

From Andrew Putter  
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To whom it may concern

Testimonial for James Hilton-Barber

To Whom It May Concern,

I have known James since the beginning of 2016, and got to know him over two years in the context of a weekly creative class he attended regularly with me during that time.

There are so many positive things to say about James!

One of many areas in which James excels is in the world of technology. He's as comfortable with hardware as he is with software, and is as adept at understanding how things works as he is with using them creatively. There is hardly a major technical field – from information technology and social media, to video and photography, to sound and lighting – in which James is not totally at home.

James is inspiringly curious and self-motivated. Refusing to be limited by the often condescending attitudes many adults have for teenage creativity, James has confidently solicited opportunities to work creatively for important local brands, in various capacities, including as a young filmmaker. His fearless entrepreneurialism is heartening, and his openness to learning, experimental attitude and self-motivated approach to the world distinguish him as a young man to keep one's eye on.

Enriching James's technical and creative prowess are two complementary sets of character traits.

On the one hand, James can be counted on to bring careful conceptual analysis to what he finds himself involved in. He is always well-informed, critical and thoughtful. In short, James is a thinker.

On the other hand, James is very easy to work with. He's collaborative, generous and supportive, punctual and reliable. There have been so many times that I've relied on James's help and advice! One example springs immediately to mind: I once asked James if he'd like to teach the rest of his class how to make videos. His peers found his workshop accessible and inspiring, and some incredible work came out of that class as a result of James's teaching.

Needless to say, now that James heads out into the world beyond school, I will miss seeing James as a regular part of my week. I have no doubt that this brilliant young man will go on to do even greater things, and consider myself lucky to have had the rare chance to be reminded – through him – just how much a teenager is capable of.

James has my wholehearted recommendation for whatever he decides to put his mind to.

Please be in touch if you need more information, or if you'd like to chat!

With warm wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Putter".

Andrew Putter  
Director of Putter School