

Paris, the 5th of September 2022

Letter of recommendation

Dear Sir or Madam,

I can confidently recommend the scholarly abilities of Paul Ostroverhy to you. Whether he chooses an academic route through the arts, the humanities, or something else entirely, his abilities indicate he is capable of extraordinary success.

At only fourteen years of age, Paul already shows real and precocious talent in three areas: comprehension, analytical thinking, and writing.

He is able to read complex texts thoroughly, rapidly extracting the central ideas. We have considered Plato and Thomas Hobbes in our sessions; Hobbes is generally a difficult philosopher, but Paul was able to grasp his central ideas within a few hours of being introduced to him. Moreover, Paul's analytical mind is able to grapple with the ideas presented to it rather than just observe them. He can independently form a strong opinion and defend it. I placed him under significant pressure (both time and intellectual) during debates on these opinions, but he responded with energy and verve.

However, I think it is Paul's writing level that best indicates his remarkable potential. It is advanced well beyond his years, with much raw talent evident. He has the ability to write clearly and persuasively, and separately a strong instinctive ability for poetic prose and imagery. Paul is beginning to control this latter ability so he can subordinate it to his own argumentative purposes. As this process continues it will supplement his argumentative writing. I suspect Paul's future achievements will include some unusually powerful and lucid essays.

There is much to be impressed by now, and much potential to feed notable achievements in future. I am confident Paul will fulfil his promise because of his work ability. He is hard-working and willing to learn, remaining focussed through four-hour sessions together. He is inquisitive and alert. These attributes mean his learning academic progress is fast, and they have already allowed him to obtain an impressive base of knowledge.

Paul is an impressive young man. But he is also a likeable one. Friendly, confident and self-possessed, I can see him fitting in with a wide selection of settings and forming personal connections that will help him in all the situations, difficult and pleasant, he will encounter over the next few years.

Paul Ostroverhy is one to watch.



Yours faithfully
Edward Patrick
Studying for BA in Philosophy
Politics and Economics
at St. John's College
Oxford University

Dear Sir/Madam,

A conversation with Paul will quickly leap you beyond the mundane. Whether it be the marvels of classical architecture, or the pitfalls of mismatched Doric and Corinthian orders; the sensicalness of Lewis Carroll and Edward Lear's nonsense poetry, or the greatness of Oscar Wilde's witticisms; the sparkling maps, battles, and histories of his own Ostroco world, or the adventurous oeuvres of C. S. Lewis, P. G. Wodehouse, and Arthur Conan Doyle, Paul will take you through them with opinions, criticism, and, perhaps most strongly, a desire to hear what you think.

Every literary recommendation I have offered to Paul has come alive, before meeting a very genuine, sensitive personal critique. He has dramatised the poetry of Gerard Manley Hopkins before remarking on Hopkins' amusing parochialisms. He has taken me through stories by Doyle while noting the popular mechanisms that prevent detective novels from becoming truly literary texts. We have performed the Importance of Being Earnest and An Ideal Husband, while Paul discusses the social flippancy offered by one versus the political critique offered by the other. As a tutor, it is a delight to teach Paul. Indeed, Doyle and Wilde were not new to him.

Paul's capacity for prolonged, attentive, and rigorous creation is exemplified in his Ostroco project, which has been active for three years. Each field - that range from studies of flags, to mythical creatures, to economics, monarchy, and cartography - is fleshed out with an abundance of artistic sketches and textual explorations. He delves into his imagined world with thousands of words, producing centuries of constantly changing and unpredictable history. Inspired by his own extensive knowledge of Russian, British, and French history, he has pushed Ostroco to become an original world while maintaining essential, realistic structures. Borders shift, monarchs are killed, economies rise and fall, and new languages are born. There is only one thing that only goes up in Ostroco, and that is the currency.

A highpoint of my work with Paul was the creation of an Ostrokian version of Lewis Carroll's nonsense poem, The Jabberwocky, that we named The Glumphoshnaak. It was a magical collision of poetic structures, scrupulous imaginative work, and study of Carroll's poem. As a part of a series of mythical legends of Ostroco, named the Forgotten Tales, Paul created a story in which a knight slays Paul's own, Ostrokian monster. From there, we toyed with language, twisting and turning it while envisioning the true sense of the scenes, to create 'nonsense'. We edited and re-edited to create rhythm, pace, rhyme, and sense from words that have never been used in the English language. The Glumphoshnaak was completed in two, intensive, four-hour sessions, with Paul driving the revisions until he was satisfied. The final piece is a testament to Paul's imaginative ability and commitment to create something new, and something of a very high standard, to which he holds all of his work.

