

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: 11th May 2022.

MR. NISHANT CHAWDA

I am very pleased to be able to provide a reference in support of Mr. Nishant Chawda, who has been a member of the senior management team at the Surya Varsani Academy, Bhuj, Gujarat, India, since its foundation six years ago. Mr. Chawda is presently Vice Principal and Examinations Officer. The SVA is a Cambridge International school, delivering British curriculum courses up to Advanced (Grade 12) level.

Perhaps first a few words regarding my own background – I retired from teaching and school management four years ago and am now lead consultant for MK Consulting (an educational consultancy), located in the Republic of Seychelles.

Prior to this I accrued more than 40 years of educational experience; teaching, managing departments, faculties and schools (state and international). I spent 22 years as Principal of schools delivering UK and Cambridge international curricula. I also trained teachers and student teachers, and carried out inspection and advisory work in UK schools.

I continue to hold the position of visiting Director of Education at the Surya Varsani Academy.

Mr. Chawda is an essential and effective school manager, fully conversant with Cambridge ideology alongside CBSE and other Indian domestic education and assessment systems. He was fully involved in the Academy's original accreditation process and appreciates and understands the supporting pedagogy of Cambridge Assessment International Education. Within this context Mr. Chawda has worked closely with me on the formulation and ongoing revision of discrete school policy frameworks. During the first five years of the Academy's progression Mr. Chawda has been integral to all management and school development issues.

His subject specialism is Computing and Information Technology, a responsibility which expanded during the recent pandemic to incorporate remote teaching and learning methodologies. He is, beyond question, an accomplished and successful teacher as well as a role model for colleagues, particularly those who aspire to leadership positions. He is exceptionally hard working and approaches all aspects of his demanding job with versatility, invention and efficacy.

Pertinent to his decision to leave the Academy is his open and welcoming approach to new initiatives in schools. He follows developments domestically and internationally both within and outside his subject specialism. Nishant Chawda is an exceptional educationalist who consistently strives to improve himself further and thereby raise standards in his school. This symbiosis - which connects his personal professional development with the progress of his school - makes Mr. Chawda a particularly important player within the community. He is generous with his expertise and is always happy to assist colleagues one on one or through group 'cascade' events. In this context Mr. Chawda has been an invaluable internal CPD resource.

His interaction with parents is consistently positive and he is known as a person who takes time to explain, reassure and, if required, persuade. Throughout my own interactions with him I have found him to be an excellent communicator and decision maker.

I believe that he will make a significant contribution to any forward-looking school. He is innovative, yet maintains a regard for proven methodology. He is ambitious, but rather more for his students than

himself, something I applaud. He is a creative and capable problem solver, thinking laterally and beyond paradigms, as well as 'on his feet'. He keeps calm at times of stress and is altogether a 'safe pair of hands'. He has experience of managing and delivering a UK-based international curriculum within the context of a traditionally didactic national approach to schooling, something which I would identify as a particular strength at a time when India – along with many other nations - is having to recalibrate its fundamental education templates in response to a future that is increasingly difficult to define with confidence and accuracy.

In view of the above, and being cognisant of Mr. Chawda's additional personal qualities (an excellent sense of humour, sense of collegiality and dedication and loyalty) I support any application he might make for a senior management position without hesitation or reservation. Since this is a generic reference, and not institutionally specific, I invite you to contact me directly using the contact information below should you require anything further.

Martin Kennedy

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