



29 October 2015

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I have had the pleasure of working with Anna Marie McAleer for nearly five years. We appointed her from Branksome Hall in Toronto Canada. She came highly recommended as an educator and mentor.

During her tenure at our school she very quickly became a team leader and accepted responsibility when opportunity arose. Anna Marie's tenacity, organisational skills and 'big picture' view of learning was invaluable in supporting teachers to raise literacy standards school wide. Her attention to detail, knowledge of the trans-disciplinary nature of literacy and planning of professional development for staff was impressive.

Another example of her leadership, which has had a major impact on student engagement, was the facilitation of the formative assessment project team. Anna Marie's knowledge around how students best learn was a driver for major change in school-wide assessment and reporting procedures. Her infectious enthusiasm coupled with the frontloading of appropriate research has enabled our school to plot our own professional needs on a comprehensive matrix and has become an important component of our performance management programme.

Anna Marie's knowledge and expertise in the IB Primary Years Programme has made her a very popular workshop leader. She is able to bring the programme into context with a clarity that teachers find meaningful and manageable. She is able to respond to teacher needs in a non-judgmental manner, which teachers have described as both encouraging and inspiring.

The greatest asset that Anna Marie brings to her leadership is the empathy that she has for all learners. Her ability to get the best out of people is honest. She is comfortable setting expectations and scaffolding them through to success. This applies equally to University student teachers as it does for pupils and colleagues. Learners develop agency through a learning environment that is always differentiated and collaborative.

Anna Marie is very professional and a person with a positive disposition. She is just as comfortable having an academic debate in a University lecture theatre as she is in relating to a parent who has concerns about a child's learning. She has wide interests outside of education that enhance the work she does within education.

I have no hesitation in recommending Anna Marie to a senior role in any school with the knowledge that she will make a difference. She will be loyal and I have no doubt that one day, if she chooses, she will become a Principal.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Owen Alexander". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Owen Alexander
Principal