



October 9, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

Over the course of his high school career, I have watched Tunde grow from a quiet, intellectual Freshman to a self-assured, fiercely astute 12th grader. I have been his advisor and grade dean for the past two years, and I am now his English teacher for the third time, all of which makes me uniquely positioned to speak to Tunde's strengths, growth, potential and what a sincere pleasure it is to have him as a student and community member. In Tunde you find the unexpectedly ideal student: he is compassionate, equanimous, hungry for rigor, deeply motivated, holistically curious, wise beyond his years, discerning in class discussions, and consistent in producing timely high quality multimodal work.

While many "STEM" students seem to silo themselves into those disciplines, Tunde stretches the limbs of his curiosity across all of his academic pursuits. He is a naturally creative, outside-the-box thinker, and he recognizes the value of cultivating interdisciplinary skill application, which is one of the reasons he is such a strong IB candidate. In the writing and multi-modal projects we have done, Tunde's innovative inquisitiveness and detail-oriented analysis is evident in his processes and final products alike. Additionally, Tunde's Nigerian identity adds a rich perspective to all of his academic work and class discussions. He often reflects deeply on the values and contributions of traditionally underrepresented voices, particularly in disciplines historically dominated by "white European men." For example, in our IB Language & Literature class last year when students crafted a 1200 word essay to analyze global issue in the musical *Hamilton* — unsurprisingly, Tunde devised a highly original, nuanced thesis (unlike the somewhat regurgitative iterations of his peers): "Throughout his musical *Hamilton*, Lin Manuel-Miranda uses the motif of helplessness and the relationship between Eliza and Hamilton to develop Eliza's character from one who feels that she lacks autonomy to one who builds upon Hamilton's legacy, exploring the global issue of how women can fight against societal misogyny." Most of his classmates focused on Hamilton himself, but Tunde angled for a different analytical approach. He also came up with it entirely on his own (no hand holding involved, unlike, again, many of his peers).

In class discussions, Tunde is not a dominating, verbose student; instead he is incredibly discerning and contributes confidently and thoughtfully after actively listening. In this sense, he is a poised

leader with a strong sense of community. Whether in Harkness discussions, collaborative peer work, or individual assignments, Tunde consistently lifts up those around him with his generosity and compassion. Tunde bleeds his authenticity into all of his spheres: academic, social and extracurricular. As president of our school's Gender Sexuality Alliance (GSA), he has consistently offered insight and empathy, helping his peers engage with and understand lived experiences they might not otherwise encounter. Additionally, during our study of *Fun Home*, a graphic novel-memoir centered on queer identity, Tunde's thoughtful contributions expanded the conversation and built an inclusive atmosphere in the classroom. I have seen how these qualities also extend to his role in our advisory in which he supports his peers' (and his own) socio-emotional learning and where he models integrity, vulnerability, and groundedness. What I sometimes notice lacking among my students who have an inclination toward the hard sciences is the kind of deep emotional intelligence that Tunde has, which will certainly bolster his ability to transfer academic applications to the real world and with real human beings.

As an IB candidate, Tunde thrives in a rigorous academic environment and consistently delivers excellent work. His time management skills are impeccable—he never procrastinates, always submits assignments on time, and engages fully. As I said initially, I have seen tremendous growth in him, both academically and personally, over the last four years. He approaches challenges with poise and calm under pressure, excelling in problem-solving and creative thinking, which will without a doubt serve him well in his goal of pursuing software development and computer engineering. As a bright, humble, and generous student, Tunde's thoughtful and grounded approach would enrich any college community while also furthering his growth as a creative thinker and compassionate leader.

Should you have any further questions regarding Tunde, please feel free to reach out to me via email, smonroe@newarka.edu

Sincerely,

Sky Monroe

English Faculty, Dean for the Class of 2026

