To whom it may concern,

It is a great honour to be asked to write a personal recommendation for Charlie Atkins. I believe he would be an asset to your institution and recommend him to you unreservedly.

I have known Charlie for six years since he joined Caroline Chisholm School as a student. Throughout his time with us, Charlie has gone from strength to strength, not only in his academic performance where he achieves at the highest level in all areas (4th in his year group, top 1.5% for GCSEs) but largely in his personal attributes.

Charlie has flourished into an inspirational young leader. He sees the potential in others, even when they don’t see it themselves and will actively promote others’ qualities and recommend them for leadership roles within the school. It is unique for a young person to champion others in this way and not see them as a threat to their own ambitious pursuits. Charlie is phenomenal at encouraging others and helping them to develop their confidence to take on new challenges.

Charlie is a confident speaker and regularly delivers assemblies to over 500 students in his capacity as Senior House Captain. To quote his Head of House; ‘Charlie always goes above and beyond in everything he does.’ Charlie truly throws himself into all aspects of school life. His academic endeavours, work with the house system - spanning across all phases of the school including children aged 4-18. This is on top of efforts outside of school, including his TEDx and Inspire your Future initiatives.

Charlie was one of our first appointed house captains when the house system was introduced three years ago, and during this time, he has been the leading light in a student leadership body of over sixty individuals. Charlie led our first ‘Anti-Bullying Ambassadors’ who were professionally trained to support his peers and speak in assemblies regarding this sensitive topic. He was just 14. More recently, in his role as Senior House Captain, Charlie led a group of house captains in a task set by the Principal to write a new ‘Code of Conduct’ for the 2,000 strong body of students at Caroline Chisholm School. Charlie was calm, patient and dynamic during the meeting. He took time to listen to the ideas and suggestions presented by his peers whilst steering them in the right direction and maintaining focus. This is the first time that students have been given ownership of this document and highlights the level of maturity Charlie exudes. A fundamental reason why he was also chosen as one of only two students to travel to Auschwitz Concentration Camp and train to become a Holocaust Ambassador, he then produced virtual assemblies presented to over 200 students. Charlie takes these challenges in his stride and does so professionally. He is reliable and dedicated in everything he is tasked with.

Earlier this year, after months of hard work, Charlie launched his first TEDx event aimed at igniting Ambition, Passion and Motivation amongst his peers. Charlie originally planned the event to take place live in the school building. When lockdown stuck, and the pressure to cancel the event loomed, Charlie investigated other possibilities and made it an online event. He brought together a team of adults and young people to coordinate a truly inspiring collection of talks and videos that shared ideas and sparked discussion on several themes that expand beyond everyday school life. Trying to motivate others to think outside the box, be the best version of themselves and improve the world around them. This thread has continued to run through two of Charlie’s other endeavours outside of school. His Inspire Your Future initiative has seen him connect with academics and leaders across the world to hold live talks to motivate other students.  He has recruited and now manages an international team of over twelve student ambassadors. He also sits on the Northampton Youth Forum which involves him collaborating with council leaders and other young people to speak up for the youth of Northampton. As one TEDx speaker said of Charlie; ‘he is a remarkable young man. Working with him demonstrated his ability to successfully organise a fantastic event which was broadcasted globally. His dedication and imagination to see his idea come to fruition was inspirational. His next venture; his website, demonstrates his selfless ability to want to develop and empower others.’

Charlie wants to inspire and make positive change. He is extremely reflective of himself and the world around him, and he has all the qualities to be a huge success in his endeavours. In January, whilst the Australian bushfires were raging, Charlie approached me and asked if the school could launch a fundraiser for the rescue and restoration effort. Charlie is always eager to make a difference. Going into assemblies to get his peers on board, a massive £4,000 was raised in just one week. This is the largest sum of money the school has ever raised in a single charity event. There are many other examples I could share of his determination to do good and make a positive impact wherever he can. He was awarded with the most positive points for his attitude to learning, helping other students, effort, contribution to lessons and school and his hunger to achieve. As his English teacher said of him ‘Charlie has boundless energy to support others, develop relationships across year groups and is considerate, kind and passionate about individuals’ well being. His positivity is contagious, his demeanour is courteous, and he is a great role model to his peers.’

Charlie truly is a very special young man. His dream to study in the United States will only continue to develop him into an influential leader of the future. Your college would be very lucky to have him, and I have no doubt he will take every opportunity to make the most of the experience and education offered at such a prestigious college.

Yours Faithfully,

Kathryn Wittich-Jackson

Assistant Principal

Caroline Chisholm School