

Letters of Recommendation

Letter of Recommendation for TSFX

28 Corbert Court

FERNTREE GULLY 3156

26 July 2020

To Whom It May Concern

My name is Joe Ardley and I am an experienced teacher of VCE Mathematics, specialising in both Mathematical Methods and Specialist Mathematics.

My teaching career spans over fifty years. I worked for the Victorian Education Department from 1963 till 1999 when I retired as Principal of Brentwood Secondary College in Glen Waverley. I then began teaching in the Independent Schools system at Camberwell Grammar School, Yarra Valley Grammar School and Caulfield Grammar School (Whealers Hill Campus).

I am a senior assessor for VCAA. I started assessing in 1974 and still assess. I have also written the final examination papers over some of these years, the latest being Specialist Mathematics in 2017-2018. I have also worked as a Project Manager in the Examination Section of VCAA.

It gives me great pleasure to recommend TSFX as a school who offers excellent tuition and resources to VCE students. I know that this organisation hires only the best personnel to both write the lecture and lesson notes as well as to present these materials to the students in this state.

I started working for TSFX around 2005, presenting revision lectures in VCE Mathematics. I was hired because of both the wealth of experience that I have in examination technique as well as my proven excellence as a teacher and my ability to “get the message across”. Now I personally know many of the teaching staff at TSFX and, in my opinion, they too were hired because of similar qualities to mine.

Many of my own students (and my own children) have attended TSFX lectures over the years and have found them to be of the highest quality. The lecturers that they had the privilege to listen to always disseminated interesting insights of the theory that would have been otherwise undisclosed at their individual schools. The lectures presented are of the highest order and the planning of each lecture well organised and brainstormed by a team of TSFX experts.

I recommend TSFX to your unreservedly.

Yours sincerely



Joe Ardley

Letter of Recommendation: Dr Catherine Hart

27 July 2020

To whom it may concern,

I have taught in schools, universities and TAFE for over 25 years and this has provided an insight into those skills that students need to do well in their VCE Exams and to successfully navigate entry into post-secondary pathways.

As a University Lecturer, Senior English teacher, a former Learning Area Leader and a current VCE examiner I **fully endorse TSFX** as the pre-eminent provider of VCE Exam Revision Lectures and tuition in Victoria. There are five specific reasons I choose to work with TSFX and these are the reasons I believe you should consider TSFX for your students:

VCE EXPERTISE:

TSFX only employs experienced and proven VCE teachers (who are also VCE examiners) to develop and deliver their programs. Unlike competitors who hire high performing former VCE students, TSFX acknowledges that exam revision and tuition programs must be an opportunity for learning, and as such, they must be run by those who know the broad array of learners and know how to teach to meet their needs.

SUPERIOR SUPPORTING RESOURCES:

TSFX develops and distributes comprehensive lecture notes and guides that model best practice, and are designed to scaffold student skill acquisition. All resources are highly customised to meet specific subject requirements and focus on building and extending student skills. In addition to lecture resources, TSFX also provides regular additional 'free' resources to complement lecture and tuition materials.

A FOCUS ON MEASURABLE VALUE-ADDING:

Whilst many high-performing students attend TSFX sessions, many students who are in need of quick, measurable improvement also attend. This is where having experienced teachers is of enormous benefit as they know how to support ALL participating students and specific attention is paid to how students can, for example, make quick gains in their SAC marks and exam performance.

PROVEN ONLINE PEDAGOGY:

TSFX has developed a supportive and inclusive platform for the delivery of online lectures. Not only do students participate in real time, they actively participate through the completion of a range of online discussions and tasks based on hard copy materials sent to them before lectures commence. This means students can peruse materials and come to TSFX lectures having considered their foci for the session. All online lectures are recorded and available to students until after their exam period.

REPUTATION and RELIABILITY:

TSFX has a well-earned reputation built on 30 years of developing and delivering relevant and responsive learning opportunities for VCE students. When you book a TSFX Exam Revision lecture or tuition, you know what you are getting – you are getting a quality learning experience backed up by decades of proven measurable success (as evidenced by students study scores and their feedback).

