

Re: Frankie O'Leary

To whom it may concern

Please find a reference below for Frankie O'Leary (d.o.b 20/10/2007).

Balcarras is an 11-18 non-selective comprehensive school on the outskirts of Cheltenham. Frankie joined the Sixth Form in Year 12 in September 2024. He is currently on track to secure very strong A-Level results and has continued to impress consistently following his outstanding Year 11 progress, in both his academic progress and attainment, and the broader contribution he has made to the school community.

Frankie's determination to pursue a sports scholarship at a college in the USA, specializing in association football (soccer), is one we fully support and endorse. Frankie has a very strong record of excellence and success, and his record of honours is impressive. Frankie received the Bishops Cleeve u18 Players player award in 2024-2025. Prior to this, he received Gloucester City FC u15 Players Player Award in 2022-2023.

Frankie has also been an integral member of his teams' successes in recent years. At representative level, Frankie represented the Gloucestershire Schools' Football Association County team who were crowned South-West County Schools Champions u16 in 2023-2024. At club level, Frankie was a key member of the Bishops Cleeve u18 Cheltenham Youth Football League Floodlit Cup Winners in 2023-2024, and the Cheltenham Youth Football League u18 Floodlit Champions also in 2023-2024. More recently, Frankie was again a core member of the Bishops Cleeve u18 team who were crowned the Gloucestershire Football Association u18 County Cup champions in 2024-2025. Frankie has also had success in his experience of adult football, playing a significant role in Bishops Cleeve Reserves becoming the Hellenic Division Two West Champions in 2024-2025.

Frankie's commitment to sports and his record of achievement is not limited to football, having represented Cheltenham in Gloucestershire County Athletics Cross Country Race in 2022.

From an academic perspective, Frankie has also excelled. At GCSE level, Frankie achieved 9 GCSE passes at Grade 7 to Grade 9, including a Grade 9 in PE, and 9-8 in Combined Science. Frankie was awarded with History Prize in Year 11 en-route to securing a Grade 9 in History also, and his superb performance across his GCSEs saw Frankie Awarded with Outstanding GCSE Performance Prize in Year 12.

Frankie's unwavering commitment to academic excellence has continued to be seen in his approach to his studies in Year 11. In A-Level PE, his teachers commend him as a polite and enthusiastic young man with an evident talent and passion for sport. He has an in-depth knowledge in all areas in PE and has been able to understand and apply more complex anatomical theory this year. As part of the Non-Examined Assessment (NEA) component for A-Level

PE Frankie has shown an in-depth understanding of the knowledge and key tactical principles that enable a performer to be successful in sport. Frankie's ability to analyze and evaluate player performances in Football has helped to further develop his own knowledge of the game, which has resulted in some notable performances whilst representing the Schools' First XI this season, in addition to contributing to his record of success at club level.

Frankie is a talented and hard-working Biology student. His commitment to his studies is evident in his high-quality homework responses and pleasing test scores. He works hard and collaboratively in class, keeping his focus on the task in hand and answering plenty of verbal questions and making insightful contributions to class discussions. He shows a high level of understanding of even the most complicated processes we have studied this year and has shown particular interest and strength in the anatomy and physiology topics that we have covered. Frankie has excellent practical skills and can use a range of apparatus carefully and accurately. He is also adept at planning practical approaches and selecting the appropriate apparatus to use. His maths skills are strong, and he does well in data-handling tasks. He works well as part of a team and is equally adept at taking a leadership role as he is at taking direction from others - he is a true "team player."

In Psychology, Frankie is praised for being hard working, conscientious and articulate. His Psychology work is consistently produced to a very high standard and shows a high level of understanding of complex psychological concepts. Frankie is a confident and astute psychologist. Verbally, he expresses his ideas with clarity and eloquence and is often seen taking a leadership position within class discussion. Furthermore, his essay writing is outstanding. He can construct compelling arguments with elegance, demonstrating his inherent curiosity and critical thinking skills. He is also adept at handling data. He is quick to grasp complex statistical concepts and regularly applies these to novel stimulus material presented to him. Frankie shows a high level of understanding of the scientific underpinnings of psychology, and this is often manifested in the way he scrutinizes research evidence, analyzing the implications of specific research methods and design decisions. He has shown particular interest and competence when studying biological aspects of the course, whether describing the impact of the endocrine system on behaviour or analyzing the impact of atypical cortical function on clinical conditions.

In addition to being a student of the highest calibre, who consistently demonstrates good knowledge, skills and understanding in all his studies, Frankie is also firmly committed to the school community and pursues numerous extra-curricular interests. A fantastic ambassador for the school, Frankie was elected as his House's Sports Captain in Year 11, and more recently acted superbly as a student ambassador in the school's Sixth Form Open Evening. It comes as no surprise that Frankie has also applied to be a member of the Sixth Form Leadership Team for the coming academic year.

Yours sincerely,



D. Leatherbarrow

Head of Sixth Form