



THE HIGHCREST ACADEMY

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Principal: G D Burke, BA (Hons), PGCE

Monday 4 January 2019

Mr L Barrett-Duggan
NCFE

Q6
Quorum Business Park
Benton Lane
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE12 8BT

Dear Barrett-Duggan

I am writing in support of the NCFE Level 1 and 2 Certificate in Food and Cookery Skills qualification.

The Highcrest Academy is the first All Ability Academy in in the county of Buckinghamshire. It is culturally diverse and a vibrant school making it a fantastic place to teach. We have some students who will need all your support and yet we also featured in the national Ofsted report (2016) for providing challenge to the ablest.

There are approximately 950 students on roll, which includes the Sixth Form. A new building programme, just completed, comprises a brand new Sixth Form Centre, sports facilities including a gym and a new restaurant for both students and staff.

In 2018 The Highcrest Academy achieved the highest value added score for 16-18 in the whole of Buckinghamshire, with our students achieving on average +0.47 higher than their expected targets. In October 2018 we moved into the brand new purpose built Sixth Form centre to cater for our growing cohort, with currently over 160 on roll.

I believe these qualifications are valuable for learners because it is more accessible for the types of learners at our school. We have developed 2 very clear pathways for the pupils at Highcrest one academic and one vocational. Due to the nature of our intake we have had to be creative with our curriculum offer and provide many of our pupils with qualifications that suits their vocational ambitions. Many pupils at the school gain high grades and numerous qualifications. However, we as a school pride ourselves on being fully comprehensive and always aim to meet the needs of all of our pupils. We believe that these and similar courses to these allow us to help our learners pursue their chosen careers and arm them with the relevant qualifications to achieve their goals and beyond.

Over the past 3 years of us using NCFE qualifications we have delivered in excess of 1500 GCSE grades to our pupils. We have expanded our vocational curriculum to include 4 separate NCFE qualifications and have a record number of pupils taking up meaningful apprenticeships. Many of these have now completed induction periods and are working full time. We have used some of these positive examples/role models to speak and deliver aspects of the courses. As I am sure you are aware the wider implications of this contribute to our inclusive ethos offering motivation and inspiration for our most challenging learners.

I estimate that I would register 120 learners for these qualifications in year 2020

This qualification is suitable for anyone aged pre-16 and upwards.

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Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'NS', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Neil Stocking
Vice Principal
Highcrest Academy