



St Mary's School Calne

Calne, Wiltshire SNJ1 ODF

Telephone: 01249 857200 Facsimile: 01249 857207 Email: admin@stmaryscalne.org

Web: www.stmaryscalnc.org

Headmistress: Mrs Helen Wright, MA (Oxon), MA (Leics), FRSA

31st January 2005

To Whom It May Concern

Natasha Hancock attended St Mary's School from 1993 to 2000. During this time I worked with Natasha as her Drama teacher and director. Natasha was a dedicated student, passionate about theatre and acting. After Junior Drama, she went on to study GCSE and 'A' Level Theatre Studies (achieving A* and A grades), also successfully completing acting examinations for LAMDA, up to Gold Medal standard.

A highly intelligent and most creative student, most receptive to directorial guidance and advice, Natasha can function well independently and as part of an ensemble. At St Mary's she progressed from junior supporting roles in school plays to taking the lead as a senior student in large scale productions. For example, in 1998 she played the title role in Jonson's *Volpone*, leading an all female cast of sixty students. In 2000 the play she wrote and performed with other A level students played at the Edinburgh Fringe and achieved very good reviews in *The Scotsman* and *The Independent*. In my experience, in every project in which she is involved, Natasha gives nothing less than 100%.

Indeed, she is a delightful and talented student whose strength of character and determination to succeed are most impressive. It is a testimony to Natasha that in spite of a near fatal car accident during her Sixth Form career, she overcame and recovered from very serious injuries with remarkable speed, and went on to achieve excellent A Level results and a place at Pembroke College, Oxford University. Natasha's courage and perseverance at this time were inspirational to all in our school community.

It is with great confidence therefore that I recommend Natasha Hancock to you as a young woman with impressive potential to achieve artistic and creative excellence in her chosen career.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Leadbetter". Below the signature is a long, horizontal, wavy line that tapers at both ends, serving as a decorative flourish or underline.

Miss L Leadbetter
Director of Drama