24 April 2024

To whom it may concern,

I am delighted to offer a reference for Richard Mark in support of his application for a scholarship at The Honourable Society of the Middle Temple.

I have known Richard since he began working for my Westminster office in February 2021. Throughout his time in my employment, he demonstrated a commendable ability to conduct independent research and analysis on both political and legislative matters.

He produced written briefings, draft letters and comment pieces to an extremely high standard and demonstrated a strong intellect and ability to learn new skills as he broadened his parliamentary experience.

In an often challenging and high-pressure environment, he maintained an excellent disposition and worked well with other members of staff. Richard also demonstrated the utmost care and compassion in his dealings with members of the public, particularly during my regular constituency surgeries.

I was very glad to have been able to nominate Richard for an MBE as part of my resignation honours list last year for his political and public service.

I am also delighted that since leaving my employment he has continued to develop his personal skills in oral advocacy resulting in his selection as a prospective parliamentary candidate for the next general election. I have no doubt that his experience and motivation to succeed will hold him in good stead for a career at the Bar.

RT HON BORIS JOHNSON