



September 23, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to write a letter of recommendation on behalf of David Deeds. This is my second year working closely with David, and it has been clear from the outset that he is an extremely dedicated, hard-working faculty member that is willing to go beyond what is expected of him both in and out of the classroom. He is a talented professional that has made incredible contributions to the Yew Wah Yantai campus, singlehandedly elevating our use of technology through his myriad initiatives throughout the last two years.

As a classroom instructor, David's goal is to empower students to use technology effectively by equipping them with the 21<sup>st</sup> century skills associated with IT. His classroom can best be described as *dynamic*, with students encouraged to explore and learn through collaboration and experimentation. After observing numerous lessons led by David, I could not help but notice the theme of guided self-discovery that permeated each learning experience. Students simply enjoy learning within these safe, exciting environments. His curriculum documentation is very organized and well-managed, and his courses are filled with formative checkpoints that allow students to analyze their own progress. His passion for teaching to each individual learner—especially ELL pupils—shines through in nearly every one of his teaching units because of his skillful use of monitoring, scaffolding, and differentiation.

Beyond the classroom, David has thrived in his role as technology coordinator, helping staff to understand, select, and utilize the latest technology tools available to improve their practice. David's recognition that each staff member is at a different point in their technology literacy has allowed him to effectively differentiate his technology integration program for adult learners. Because of this, he has given every educator at our school the opportunity to grow at a pace that is suitable to their needs, while also providing a variety of topics tailored to their interests. For example, this year David mentored me on how effectively implement the Learning Management System Haiku into my IGCSE 1 English class. He provided me 1-1 sessions, video lessons, helpful links, and review points so that I was able to utilize Haiku to its full potential. He also went out of his way to update me on features of the system that he found helpful as well. I know I am not the only one to benefit from his guidance and support either, as teachers routinely go to David for ideas about how to integrate technology into their lesson and unit planning. He is an expert in cutting-edge technologies such as virtual worlds, 3D printing and robots/drones. He is always willing to help others with their specific needs. As such, teachers rave about his kindness and patience when explaining new technologies



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Finally, David has sought to help our program link up with other schools around the world and get involved in exciting global IT programs. Initiatives like *Connect with China* have allowed our students to interact with schools such as the Wilderness School of Adelaide, Australia. This once-in-a-lifetime experience left students extremely excited about speaking with other scholars all around the world. He also managed the very popular *Hour of Code* initiative, which allowed students to experiment with coding. He has also introduced Games-Based Learning via a variety of programs, including the very popular MinecraftEdu platform.

I wholeheartedly recommend David for a position at your academic institution. His enthusiasm and dedication has transformed YWIES-Yantai, and I am confident he will make positive contributions at your school. David is more than prepared for administrative positions such as Director or Manager of Technology. I know he is ideally interested in being either a full-time administrator or full-time teacher, not a combination of both again!

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me.

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