Yours Sincerely,
Dr Catherine Hart

Letter of Recommendation: Mercy College

28 July 2020

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you as an English teacher with 18 years' experience as a member of the Campus Leadership Team at Mercy College, Coburg. Throughout my career I have had a plethora of experience in both leading Victorian Catholic Schools and Independent Schools leading and supporting staff and students. These positions of responsibility have included:

Member of the Senior Campus Leadership Team
VCE Coordinator
Teacher Mentor
Student Leadership Coordinator
Ministry Team Member

Head of VCE Students
Head of House
Faculty Head of English
Year 12 Retreat Coordinator

In addition to these roles I have worked for TSFX for at least fifteen years using my experience as a VCAA English assessor and a classroom teacher to write course materials and lecture in VCE English.

TSFX is considered by many in the education profession and students alike as the superior provider of lectures and tuition support for VCE students across all subjects. The high calibre of the TSFX teachers is well known and they are supported by TSFX's organisational structure, which provides opportunities for professional growth via its network.

VCE students seek the services of TSFX because the classes provided are goal oriented and extend students prior to school assessments and the state-wide examinations. This extension means that students have the best opportunity to achieve beyond what they considered themselves capable. Students often comment that they are not merely versed in the content ("the what") but also "the how". This means that they thrive in the academic environment that teaches them exam strategies to build their confidence and recognise some of the trends in assessment/exam style questions and how best to tackle them.

The TSFX notes are considered by students (and teachers) to be highly valuable. Many teachers use the notes as part of their own teaching toolkit, while students use the notes as their main resource. The guided questions in the notes and the numerous scientific and mathematical problems are used by students throughout the year as a revision tool. They mirror the expectations of the examinations and thus are a compass for students who may need to identify gaps in their knowledge, or equally as important, confirm content they can handle with ease. Additionally, the inclusive, friendly atmosphere promoted by staff at TSFX has commonly seen even the shyest student prepared to contribute to discussion and ask help during tutorials. All of this culminates in a value add on for TSFX students who are able to capitalise on their school learning to improve their academic results because they can revise material and extend themselves beyond what is taught at school.

Throughout my career I have been provided with many opportunities to work for educational services akin to TSFX. While the short-term financial reward may prove beneficial to me, ultimately, I have continued to choose TSFX because of their reputation, their genuine desire for excellence in both their staff and resources and because they offer an inclusive environment that doesn't preclude any motivated student. I have revelled in the diverse student body that is attracted to TSFX and the robust conversations students have with each other as they seek to clarify ideas in the English curriculum. Both students and staff are confident in TSFX as an organisation who has the academic success of students at the core of their business model.

Kind regards
Carolyn Stone

Letter of Recommendation: Ballarat Grammar School

28 July 2020

To whom it may concern,

I have been a VCE teacher teaching Further Mathematics for 22 years at Ballarat Grammar School. I have also lectured for TSFX and prepared and updated materials for them since 2006 as well as writing materials and presenting to both teachers and students for the Maths Association Victoria.

During my time working for TSFX I have found the staff very professional and the reason that I have been willing to continue to work for them has been their commitment to producing high quality notes that are regularly updated to meet the changing needs of VCE subjects. They have also shown a commitment to having lecturers who have extensive experience in their area, including VCAA assessing, so that the lectures and notes address issues in examination assessment, thus ensuring students are best prepared for future examinations.

Students attending the lectures that I have held have regularly expressed their appreciation of the time saved by revising in a structured way. Students who attend benefit from a review of their knowledge with a different voice and often find that aspects of the course that they did not feel confident with initially become clearer as they review in this context. Some students also discover that they have not emphasised aspects of the course that are potentially examinable.

Many students initially express a desire to have a single two- to three-hour lecture that will revise all content, but, in reality, a short time frame makes much of the revision provided extremely superficial, and hence unhelpful. The TSFX structure allows students to revisit concepts in an in-depth manner over a more extended period, hence ensuring better understanding and allows students the opportunity to ask questions to clarify their learning.

I encourage my students and any other students who asks me to attend a revision program and I have no hesitation in recommending high quality revision lectures such as those produced by TSFX for VCE students as they approach the examination period. I also have no hesitation in stating that if TSFX was the selected provider, schools can be confident of high-quality lectures and notes from a reliable and professional provider.



Fiona LaTrobe

Letter of Recommendation: Overnewton Anglican Community College

26 July 2020

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing a letter of recommendation for TSFX.

I have been a teacher of Mathematics and Information Technology for over 25 years, in both the Catholic and Independent schooling systems. I have also been involved with the assessment, examination writing of VCE Year 12 examinations in both Information Technology and Mathematics for the same number of years.