Paul edited his second novel, The Diamond of the Chess Player, for one to two hours everyday between September to January, and this determined and considered effort exemplifies how Paul approaches everything that he enjoys. One can see this, and the extent of Paul's reading, in the language of the novel. Complex clauses and subclauses are perforated with Victorian colloquialisms, in a highly stylised use of dialogue and straight prose that is acutely in line with the period in which the text is set. It is a feat of editing; punctuated and worded with accuracy and intention, that maintains the pace, imagination, and fluidity of Paul's original concept. Professor Eilfort - a Victorian eccentric-cum-detective who is terrified of pigeons - is alive. Characters abound, each individually defined in their fashions, language, and behaviour. They roam through the real streets of Paris that are realised by Paul's fastidious study of the city, its architecture, titles, and environs.

It has been a joy to teach Paul. He converses about the arts with a rare ease, happiness, and excitement. He offers perspectives and possibilities to subjects he has only just been introduced to. The natural intelligence and industry that goes into his work lets it speak for itself.

Yours sincerely, Polly Allingham
BA in English Literature & Language
University College of London

To whom may concern,

I am writing regarding Paul Ostroverhy to recommend him to your school.

I had the pleasure to work with Paul since the beginning September and very quickly, thanks to his enthusiasm and cleverness he has understood and improved his architectural and design skills at an extraordinary pace since then.

He is an outstanding student, hard-working and has always shown a positive attitude, which made every lesson joyful. Paul is not only passionate about architectural and art history topics but also has a really mature process thinking approach, which has allowed us to work on high level projects without any issues for such a young age.

I was also quite impressed by his Urban planning and Neo-Classical Architecture portfolio, which at the time already contained more than 600 sketches. It was almost natural for him the transition from the handmade sketches to the digital model design which culminated in the 3D print of his chef d'oeuvre: The Ostrotunda. A neoclassical pavilion planned to be placed in an English landscape garden. A topic which Paul is passionate about endlessly researching online about the Italian Renaissance gardens design.

Under my supervision working in his free time, on the basis of 1-2h per day after his secondary school, he mastered SketchUp (3D modeling program) using tools such as:

- Draw lines, circles, polygons, arches, move, rotate, push/pull, follow-me, scale-offsets\
- Use the section cuts and planes, orbit, pan, zoom in/out and measure dimensions
- Make/explode groups, download from the online 3D Warehouse\
- Importing pictures/files, adding colors, materials, textures, shadows and fog\
- Changing camera views and background, edges and face styles

Having seen the short time required to acquire these skills, I'm more than confident to affirm that he will be able to accomplish his next project "A Neo-Palladian didactic architectural facade", without my help using AutoCAD.

Besides the architecture accomplishments Paul has also had an intensive Italian language introduction and absorbed the true Italian culture splendidly. In this time he has learnt by heart the Italian medieval sonnet "S'i fosse foco" by Cecco Angiolieri mastering the different pronunciations and sounds.

I have no hesitation recommending Paul Ostroverhy for your school. His phenomenal performance shown during my tutoring is an indication that if the right institution would properly provide him with all the necessary tools and creative environment, we would be witnessing the birth of a future Michelangelo.

Eleonora Segalla
Graduated in Architecture and Design
at G. De Fabris, Nove, Italy

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

To whom it may concern,

I had the pleasure of working with Paul Ostroverhy for a month over the summer of 2022, meticulously editing and reading through his upcoming literary project, *Diary of a Stoic*. During this period, we spent three hours together every evening, correcting grammar, punctuation and ensuring stylistic consistency. Throughout the entirety of this collaborative project, Paul's enthusiasm, focus and inquisitiveness did not waver. I was indeed particularly struck by the dedication Paul has to his own art and work at the age of fourteen, spending his summer pursuing his academic and creative passions of his own volition.

I noticed a considerable improvement in Paul's writing throughout our time working together. Errors such as erroneous capitalisation and the French structuring of possessives were taken on board very quickly and a conscious effort was made to engage with criticism and improve upon mistakes. Paul listens attentively and has a real appetite for learning which is infectious. This made our time together not only deeply interesting and rewarding, but pleasurable and enthralling.

Paul's vocabulary is extraordinarily broad for his age, and he is able to structure very complex and poetic prose. I attribute this to his impressively wide reading throughout the entirety of his life, which has certainly paid off in his own writing and ability to draw inspiration from a wide range of sources. His desire to read and come to grips with more literature – whether it be poetry or novels – is ever-growing. At the end of our sessions, I often gave him a taste from the Western canon, which he unfailingly listened to with the highest degree of contemplation and reflection. This led to discussions about the texts which displayed a sensibility to poetic nuance which is, once more, highly impressive for Paul's age.

Although this project was at times both intellectually and mentally draining for the both of us, Paul met all obstacles with an unfaltering positivity, which is testament to not only his academic stamina but his outlook on life. Not only does Paul meet academic work with a great deal of passion and fervour, but this mindset follows every aspect of his life. It has been an absolute pleasure to spend time with him on both a scholarly and personal level, and I have no doubt that he will continue to produce impressive and fascinating work, whatever he decides to do next.



