



18 March 2011

**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN**

Dear Sir / Madam

**Open Reference in Support of Dale Buckland**

Dale has provided Hadden Park with a valuable service linking us with other schools, colleges, universities and businesses over a number of years. He has a professional yet approachable manner and successfully brings organisations together. Dale has been a significant factor in helping bring about community cohesion and the mutual understanding of business, higher and further education and statutory schooling. Dale understands the benefit that schools and their students get from working with colleges, universities and both small and large businesses but is also clear about the advantages for those organisations of working with schools. This clarity of thought and understanding puts Mr Buckland in a strong position and enables him to help put in place the appropriate activities to provide mutual advantage to all parties.

Experience has also taught Dale what is likely to 'work' for schools, colleges or universities meaning time and effort can often be saved in ensuring that both stimulating and 'profitable' activities are put in place. Winning and successfully completing a place as a Sinnott Fellow allowed Dale to share his experience and expertise with twenty of the most successful colleagues in this area of work from across the country whilst applying academic rigour, scrutiny and evaluation to their work. Dale was able to shine in what was a competitive environment in turn validating both his practice and his ideas.

Links with businesses including Eversheds, e-On, Clegg Construction and Experian have provided both Hadden Park and our community of schools with valuable life and business insights whilst providing the companies with a natural route to some of the community links they were seeking. Being able to communicate effectively with Managing Directors, one-man business owners, teachers, headteachers, parents and students effectively has meant the often too lengthy process of making things happen has been considerably reduced. Dale is a thorough planner and good organiser but then will ensure that everyone gets on with the things.

Providing the conduit between schools, higher education, further education and businesses is often blocked by the inability of one party to understand the needs or demands of another Mr Buckland has proved by results that he can make communication effective and ensure that successful activity follows.

Cont/...

**The Hadden Park Co-operative Learning Partnership**

New College Nottingham 



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Headteacher - Gareth Owen

The variety of experience that Dale has built from working with New College Nottingham, both Nottingham Universities a group of local primary schools, as well as working on projects across the city's secondary schools, means that his educational insight is the ideal foundation for community / school/ business links.

Dale has been able to provide for Hadden Park and its students with valuable insights into the world of work, higher and further education providing a real lift in ambition and significantly empowering pupils in making the most of their life chances. Equally, businesses and colleges have repeatedly reported the benefits to their organisations of working 'inside' schools on well planned and carefully structured activities put in place by Dale.

Concrete examples of the tangible benefits Dale has brought to Hadden Park include;

- (i) Dale leading the work to ensure the number of pupils staying in education rises, almost doubling under his tenure.
- (ii) Dale has worked hard to ensure that pupils generally aim high and the particular cohorts he has targeted have out-performed the already rapidly improving Hadden Park average.
- (iii) Dale has and earned a glowing reputation for the school in our work with Nottingham Trent University on their summer school for 14 year olds.

Examples of the benefit of Dale's work to Universities and FE settings include;

- (i) Organising, supervising and managing the placement of more than 100 university students into Hadden Park in recent years.
- (ii) Being a regular speaker to graduate and under graduate events as diverse as the annual awards ceremony for student associates to the Pro-Bono group at Nottingham University Law School.

In the wider community Dale has demonstrated success in areas such as;

- (i) Bringing together primary schools, local employers and parents to facilitate careers / aspiration days for whole school special event days.
- (ii) Instigating and co-ordinating a marketing group with pupils from secondary schools across the city to work with local industries to produce high quality publicity material for 'Aim Higher'. This work winning national recognition.

Yours faithfully



Gareth Owen  
Headteacher

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