



August 12, 2015

Reference for Darren Periera

To whom it may concern

Darren has worked with our school community for approximately three years. He has delivered his targeted programmes to various groups including staff and parents but his main focus has been with students. Latterly, Darren has worked specifically with our Pasifika students. His impact has been significant and resulted in vastly improved outcomes for these students. Pleasingly, student individual NCEA grades improved over time on average but equally satisfying was the clear shift in student attitude and approach to learning and life.

Darren's direct involvement and leadership in various student camps, Hui and Fono has been majorly influential in improving achievement, progress and engagement. His work is not just inspirational and motivational but practical as well. The skills and habits taught have equipped the students to prepare for challenges ahead of them. The regular feedback we receive from the students is always positive and they often report anecdotally of the genuine care he has of them as individuals. We have many examples of student success that they directly attribute to their interaction and involvement with Darren.

Darren's programmes are rich in content and have been carefully designed to challenge individuals on many levels. He takes the time to individualise his programmes to best suit the needs of the students and the school. They are delivered with a strong level of passion and sincerity which the students acknowledge as 'real'. Some of the topics he delivers are hard hitting and provoking which challenge students to break through invisible barriers and to make something of themselves. Topics include 'challenging stereotypes'; 'breaking limiting beliefs'; 'study skills' and 'accountability'.

As a school we have found some real synergy with Darren's programme and our collective aspirations to lift student achievement at Howick College.

L. Ropati

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Principal