

To Whom It May Concern,

I am Ana María Villagr  Barrio, elected Principal of the Zorrilla Secondary School in Valladolid, Spain, from July 1st 2012.

In this moment I work as Music teacher in the abovementioned school.

In the whole 22 years period of experience as teenager teacher, I had never had the opportunity to work with someone like Jorge.

In October of the current school year, Jorge led a workshop of Coaching Skills for High Schools in the Zorrilla Secondary School that literally transformed the life at our school. The twenty teachers that were lucky enough to work with him in the workshop got a blow of fresh air that we were really needing.

It was a tipping point in our way of living the daily routines in the school and the classrooms, in the way of understanding teaching and in the way of interacting with our pupils and their parents.

We improved as teachers and our pupils discovered different teachers who listened to them and accompanied them in the path to improve both at the academic level and as human beings.

Eight months after the workshop, the pupils are delighted with the transformation and they all feel that they don't want to return to the previous situation. What they really wish is that this track that we - "the teachers of the coaching group" as they refer to us - have taken spreads throughout the entire faculty. This is one of the reasons why, after working with Jorge in life coaching and leadership, after finding the required strength & energy and reaching Heaven on Earth, I decided to participate as a candidate to the Principal position at the Zorrilla Secondary School.

It is from this leading position in the high school that I expect to convey a different way to teach to the remaining colleagues and to the parents of our pupils, a way based on active listening and communication.

Being able to write this letter represents to me an opportunity to transmit other people that Jorge is the person that has allowed me to find the true path to happiness, a path that is aligned with my moral and my values. An opportunity to transmit that, thanks to his patience and know-how, he has sourced out of me the best I had within me and that, for some particular reason, was stuck in the storeroom of my life.

Jorge is intelligent, sweet, reflexive, patient, quiet. He conveys a lot of peace and tranquility. He has a great ability to listening and he is very intuitive, very energetic and alive, always ready to set you in action. He asks interesting questions and gives suggestions that make you think beyond the surface and allow you to find answers, take decisions and undertake actions aligned with your way of thinking.

Had I not met him, I would still be working in a classroom where my point of view would govern, where the pupils would continue to avoid listening to me, to avoid doing their homework, always with an excuse to arrive late because the classes were heavy and boring to them. All of this because I wanted to teach them things they were not interested

in learning. Our interests were not aligned and, therefore, despite my efforts to teach them, they did not learn.

Now things run in a different way. I learnt to listen what they need to tell me and to communicate from the heart. What is even more important, I allow myself to wait until they are ready to learn and I enroll them in the learning process. I live their present, they are part of my vital space, and I acknowledge them constantly. They set and communicate to me their interests. We design alliances. A relationship has been built. We work together in a group and for the group. They all experience some successes (not always related with the scores) and each success is a success for all of them and celebrated by all of them. We allow ourselves to make mistakes and to learn from our mistakes. We share both good and bad news. I allow them to express themselves as they are. They seek me when they need me because they know I am there for them. I am part of a group of brilliant students that I watch grow day after day as human beings and they make me feel happy.

I hope that this letter serves so that the seed that Jorge planted in the Zorrilla Secondary School grows as well in other places. I hope that that, step by step, in his role as Leader of the CTI Leadership Program, he contributes to expand throughout Spain what I live every day with my pupils, achieving in this way to transform the Spanish education system into a thrilling experience. A thrilling experience of teachers meeting again the true essence of their profession. A thrilling experience of pupils getting trained in an environment of respect not imposed but chosen by themselves, where learning is an activity worth pursuing.

I thank the opportunity that this letter offers me to recommend Jorge as Leader of the CTI Leadership Program.

Sincerely yours,

Ana María Villagr  Barrio

N.T.: Translated in English by Jorge Serrano.
Please, find attached the original letter in Spanish.

A quien corresponda:

Soy Ana María Villagr  Barrio, futura Directora del IES Zorrilla de Valladolid a partir del d a 1 de julio de 2012.

En el momento actual trabajo como profesora de m sica del citado instituto.

En mis veintid s a os de experiencia docente con adolescentes, nunca hab a tenido la oportunidad de trabajar con alguien como Jorge.

En octubre del presente curso Jorge impart  un taller de Habilidades Coaching en la ESO en el IES Zorrilla que literalmente cambi  la vida del instituto.

