

**Letter of recommendation for Kudana Gwatidzo**

Kudana is in my Cambridge Advanced Level Chemistry class this year, before this he was in my IGCSE chemistry class. I have thus known him for more than 2 years and in this time gotten to know him very well. He is an excellent student of Chemistry, having achieved an A\* at IGCSE and I was delighted when he chose to continue with this subject. Kudana is one of the top achievers of the school for his IGCSE results and achieved 7 A\*, 1 A and one B at IGCSE. He is an outstanding academic student and is a delight to teach, not just because he is intelligent and has a curious mind, but also because he is interested, outspoken without being ill-mannered and adds vibrancy to any classroom.

In addition to the classroom I have known him as a participant in various science fairs, where he has competed with a range of different projects from those involving computer programming to water purification. I think this is one of the things that really sets Kudana apart from his peers, he is not 'just' a scientist: he is a multifaceted, talented and interested young man. He has the ability and will to work independently when needed and will nevertheless make sure that he is working to the highest standard.

Kudana is interested in many different subjects and ideas, and this shows not just in his subject choices of Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and English Literature but also in his extra-curricular schedule: he does Model United Nations, where he has been voted second best speaker in the room several times, he is a skilled debater and won the Tanzania Competitive Rhetoric tournament in 2017, he came second in his Science Fair project on water purification with banana peels at the Africa Science Buskers Festival in Harare in 2017.

Moreover, Kudana is happy to help others, and goes out of his way to volunteer to do this. He helps his peers in the classroom whenever the topics are more difficult, and many weaker students gravitate towards him for help and a different perspective. This year he is also volunteering to become a tutor for junior students under the school's Da Vinci Tutoring program – a project that includes him having to take classes in how to teach. He also plays Volleyball, is in the First Aid club, is the editor of the school newspaper, and played a leading role in the last three school play productions. Despite all his achievements and his many obvious talents, Kudana has remained a remarkably down-to-earth, considerate young man who has a good chance to become next year's head boy.

He would be an outstanding candidate for the YYGS program. I cannot recommend him highly enough; he is a leader of his peers, a respected teacher of the younger students, and highly regarded by his teachers.

If you would like any more information then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

**Marianne Soendergaard**

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**6 February 2018**

**To Whom It May Concern:**

**Testimonial:**

**KUDANA GWATIDZO**

I have taught Kudana Gwatidzo Cambridge IGCSE Literature in English, and Cambridge IGCSE First Language English for two years. This year I have been teaching him "Twelfth Night" by William Shakespeare as part of the Cambridge AS Literature in English course. In the time I have known him, he has proved to be reliable both in and outside the classroom. The courses I taught have provided Kudana with the tools necessary for analysis of and commentary on various works of literature from Shakespeare to modern poetry, tools which he mastered quickly. His ability to explain the literary techniques that writers use is excellent. He achieved top grades in every assignment, as well as in the final examinations.

He is also a gifted writer, whose work shows maturity. This year he has taken on the role of editor of the "Ram Newspaper", a student-run publication. Through this position he has emerged as a natural leader, working well with the rest of the team. He has no problem chasing up members who are behind deadline, and his proficiency on computer means he puts out issues of a very high standard every time.

Kudana has no problems with meeting deadlines. Over the years I have seen his academic effort steadily increase, showing a willingness to better his already considerable talents in every subject he studied. He has great confidence that does not translate into arrogance, in fact he is humble and diligent. He is popular with his peers and has earned the respect of peers and staff alike, showing a maturity beyond his years.

Kudana is a pleasant, polite and dedicated young man, with a well-developed sense of humour. He has competed annually in the school's Public Speaking Competition. He has great charisma and stage-presence, and went on to win in the Intermediate age group last year, and competed in the Associated Trust Schools' finals competition.

It is an ongoing pleasure to teach Kudana, and to work with him on his writing and speaking. I have absolutely no doubt that he will excel in whatever path he chooses. He would add value to the Yale Young Global Scholars Program and I wish him every success.

**Claire Bewhay**

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