Yours faithfully
Lola Gabellini
English and French Graduate
University of Oxford
5th of September 2022

Paul's Recommendation Letter

To whom it may concern,

It has been a pleasure to tutor Paul for the last 2 weeks in Ancient Philosophy and History. He is a charming young boy, who can successfully engage in the widest variety of conversations of any 14year old I have ever met. I think it's fair to say he's one of the few people in the world who can go from discussing Plato's Recollection argument in depth, to the possible merits of Cornish independence and then onto the superiority of the country Liechtenstein all within one conversation. And on every one of these topics, he has an admirable and truly impressive grasp. It's also abundantly clear that he has a keen eye for creativity both in his conversations (we have had many very fascinating and bizarre tangents) and in his writings, which always make for an enjoyable read.

Over these 2 weeks, we have covered a huge variety of content. In history our study has largely focused on life in Sparta with lessons ranging from their intriguing political structure to the greater freedoms in the lives of women in this city-state. As a student of ancient history, Paul has been highly perceptive in evaluating the significance of our sources and his creative mind is perfect for suggesting plausible theories of how Spartan life may have looked for the times when we are lacking information about the ancient world. His memory and ability to retain information is also impressive and I am always delighted with his ability to summarise our previous discussions and lessons successfully and clearly. Moreover, his engagement in my lessons is always brilliant, and I feel as though I have his focus and attention at all times.

Meanwhile, in terms of philosophy we have looked over many of the different arguments presented in the *Phaedo*. This has included some very complex philosophical arguments and I have been continuously impressed with how Paul has approached the challenge of understanding the complexities and nuances within these arguments. Whilst at first, he seemed hesitant when I would introduce him to these new concepts (which is perfectly understandable given they still confuse University level students) normally after some further explanation he would grasp them and eagerly participate in very interesting conversations about their flaws and successes. Paul's consistent curiosity makes him an ideal student for philosophy and he never objects to my incessant, Cambridge supervision style lines of questioning but rather fully engages himself and is always ready and willing to explore the great bounds of philosophical debate. By the end of our internship, I was delighted with the development of his evaluative skills in dissecting new concepts, and he also applied this very successfully to the essay plans and writings which he did as prep work for me. His ability to apply different skills across the board is highly developed and such an important skill to have which will serve him well in his future education.

In terms of his writings, he has very successfully picked up on how to structure arguments within an essay format and his writing is both concise and clear whilst still retaining his own delightful flourishes. His ability to take on instruction and improve is commendable, and a crucial asset to his character which makes him such a pleasure to teach. He is always open and eager to hear ways in which he can improve his intellect - a truly admirable quality, especially in someone his age.

I have greatly enjoyed my time tutoring Paul not just because of his brilliant attitude to our studies but also because he is genuinely an interesting and funny young boy. His competitiveness and wide variety of different styles of play in our table tennis matches never fail to entertain me, although I would like to remind him that I did beat him in a hatrick one day! I wish him all the best for the future and have no doubt that he will go on to succeed in whatever it is he chooses to do, and that he will continue to be a delight to many others who will come across him in life. I hope he has also enjoyed this introduction into Classical History and Philosophy and that he will take that enjoyment into his life and treasure the new things he has learnt; I don't doubt that he will.



Yours sincerely
Hannah Lowrie
Classics Undergraduate student
Newnham College, University of Cambridge

Paris, the 14th of April 2023

Letter of recommendation

To Whom It May Concern,

I had the pleasure of tutoring Paul for two weeks throughout April of 2023 in bioethics and electronics. I found Paul to be a voracious student who approached learning with curiosity, creativity, and determination.

We spent many of our sessions covering introductory circuit analysis and electrical engineering. Though these were concepts with which Paul was unfamiliar, he attacked them with fervor. When he did not grasp a concept immediately, he did not get frustrated but persevered until he had fully grasped it -- this in my mind is the mark of a true academic. Paul was consistently positive and curious.

In these situations, his creativity truly shined. When faced with a difficult engineering concept, Paul became a fountain of analogy. He could distil complicated scientific terms into memorable scenarios. My favorite of these was a recreation of an attack of the clones from Star Wars to describe a battery!

Paul's versatility and inquisitiveness also comes out in the debate arena. We discussed many case scenarios in the context of bioethics, and Paul thoughtfully analysed all that was presented to him. He has an immense vocabulary and an arsenal of never-ending facts that made these conversations very entertaining!

I learned from Paul as I taught him. I will always remember dancing the circuit symbols after having discussed a Greek form of dance or playing Vivaldi Gloria in D Major at Paul's request when he vanquished a problem. I can't wait to see what he continues to accomplish!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Helen Gordan', written in a cursive style.

Helen Gordan
B.S. Electrical Engineering
Stanford University '22
Projected MD
Icahn School of Medicine '27