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Dear Becky

Re: Richard Kennett's application for Chartered Teacher status

I gather that Richard is applying for Chartered Teacher status. I am delighted to hear this. His skills and energy deserve recognition in as many ways as possible so I am writing to support this with a brief account of what he has contributed to Hodder Education as an author, adviser, editor, encourager and enthusiast.

I first met Richard via Twitter. I was intrigued and engaged by his blogs and tweets as @kenradical. What was evident then from his social media presence was his creative thinking about history teaching coupled with an admirable ability to absorb recent developments in historical scholarship and in history teaching pedagogy and quickly incorporate them into his own teaching in practical and inspiring ways. This is just what we look for in an educational author and we quickly recruited him, initially as a blogger and a digital specialist, then increasingly as a writer for our mainstream textbooks.

Over the past five years Richard has written or edited the following for us:

- *Making Sense of History* (2014) – Richard contributed to three of the four volumes of this Key Stage 3 course for the 2014 National Curriculum. Richard excelled himself in writing imaginative enquiries that breathed life into some tired topics. I particularly loved his 'Lunar men' approach to the Industrial Revolution.
- *Living under Nazi Rule 1933-1945* (2017) – this was one of our series of textbooks for the innovative new OCR B specification. Once again it was Richard's ability to find a new angle on familiar content that marks him out as a creative mind and an inspiring teacher. The life of Rukeli Trollman as a new angle on Nazi racial policies stands out for me.
- His most recent work for us was the *OCR B GCSE History My Revision Notes* (2018) where he also worked as Series Editor. He wrote his own unit but also briefed and guided the work of the other five contributors. Being a Series Editor is an important rite of passage for all ambitious authors which tests both determination and clarity of vision. Richard showed he had both and the book has been a best seller since publication in January this year.
- Richard is currently part of the team writing our next KS 3 textbook for publication in spring 2019.

Richard is a great teacher and trainer and a brilliant author. I enthusiastically support this application.

Yours sincerely



Jim Belben
Consultant Publisher at Hodder Education
and Honorary Fellow of the Historical Association