

16 July 2004

## **Open Reference on Mr. Robert Clarke**

Holland Park is a large, comprehensive, county secondary school in inner-city London of 1500 students from a broad range of cultures and backgrounds.

Rob took up the post of Independent Learning Co-ordinator at Holland Park School in February 2003. This was a newly created position which Rob was able to interpret and lead however he wanted. He made an immediate positive impression with both staff and students: Rob has highly developed interpersonal communication skills which he used to excellent effect in establishing the tone and ethos of the refurbished school library.

He has enabled students to reflect critically on their own learning skills in special workshops that he devised and led after school. Often Rob has led classes, normally about meta-learning or planning, assessment and evaluative skills, during the normal school day: he teaches with warmth, humour and authority. Rob's classroom management skills are very good. Additionally, he has designed a number of innovative learning opportunities which have been highly respected by the local education authority.

Rob has made a significant contribution to the school's learning culture: he has improved the PSHE subject area by implementing key learning resources and staff training, written substitute ASDAN modules which have been accredited and serve as models to other schools, he has provided self-written workbooks to all the examined years in the school, and played an invaluable and hugely successful role in launching e-learning and e-revision amongst our students.

Staffing in the library has unavoidably changed several times but Rob has dealt with this both professionally and effectively. He has established a number of partnerships thanks in part to his outstanding ICT skills. He has the ability to lead and be part of a team. His attendance and punctuality are exemplary.

In sum, I can recommend Rob to you with no hesitations whatsoever.

Yours sincerely,



Michael Ribton

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