

25<sup>th</sup> January 2019

To Whom It May Concern;

Re: James Andrew Hartson

I met James at the beginning of 2018 and he made an immediate impression upon me for a number of reasons. He was focused in his learning efforts, however, it was his character and attention to detail in so many areas of his life that was the most striking. James is a lovely young man that is leaving no stone unturned in his efforts to embrace the experience afforded to him at Caulfield Grammar School. James' reflective capacity and calm nature allow him to fully engage with both staff and students in a mature and proactive manner. James is a forward thinker and enjoys the challenge of seeking to be his 'best self' in every facet of his life. James is easy company, has a strong sense of purpose, a light hearted sense of humour and is willing to be involved in all aspects of a school community.

James was very successful in his learning habits in his first year of VCE studies. He was required to change two of his subjects in order to meet the subject criteria to qualify for tertiary study in the USA. He did this with grace and a real sense of purpose. He was initially nervous about the increase in workload associated with his subject change that occurred quite late in the semester, however, he focused his attention during class time and private study periods, accessed his teachers frequently and sought assistance from his peers in a dedicated effort to get up to speed on the content and skills required in Biology and Psychology.

A key component of James' skills set is his ability to navigate negative social pressures in order to remain focused on his learning and broader responsibilities in a mature, responsible and measured manner. His selective attention capacity, moral imperative to do the 'right thing' and desire to make the most of opportunities means he doesn't suffer fools lightly and can see past the immediate buzz of the situation to think things through with the bigger picture in mind.

My relationship with James was mainly within the confines of the classroom, however, the connection was strengthened upon the discovery of our mutual enjoyment and understanding of tennis. A player of 30 years myself, it was thrilling to have a high level tennis player in my classroom. Arriving to work early I would find James hitting on the tennis courts in preparation for the APS Tennis season and also for the many tournaments that he competes in throughout the year. His Caulfield Grammar School team mates adore him and are very pleased that he has been named as the First Tennis Captain for 2019.

James would be a magnificent asset to your team and would embrace the opportunity in a responsible, respectful, energetic and grateful manner. He is responsive to feedback and is constantly seeking to improve himself, his situation and the outcomes of those around him. He is exceedingly organised and very committed to the tasks required of him. James has the ability to truly embrace the opportunities offered to him and is very skilled at making the most of situations. When he enjoys an activity he is fully committed to the experience and when he is challenged by a situation he is not shy in rolling up his sleeves and trudging through the task to get it done. James is very approachable and positive. He smiles a lot and enjoys being involved in all forms of physical activities, team building tasks and community engagement sessions. James is equally enthusiastic about spending time in his own company. He can be trusted to complete tasks in a timely, coordinated and very thorough manner without constant supervision and he is very professional in his dealings with staff and members of the wider school community.

James would wholeheartedly embrace a tennis scholarship in the US college system and would represent his school with the highest regard and humility. I cannot advocate for this lovely young man highly enough.

Sincerely,

Peta Millard

Head of Archer House & Physical Education Teacher  
Caulfield Grammar School