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Tom Beveridge: Head of School

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### **Reference for Andy Lewis MBE**

I have worked with Andy on a number of projects at The Dean Academy and in the local community in the last 2 years.

Andy is passionate about working with and supporting young people. In December 2016 Andy spoke to the whole school to share his experiences of becoming Paralympic Champion. His talk to over 600 young people was both inspiring and engaging, and he spent time in school afterwards to meet with students on an individual basis. Since then, Andy has supported the school with a number of events, giving up his time to work with our young people. His work with our more vulnerable students has been particularly valuable, as they have been given a real sense of worth by working closely with Andy. As an ex-student of the school, Andy has balanced a busy training schedule with support for The Dean Academy, but his selfless attitude has meant that he has had a meaningful impact.

Andy organises triathlons for the young people of Lydney, and he has worked with our school to facilitate these events; the feedback from local parents and the community was universally positive. Andy is honest and trustworthy, and has shown real humility with students facing challenging circumstances. He has also worked with staff, facilitating a training session on staff wellbeing.

Despite his wealth of experience, Andy is clearly keen to continue to learn, and has approached us for advice and guidance on developing his support for the young people of Lydney.

I can confirm that there have never been any safeguarding concerns and that I know of no reason why Andy should not work with children.

Yours sincerely

**Tom Beveridge**  
Head of School



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