I have worked with The School for Excellence for close to 20 years assisting them in the delivery of the VCE subjects of Mathematical Methods and Specialist Mathematics for Year 11 and 12 students. In my time teaching at TSFX I have found the company to be:

1. Fully focussed on enabling students to achieve their best and consolidating and extending their knowledge and skills by:
 - a. Ensuring that their lecturers are of the highest quality, with experience in teaching the subject they deliver.
 - b. The supplying of extensive and detailed notes and expert teacher presentations.
 - c. Integrated use of technology to present detailed and timely lessons.
 - d. The introduction of tutors to assist students in their studies.
2. They have consistently listened to student feedback and encompassed the student feedback into enhancing their teaching model.
3. TSFX has always been a leader in the development of student programs ensuring, high quality lecture notes and revision material, consistent with changes in the VCE.
4. Their exam lectures delivered by exceptional VCE teachers and detailed notes have helped many students in their revision and preparation for their examinations.
5. During the current situation with COVID 19 they have developed exceptional online programs, to not only deliver the content necessary for their students, but to also engage students, with online polls, chat and question sessions.

I am proud to have been part of TSFX journey for close to 20 years. They are a highly reputable company that consistently strives to deliver high quality lectures and resources to students studying subjects in years 11 and 12. They endeavour to adapt to the technologies available to ensure timely, efficient and detailed revision programs that assist students to achieve their best in their VCE studies.

Sincerely Yours,
Mrs A. Hrvatin

Bachelor Applied Science (Mathematics)
Graduate Diploma (Education – Melbourne University),
Graduate Diploma (Computer Education) – Melbourne University))
UMEP – (Melbourne University)

**Senior VCE Teacher and Curriculum and Assessment Coordinator
Overnewton Anglican Community College**

Letter of Recommendation: Firbank Grammar School

26 July 2020

To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Juliet Anstee and I am currently VCE Coordinator and a senior Biology teacher at Firbank Grammar, where I have taught for the past 25 years. Over the past 10 years I have been an assessor for VCE written Biology U3/4 examinations and for several years I have been one of the assistant Chief Assessors for Biology. I am also a presenter for TSFX in their Master Class programs, Head Start lectures and Exam Revision Lectures.

TSFX is highly respected and well known in Melbourne as the pre-eminent provider of VCE lectures and tuition classes. The company has helped thousands of students over the years to reach their academic goals.

Over the 8 years I have worked for TSFX, I have found them to be very professional in their dealings with students, parents and staff. Their programs are well structured with their resources consistently up to date in content and delivery and are of exceptional quality.

The superior quality of TSFX's programs sets them above its competitors.

As a presenter, I have seen the benefit the students receive by attending TSFX examination revision lectures. It assists them to consolidate their understanding of concepts covered in school and gives them confidence in answering questions that may arise in examinations. Having highly experienced, passionate teachers presenting to the students, gives the students the best opportunity to achieve their potential.

I have no hesitation in recommending TSFX programs to any student, including those I teach, who are wanting to attend an examination revision lecture.

If a school was looking for a lecture provider, it can be confident that TSFX would deliver high quality lectures and notes. TSFX would be reliable and professional to deal with and they would work hard to ensure that they exceed expectations.

Sincerely Yours,
Juliet Anstee

**Senior VCE Teacher and VCE Coordinator
Firbank Grammar School**

Letter of Recommendation: Catherine Twedde

27 July 2020

To Whom it May Concern,

TSFX – Excellence and Quality

Faced with the somewhat daunting prospect of completing exams in a year marked with upheavals and uncertainties, it is comforting for students to know that help is available to them by means of a dedicated revision program specifically tailored to fill in any gaps and which will assist students to feel well prepared for the upcoming exams. The decision of choosing a program of revision lectures from the many on offer is made easier from the knowledge that TSFX, a well established and reputable delivery provider, is ready to step in and take on this role.

I have no hesitation in recommending TSFX as having been associated with them for the last five years, I can highly recommend their programs and wholly endorse the quality of the materials they produce. As a teacher of VCE English for many years, including previous experience as an English Coordinator, a VCAA assessor, a VCE trial exam marker and private tutor, in regional and rural schools such as Ballarat and Clarendon College, Loreto College, Damascus College, Beaufort Secondary College and Marian College, I fully endorse TSFX's reputation for quality and excellence.