Los veinte profesores que tuvimos la suerte de trabajar con  l en el taller recibimos un golpe de aire fresco que realmente necesit bamos.

Nos proporcion  un antes y un despu s en nuestra manera de vivir el d a a d a en el centro y en las aulas, en la manera de entender la docencia y en la manera de relacionarnos con nuestros alumnos y con sus padres.

No solo ganamos nosotros como docentes, sino tambi n nuestros alumnos quienes encontraron unos profesores diferentes, que les escuchaban y les acompa aban en el camino para mejorar no solo a nivel curricular sino tambi n como personas.

Ocho meses despu s los alumnos est n encantados con el cambio y todos sienten que no quieren volver atr s, qu  lo que realmente desean es que lo que hemos iniciado los profesores del grupo de coaching (as  nos llaman) se extienda al resto de profesores que imparten clase en el instituto y esta es una de las razones por las que despu s de trabajar con Jorge en coaching personal y liderazgo, encontrar la fuerza y la energ a necesaria y alcanzar el cielo en la tierra, decido presentarme como candidata a la direcci n del IES Zorrilla.

Es desde la Direcci n del Instituto, desde donde espero transmitir al resto de mis compa eros del Centro y a los padres de los alumnos, una manera diferente de hacer las cosas basada en la escucha activa y en la comunicaci n.

Poder escribir esta carta supone para m  una oportunidad para poder transmitir a otras personas que Jorge es la persona que me ha permitido encontrar el verdadero camino hacia la felicidad. Un camino que est  en consonancia con mis principios y mis valores. Que gracias a su paciencia y saber hacer ha sacado de m  lo mejor que llevaba dentro y que por alguna raz n se hab a instalado en la trastienda de mi vida.

Jorge es inteligente, dulce, reflexivo, paciente, reposado, transmite mucha paz y tranquilidad tiene una gran capacidad de escucha, es muy intuitivo, muy energ tico y muy vivaz, siempre est  dispuesto a lanzarte a la acci n. Hace preguntas y propuestas interesantes que te llevan a pensar m s all  de lo superficial y te permiten encontrar respuestas, tomar decisiones y emprender acciones acordes con tu manera de pensar.

De no haberle conocido seguiría trabajando en un aula donde primaría mi punto de vista, donde los alumnos seguirían sin escucharme, sin hacer las tareas, donde siempre habría una excusa para llegar tarde porque la clase se les hacían pesadas y largas ya que yo quería enseñarles cosas que ellos no estaban interesados en aprender. Nuestros intereses no estaban en consonancia y por tanto por más que yo les enseñaba ellos no aprendían.

Ahora las cosas son diferentes, he aprendido a escuchar lo que me tienen que decir y a comunicar desde el corazón y lo que es aún más importante me permito esperar a que estén preparados para aprender y les implico en el aprendizaje. Vivo su presente, forman parte de mi espacio vital, les pongo en valor constantemente. Ellos establecen y me comunican sus intereses. Establecemos alianzas. Se ha creado una relación. Trabajamos juntos por y para el grupo. Todos experimentan algún éxito (no siempre relacionado con el estudio) y cada éxito es un éxito de todos y por todos celebrado. Nos permitimos equivocarnos, aprendemos de nuestros errores. Compartimos lo bueno y lo malo. Les permito expresarse como son. Me buscan cuando me necesitan porque saben que estoy ahí. Formo parte de un grupo de alumnos brillantes que veo crecer día a día como personas y que me hacen sentir feliz.

Espero que esta carta sirva para que la semilla que Jorge plantó en el IES Zorrilla se transmita a otros lugares y poco a poco a través de su papel como formador del programa de Liderazgo de CTI contribuya a que lo que yo vivo cada día con mis alumnos se expanda por toda España consiguiendo de esta manera reconvertir el sistema educativo español en algo emocionante para los docentes al reencontrarse con la verdadera esencia de su profesión y para los alumnos que se formarán en un ambiente de respeto no impuesto sino elegido por ellos mismos, donde aprender sea una actividad que merece la pena realizar.

Agradezco la posibilidad que esta carta me brinda para poder recomendar a Jorge como formador del programa de liderazgo de CTI.

Atentamente

Ana María Villagrà Barrio