



ARDINGLY COLLEGE
HAYWARDS HEATH
SUSSEX
RH17 6SQ

Tel: Ardingly 892577 (01444)

Fax: Ardingly 892266 (01444)

Reference for Richard BG McSharry

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Richard came to Ardingly from Reed's School, North Yorkshire, on a one-year contract as Acting Head of IT in September 1993 while I was on sabbatical. It was a position which involved considerable responsibility throughout the school, demanding versatility and a proactive management style. Richard's role involved the following areas of responsibility:

- hardware and software purchasing, installation, maintenance
- network management and trouble-shooting
- staff training
- classroom teaching
- budgetary control of expenditure

Richard's remit was to "keep the department ticking over" until my return. Although no provision had been made for expenditure on hardware, Richard persuaded the Board of Governors to double the number of PC's in the school (to 50), installed a network and server and also completed an analysis of staff and management's information requirements regarding the school's 500+ pupils. From this he implemented a database to support that requirement.

Richard was transferred to a permanent position at the end of the year as Head of IT for the Junior School, where he also doubled the number of computers and introduced the teaching of IT from year 5. He simultaneously introduced IT at GCSE level, teaching the course in his own time and achieving a 100% pass rate (90% A+/A grades). Richard thus achieved the teaching of IT throughout the school from year 5 to 13. He was also involved in the Headmaster's initiative to equip all pupils with laptops by the year 2000, one of the first school's in Europe to implement such a policy.

Richard's other responsibilities included the teaching of Business Studies at A'Level, General Science at GCSE and being a tutor to 18 pupils. He was also heavily involved in the pastoral side of the school as both a Senior Resident Tutor and Assistant Housemaster. He also found time to coach a Soccer and Cricket team and to organise the school's annual May Ball.

I cannot recommend Richard highly enough. His presentation and communication skills are excellent and he shows a commitment to his responsibilities beyond what is expected of him. He will be a considerable asset in any workplace.

GFNoble
Gerry Noble, Head of IT
20th July 1995