

Bosworth Independent College

Independent school progress monitoring inspection report

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Reporting inspector	Frank Price
Social care inspector	Andrew Hewston

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Purpose and scope of the inspection

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under Section 162A of the Education Act 2002, as amended by schedule 8 of the Education Act 2005, and under the Care Standards Act 2000 having regard to the national minimum standards for boarding schools or residential special schools.

The inspection was conducted at the request of the Registration Authority for independent schools in order to monitor the progress the school has made in implementing its action plan following the previous inspection.

Information about the school

Bosworth Independent College was established in 1977 as an international boarding college for students between the ages of 14 and 22 years. There are currently 312 students on roll, which includes 243 boarders. There are no students with statements of special educational needs. All of the boarding accommodation is within walking distance from the two academic school buildings and close to Northampton town centre. Accommodation for boarders under 18 is in one of five boarding houses which are fully staffed or in the homes of host families. There are also 20 unstaffed houses for older boarders and which are used depending on levels of maturity. Almost all overseas students speak English as an additional language and with varying degrees of fluency. The main aim of the college is to seek academic excellence and to ensure each student achieves their potential. The vast majority of students continue their studies at a British university.

Context of the inspection

When the education and boarding provision were inspected by Ofsted in an integrated inspection in September 2011, the college failed to meet a number of the regulations and the national minimum standards for boarding schools in respect of provision for welfare, health and safety of pupils, and the provision of information. The college submitted an action plan, which was evaluated in December 2011 and judged to be satisfactory, subject to satisfactory implementation. This inspection was the first visit to monitor the progress the college has made in implementing its action plan.

Summary of the progress made in implementing the action plan

At the time of the last inspection in September 2011, the college had not ensured references for all staff were received prior to their appointment or, after their appointment had been confirmed, that each member of staff was medically fit. These checks are now much more rigorous. Health checks are made to ensure that all prospective employees are fit to perform their duties. References are taken up prior

to employment and identification checks, including the right to work in the United Kingdom, are carried out.

The previous inspection found that fire evacuation procedures were too infrequent. This monitoring visit found that fire evacuation procedures are now carried out at least every half-term. These are recorded with points for improvements noted. Since the last inspection, nine fire drills have been carried out and each has been properly recorded.

Arrangements to send copies of the inspection and boarding reports to every parent and carer were not in place at the time of the last inspection. The college has resolved this issue to ensure that parents and carers receive education and boarding inspection reports within five working days of publication.

In the previous inspection, boarders stated the range of activities particularly at weekends were too limited and did not always encourage girls to participate. The action plan proposed a strategic review of activities to improve the range of options on offer. Sporting and music clubs were to be made available on week day evenings and weekends. Some all girl activities were also planned. This monitoring visit found that leisure, sporting and cultural activities are much improved with a greater variety of options available to students. Some options, such as basketball, are aimed solely for girls, to encourage their increased participation. There are plans to appoint an activities co-ordinator to further increase the range of options available to students.

Potential safeguarding incidents were not recorded in sufficient detail at the time of the last inspection. This monitoring visit established that there are now improved systems for recording safeguarding concerns, with clear time lines and more detailed evidence included in reports. Training for staff has been reviewed and revised to cover issues such as solvent abuse and hate crime.

The inspection in September 2011 found that a small number of checks in relation to recruiting staff or host families had not been followed up effectively. Host families are now fully vetted and contracts relating to being a host family incorporate enhanced Criminal Record Bureau checks; safeguarding procedures are now routinely discussed with host families.

The college has fully responded to the concerns raised in the last inspection and, as a result, it now meets safeguarding requirements and the national minimum standards for boarding.

Compliance with regulatory requirements

The school has made good progress and now meets all regulatory requirements.

School details

School status	Independent		
Type of school	Independent College		
Date school opened	1977		
Age range of pupils	14–22 Years		
Gender of pupils	Mixed		
Number on roll (full-time pupils)	Boys:151	Girls: 154	Total:305
Number on roll (part-time pupils)	Boys:4	Girls:3	Total:7
Number of boarders	Boys:120	Girls:123	Total:243
Number of pupils with a statement of special educational needs	Boys:0	Girls:0	Total:0
Number of pupils who are looked after	Boys:0	Girls:0	Total:0
Annual fees (day pupils)	£10,200		
Annual fees (boarders)	£21,000-£25,000		
Address of school	Nazareth House Leicester Parade Northampton NN2 6AF		
Telephone number	01604 239995		
Email address	ec@bosworthcollege.com		
Headteacher	Elizabeth Carter		
Proprietor	Mark Broadway		