



HARTPURY

C O L L E G E

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

To Whom It May Concern,

Hartpury College became an Associate Faculty of the University of the West of England in 1997, when it began delivering higher education courses. In 2017, Hartpury successfully completed a bid to gain Taught Degree Awarding Powers and in the same year was awarded gold in the Teaching Excellence Framework indicating, amongst other things, that students from a range of backgrounds were satisfied and achieving comparably. Currently Hartpury is awaiting confirmation of a successful application to transition towards university status from 1st August 2018.

Hartpury has always been committed to ensuring the Higher Education provision is accessible to all with the potential to succeed, and especially those demonstrating motivation, enthusiasm and dedication to study at level 4 and above. This is evidenced through the Hartpury OFFA Access Agreement, which has been produced annually since 2012.

From 2013/14, Care Leavers were recognised as a key priority target group with a range of bursaries, accommodation packages, and wellbeing support mechanisms available for those disclosing Care Leaver status. However there may still be a stigma attached to Care Leaver status, with anecdotal evidence that applicants are not disclosing their status. In addition there are currently few mechanisms at Hartpury to incentivise estranged students to disclose their status, and whilst a package of support exists we feel this could be enhanced.

We are keen to address this to the benefit of these students and to demonstrate our commitment not just to Care Leavers but estranged students also. We have identified a number of ways in which we are already able to provide the types of support set out in the pledge. For example;

- We are able to create a specific bursary, similar to the Care Leavers bursary we currently offer
- We already provide funds to students who meet eligibility to cover the costs of trips, study materials, living costs etc.
- We can offer 365 day accommodation which can also be linked to a bursary and/or paid employment
- We tailored our Admissions Policy and marketing and outreach materials to remove sole reference to parents and/or guardians, for example by inviting guests, friends and family to open days.

The Wellbeing and Inclusivity team at Hartpury are enthusiastic about working with the Stand Alone team to establish where our strengths and weaknesses are, to enable us to

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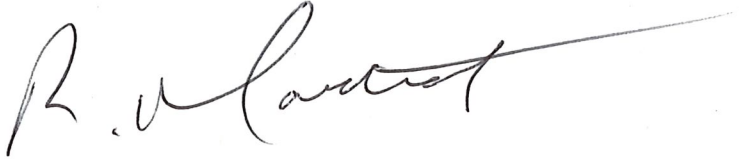
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better facilitate and support the estranged student experience of Higher Education at Hartpury. This letter serves as evidence of our initial expression of a commitment to this partnership and the work involved.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Marchant", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Russell Marchant
Principal