

# Bellerbys College London

Bounty House, Stowage, London, SE8 3DE

## Inspection dates

13 June 2013

## Reason for inspection

This unannounced inspection visit of the education provision was made at the request of the Department for Education to look at the quality of education, teaching and assessment to check that the college is making adequate provision to enable students to learn and make progress, whatever their age and aptitude. The progress made by the college in implementing a recommendation made in the report of the November 2011 inspection, concerning the checks made on the suitability of staff, was also checked.

## Conclusions

The college offers students a good curriculum that meets all statutory requirements; this includes a wide range of academic courses and opportunities for enrichment. The one-year GCSE courses include English, mathematics, science, history and art, and two-year A-level courses are available in a variety of subjects. The foundation programme, recognized for admission to undergraduate courses by some 50 of the college's 'partner' British universities, is a one-year accredited course in the student's chosen subject for study at university the following year, for example art, business, engineering, law, media or sciences. In addition, there is an English language preparation programme which develops students' proficiency in speaking, writing, reading and listening. The syllabuses provide good coverage of course requirements. There is a rich and well-supported programme of extra-curricular enrichment activities.

Provision for personal, health and social education is made in tutorials and follows the college's scheme of work. Students are supported in their university applications and enjoy extended access to a well-resourced library and good information technology resources. The college has established procedures in place to ensure that, where political issues are brought to the attention of the students, reasonably practicable steps are taken to offer a balanced presentation of opposing views. No meetings are permitted involving outside bodies, and any posters or advertisements are subject to approval by senior leaders before being displayed. Teachers are given advice and guidance about dealing with sensitive areas, such as freedom of speech in certain countries, and their planning is also monitored to check that partisan political views are not promoted.

Due to this visit taking place at the end of the college's term, there was limited opportunity to observe lessons. The evidence from this inspection visit indicates that the quality of teaching and assessment is good and that all the regulations are met. The lessons are well planned and carefully structured. Lessons proceed at a brisk pace, and teachers provide students with a good range of activities that maintained their interest and application. Teachers' subject knowledge is good and work is quickly adapted to meet students' learning styles and to address any misunderstandings, for example of subject vocabulary. The individual needs of students are supported in lessons. Students concentrate well, ask pertinent questions and help each other in answering the teacher's questions. Teachers

regularly check students' progress and use this to fine-tune their next steps in learning. Teachers manage classes well and make effective use of new technology to support students' learning.

The results from class work, homework and regular tests are carefully collated to inform half termly written reports and to identify underperformance or where additional help may be required. Students make good progress and most gain a place at their chosen university. The college reports that the majority of students gain grades A\* to C in their GCSEs and the highest grades in their A-level subjects. Also, as measured by the International English Language Testing System (IELTS), most students make good progress in English proficiency, with some making outstanding progress.

GCSE and A-level courses are marked externally; foundation courses are double marked internally and moderated across the four Bellerbys centres. The foundation courses are accredited by the University of Sussex and the diploma courses by the University of Lancaster. The academic board scrutinizes the papers of borderline students and, with regard to the IELTS assessments, advises a student who has not gained the required grade about what they need to do to improve. College staff liaise with partner universities where foundation course students have narrowly missed the grade specified in their offer.

The progress monitoring inspection visit in November 2011 judged that all the regulations for continued registration as an independent school were met. However, the report included a recommendation linked to a national minimum standard for boarding schools (then NMS 14.1) calling on the college to ensure that it operated safe recruitment procedures and vetted staff in line with the regulatory requirements, having regard to relevant guidance issued by the Secretary of State.

Scrutiny of the personnel files showed that all the required checks have been made and recorded for new members of staff. However, a number of instances were identified where the college has not undertaken and/or recorded the checks made on other staff, some of whom have been employed by the college for over 10 years. In particular, these relate to confirmation of the individual's qualifications, where required. There were also instances where the receipt of references and checks to verify the authenticity were not shown on the single central register.

## Compliance with regulatory requirements

### **The school requires improvement and must take action to meet The Education (Independent School Standards) (England) Regulations 2010 ('the Regulations'), and associated requirements**

Make arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils at the school that have regard to guidance issued by the Secretary of State by ensuring that the required checks are made and recorded on the suitability of staff.	7
For all appointments from 1 September 2003, ensure that appropriate checks have been carried out and completed to confirm each member of staff's qualifications, where appropriate.	19(2)(b)
Ensure that the checks in 19(2)(b) are completed before a person's appointment apart from where exemptions apply.	19(3)
For each member of staff appointed on or after 1 May 2007, ensure that the register shows that the following check was made, including the date on which each check was completed or the certificate obtained:	23(3)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- a check of relevant qualifications, where appropriate.</li> </ul>	
For each member of staff in appointed at any time before 1 May 2007, ensure that the register shows that the following check has been made, including the date on which each check was completed or the certificate obtained:	22(4)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- a check of relevant qualifications, where appropriate.</li> </ul>	

## Inspection team

Michael Best, Lead inspector

Additional Inspector

## Information about this school

- Bellerbys College in Greenwich is one of four colleges of this name in the United Kingdom, and is owned by Study Group, which owns 'English as a foreign language' schools and international colleges in the United Kingdom, Australia and the USA. This college was established in 1997 and moved to its current premises in 2004. Also on the site is Embassy CES, offering language training. The long-term aim of the college is to prepare students for admission to British universities.
- There are 516 students currently on roll, 215 females and 301 males, aged from 15 years upwards. This includes 25 students of compulsory school age and 90 post-16 students taking A-level courses. Most of the remaining students are undertaking foundation, diploma and English language courses prior to starting undergraduate courses in September 2013; a small number of older students are following programmes in preparation for studying for a higher degree.
- No student has a statement of special educational needs. All students are from overseas and represent 55 nationalities. Most students come from China, Vietnam and Russian-speaking countries. The college is non-selective, although to gain a place students are required to achieve minimum standards in English and in academic studies in their own country. All students are privately funded.
- The large majority of students are resident either at the McMillan Student Village, which is on the same site as the college, or in home-stay accommodation with host families.
- The last full inspection by Ofsted of the education provision was in February 2011. A monitoring inspection visit was made in November 2011 to check the progress the college had made in implementing its action plan to address the regulations that were not met at the earlier inspection.

*School details*

<b>Unique reference number</b>	134827
<b>Social care unique reference number</b>	SCO63056
<b>Inspection number</b>	424319
<b>DfE registration number</b>	203/6376
This inspection was conducted at the request of the registration authority for independent schools. It was carried out under section 162A of the Education Act 2002, as amended by schedule 8 of the Education Act 2005.	
<b>Type of school</b>	Independent
<b>School status</b>	Independent day and boarding tutorial college
<b>Age range of pupils</b>	15–25
<b>Gender of pupils</b>	Mixed
<b>Number of pupils on the school roll</b>	516
<b>Number of part time pupils</b>	0
<b>Number of boarders on roll</b>	110
<b>Proprietor</b>	Bellerbys Education Services
<b>Chair</b>	N/a
<b>Principal</b>	Andy Quin
<b>Date of previous school inspection</b>	28 November 2011
<b>Annual fees (day pupils)</b>	£11,000 to £19,000
<b>Annual fees (boarders)</b>	£18,000 to £28,000
<b>Telephone number</b>	020 8694 7000
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