

Headmaster: Mr Geoffrey Stanford

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Dear Sir/Madam,

It is my pleasure to write this letter recommending James Muir. Although I have only met him recently in my capacity as US Applications Coordinator, he has made a positive impression as a polite, driven young man who is determined to continue his football career while studying Finance and Economics in the United States. I have spoken with all of teachers and gathered their comments for the letter below.

Themes for James amongst all his teachers are that he is a hard-working, dedicated, and thoughtful student who is not afraid to go the extra mile to ensure that he meets with success. In the 9th and 10th grades, James took a range of GCSE courses at our school, and was consistently reported to be a student who unfailingly worked to deadlines and who reliably completed work to a high standard. He was praised for his excellent work ethic in Mathematics and his careful attention to re-drafts (and feedback given therein) in his English literature coursework, while in Chemistry his teacher highlighted his willingness to engage in class discussions, even if he was not sure of the correct answer, a characteristic she felt was uncommon amongst students who otherwise are afraid of taking risks.

In 11th grade, where James has chosen to study Economics, Mathematics and History at A-level, he continues to impress with his attitude to learning and quality of work. He excels at Economics, where his teacher writes that 'he is a diligent student who appears totally committed to making a success of his A level studies.' He averages in the A* range for work in the subject, and scored 100% recently on public goods and externalities, putting him in an excellent position to excel in the summer exams in 2027. James has always identified History as a particular interest, and his enthusiasm and commitment show, where his teacher remarks that he is working 'with real intent this term' and that 'his questions in class are thoughtful and show that he's actively trying to deepen his understanding.' His work this year on the USA in the 19th century module has been a mix of A and A* graded essays, 'reflecting both consistent quality and moments of real analytical distinction.' He is equally working hard in Mathematics, where his attention to detail and focus in lessons where he is often the first to complete a problem or exercise impress his teachers. He has shown a real flair for the Mechanics side of the course where 'he can model real life problems and then interpret his answers in the context of the question;' he achieved a 94% in his end of year exam on this topic.

Outside the classroom, James is a positive member of our school community. Throughout the 9th-11th grades he has putting great effort into his football, playing for the school team in addition to his club and county, and supporting his athletic drive with attendance at Strength and

Conditioning Club. He also attends Economics Society, and as a 9th and 10th grader participated in Debating Club, the latter which admittedly stretched his interest and intellect, but which he enjoyed nonetheless and testifies to his willingness to put himself in uncomfortable situations in order to broaden his understanding and scope of participation. He has also helped some of our 6th graders with sporting activities and is considered to be a positive role model for younger year groups, with whom he meets on a weekly basis with our Tutor sets. Finally, he ran the 'Feeding Families' winning team at Christmas, gathering an incredible amount of food for a good cause and demonstrating his commitment to participating and contributing to his very best in all situations; he was specifically praised for being a 'natural leader' and for understanding 'the value of subtle communication and he does spend most of his time listening rather than talking. As a wise head on young shoulders, he has an incredible skill-set to offer.'

James' teachers and I highly recommend James as a kind, mature, and academically able student, and I have no doubt that he will rise to any challenge put before him, whether that be in his academics, his university community, or his sports teams.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions.

Yours faithfully,

Laura Hope

Dr Laura Hope

US Applications Coordinator

RGS Newcastle

