



American International School – Riyadh
المدرسة الأمريكية العالمية - الرياض
Excellence... Since 1963

P.O. Box 990, Riyadh 11421, Saudi Arabia
TEL: 00966-11-459-7500, www.aisr.org
Dr. Brian Matthews, Superintendent

ص.ب. ٩٩٠ الرياض ١١٤٢١، المملكة العربية السعودية
هاتف: ٠١٧-٩٦٦-١١-٤٥٩-٧٥٠٠، ترخيص: ج ١٧
د. براين ماثيوز، المدير العام المشرف

October 27, 2015

To whom it may concern,

Jeff Thomas

Walking past Jeff's classroom one Thursday afternoon, I was drawn in not only by the fascinating image displayed on the Smartboard, but also by the intent hum of activity as students engaged in analysing and discussing the image. This was a Year 1 DP Higher Level Language and Literature class and students were deconstructing and analysing McDonald's advertisements that appeared in different countries. I joined a group and was impressed by the ability of the students not only to analyse how the adverts had been designed specifically for a particular country, and for a specific audience and market, but also how fluently they used appropriate vocabulary and concepts to engage in higher order thinking. Above all, however, I was struck by their excitement about what they were learning and the pride they took in explaining their thinking and sharing their ideas. This class was truly on a voyage of discovery, ably led by Jeff into uncharted waters.

This is typical of the experience of students in Jeff's classes. He combines exciting and challenging learning with sound structures so that students always understand what is expected of them and how to demonstrate their learning. He has created a Daily Cafe learning routine for his Grade 9 classes. In this cafe, students rotate in groups between a variety of activities including conferencing with the teacher, sustained, silent reading, peer-assessment and coaching of their writing and other activities related to the unit they are studying. Jeff has trained his students so that transitions are seamless.

As well as being a creative and innovative teacher, Jeff is an excellent, supportive colleague. He collaborates with his team and contributes in a significant way to planning and moderation of assessment. He has fruitfully shared his expertise and experience with DP Language and Literature with colleagues just starting to teach the subject. Jeff is modest and diffident and I am delighted that he took the opportunity to share his techniques with colleagues K-12 during AIS-R Professional Development and I am even more delighted that his Daily Cafe was chosen to represent our school at the NESAC Spring Educators Conference in April 2016.



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I am very sorry that Jeff has decided to move on after two highly successful years in our High School and I recommend him wholeheartedly and without reservation. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like any further information.

Yours sincerely,

Nancy Jenkins

High School Principal



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