TSFX not only offers high achieving students the opportunity to enrich their understanding and expand the breadth of their knowledge, but also provides struggling students with the materials to help them grasp the requirements of the different tasks and the skills needed to actively engage with VCE subjects. In short, students who attend the revision lectures and tuition programs on offer with TSFX will find themselves well placed to sit their exams with confidence and assurance.

At VCE level in English, it is imperative that students are equipped with the skills to be able to critically analyse their texts and produce responses that reflect an individual interpretation of the textual elements. Students need to become independent thinkers and TSFX with its range of qualified and experienced teachers is well placed to enable students to gain these skills.

TSFX is well regarded in Melbourne, having gained a reputation for the quality of programs it delivers in all subjects and over the years has attracted thousands of students to its tuition programs, winter and summer schools and exam revision lectures. Testimonials from students who have attended these lectures comment on the professional nature of the presentations, the thoroughness of the material and the helpful exam preparation that is delivered by knowledgeable lecturers who have a thorough grounding in their subject area.

TSFX is well known already in rural and regional areas, with many students finding the trip to Melbourne to attend lectures, a worthwhile experience, and the skills and knowledge they gain beneficial to them as they prepare for both assessment tasks and exams. The notes they receive from these lectures are professionally produced and an invaluable asset to enriching students' knowledge of their subject matter. Feedback from students refers constantly to the difference TSFX has made to them on their learning journey and how it has assisted them to reach their academic goals.

A number of other companies offer similar programs of lectures and tuition for VCE SACs and exam preparation. However, none of these offers the range of expert lecturers, drawn from many of Melbourne's most prestigious city and regional schools. With expertise and skills acquired over many years of classroom teaching, TSFX has the edge over other providers due to the highly qualified personnel they employ, all of whom are registered teachers with extensive experience in a wide range of educational settings. Choosing TSFX guarantees a superior experience which comes from having registered teachers who are well placed to guide and assist students in their learning.

Students looking for a quality, extensive tuition program should seriously consider enrolling in those on offer from TSFX. My first hand experience as a writer, lecturer and teacher on Master Class programs for TSFX , allows me to be unequivocal in stating that they offer a professional program, and can be depended on to constantly strive to meet and even exceed the needs of their students.

I have no hesitation in endorsing TSFX and encourage schools to recommend TSFX programs to their students as they seek to consolidate a challenging year and gain an edge in their VCE exams.

Kind regards,
Catherine Tweddle

Letter of Recommendation: John Monash Science School

26 July 2020

To Whom it May Concern,

My name is John Kermond and I have worked with The School For Excellence (TSFX) for thirty years. During this time I have:

- Taught in weekly two hour tuition classes and lectured in holiday revision programs in VCE Specialist Mathematics Units 3&4 and Mathematical Methods Units 3&4;
- Written, vetted and updated lecture material, class notes and trial examinations in Specialist Mathematics Units 3&4 and Mathematical Methods Units 3&4. Most recently I have updated old TSFX Specialist Mathematics trial examinations to conform with the current Study Design and VCAA examination format.

So I know what I'm talking about when I say that I have seen TSFX grow to become well known and respected in Victoria as the pre-eminent provider of VCE lectures and tuition classes. I have extensive first-hand experience of how TSFX teaching programs and resources have helped thousands of students over the years achieve their academic goals. I have recommended TSFX programs to hundreds of my students over the years and have seen how they benefitted from attending TSFX exam revision lectures. I have no hesitation in recommending TSFX programs to any student who wants to attend an examination revision lecture.

I have continued working with TSFX for thirty years because of its excellent reputation. I would never be associated with an organisation that was not reputable and consistently delivered high quality tuition classes, lectures and resources. The programs and materials of TSFX are exceptional in their quality. Any school looking for a lecture provider can be confident that TSFX would deliver high quality lectures and notes, be reliable and professional, and would work hard to ensure that expectations were exceeded.

I have worked with several commercial providers of VCE lectures and tuition classes over the years and can unreservedly recommend TSFX as a superior provider of these resources.

Yours Sincereley,
John Kermond (B.Sc. (Hons), Dip. Ed. M.Ed.)

**Senior VCE Teacher, John Monash Science School
and University Mathematics Teacher**