

Pips Rudd

In hindsight it is clear that I was always going to come to the land of Saris, henna and bright colours.

Born in Zimbabwe, but schooled in South Africa, while travelling during my holidays to visit my parents in East Africa I thrived off the contrast offered by different places. Being African, the sun, bright colour and warm people, have always been an appreciated feature of life.

Impatient to see more of the world, I travelled with one of my closest friends for a year in between school and university, acquiring a TEFL (teaching English as a Foreign Language) certificate before our departure. My undergraduate degree in Media Studies and Religious studies was no less fun than our year abroad and it was refreshing to take life a little more seriously when I discovered my love for teaching. My Postgraduate Degree in Education was a rewarding year. After qualifying I toyed with the idea of doing substitute teaching in the UK, where my parents have relocated, but it wasn't long before the sun called me to Spain to practise my English teaching. Clear that it was time to live my Indian dream I spent the next ten months as a classroom teacher covering teachers' leave in schools in Oxford and now here I am.

Aikyam has been a great contrast to my experience in the classrooms in the UK and summer camps in Spain. While I enjoyed teaching in the UK, the contented sounds of happy children in and outside the classroom and on the sports grounds here at Aikiyam cannot compare. What a treat it is to teach such eager and curious little people. It is hard not to be sucked into this school because there's a constant sense of greatness displayed in every area. Each staff member takes their role extremely seriously and everyone seems keen to learn and help each other. With this openness to the exchange of ideas, there is massive potential everywhere you look. I couldn't think of a better teaching environment, when there is lots of teaching going on but equal learning...yes please! Chance circumstances or destiny, it doesn't matter. Here I am and I feel I am exactly where I am meant to be, for now.