and find myself a part of a socially pioneering community of parents and teachers, giving all they can to an establishment they truly believe in. This has been a very encouraging and humbling experience, and I wish more parents could feel as involved in their children’s education.” Eloi Cardon, builder, carpenter, father of two.

“When I applied to my local sixth form college the moment I mentioned I had been to Steiner school they became less interested in my GCSE grades and much more interested in giving me a place! The reputation of my Steiner school and the impression made by ex-Steiner students before me meant that the college was eager for more. They amazed me with their enthusiasm for Steiner students.” Graciella Woodger-Ray, promoter and publicist, world sailing championships.

“My advice to any parent would be to try and send their child to a Steiner school. It encompasses so much more than the traditional idea of education and gives you the ability to really view the world through your own eyes and ideas.” Lara Allen-Mepham, Arabist, student at London School of Oriental and African Studies.

“If I was to sum up in brief what Steiner gave me: it was attitude. I believe this to be the MOST important thing as you take it everywhere with you and it underpins everything you do. The courage to dream big and to follow those dreams with courage passion and integrity.” Yanto Barker, professional cyclist.

“My experience of nine years at a Steiner school was to have a significant and positive effect on my life. I arrived at my school an anxious and shy young boy, and left at 19 years old feeling quite confident and no longer anxious - but still rather shy.” Professor J. Pearce, Professor of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Nottingham University.

“I think the end result of Waldorf education is to raise our consciousness. There is a heightened consciousness of what our senses bring us from the world around us, about our feelings, about the way we relate to other people. It taught me how to think for myself, to be responsible for my decisions. Second, it made me a good listener, sensitive to the needs of others. And third, it helped establish meaningful beliefs.” Kenneth Chenault, Chairman and CEO of American Express.

For more testimonials visit our website: www.steinerwaldorf.org.