

# Regent College

Sai House, 167 Imperial Drive, Harrow, Middlesex, HA2 7JP

## Inspection dates

20 June 2013

## Reason for inspection

This integrated education and welfare unannounced emergency visit was made at the request of the Department for Education in response to complaints received about the quality of education; the welfare health and safety of students; the suitability of staff and the accommodation of students in unregistered boarding provision.

## Conclusions

The Department had received concerns about the progress made by students and the quality of the physical education curriculum. Direct comparisons about students' achievement cannot be made reliably from one year to another due to the relatively small number of students and variations in their starting points. The available evidence indicates that students make good progress in learning at the college and the proportion of students gaining the higher grades in public examinations is at least in line with, and often in excess of, that found nationally. In the teaching observed during this inspection visit, teachers made good use of questions to focus students' thinking and consistently encouraged them to use the correct subject terminology in shaping their answers. Teachers gave students sufficient information to help them extend their thinking and come to higher-level conclusions. Students were attentive and keen to answer and ask questions.

The provision of the physical education curriculum is made by an outside agency under the supervision of the headteacher. By choice, many post-16 students join those of compulsory school age for these weekly sessions that take place at a nearby sports field. The physical education curriculum provided includes a wide range of activities, including aerobic exercise and small-team games. The headteacher monitors the quality of the provision on a regular basis. Since the last inspection, the college has created a small outdoor basketball court which students are able to use during breaks and lunchtimes. The provision for physical education is satisfactory, except that the college does not meet the regulation regarding the provision of changing facilities and showers.

Concerns were expressed that the college's information and communication technology (ICT) resources were outdated and regularly inoperative. These concerns are not supported by the evidence from this inspection visit. Two ICT suites were seen in use and other resources were in use. The college has recently upgraded its system servers and internet provision. The leadership report that some teething difficulties have taken a little time to resolve but all is now working efficiently.

Various issues regarding the management of students' behaviour were raised with the Department. These included an inconsistent approach to ensuring students' good behaviour, promoting students' dress code and dining arrangements. The college's behaviour policy meets requirements and is consistently applied. There has been one

serious incident in the past twelve months, leading to the permanent exclusion of a student. This unannounced inspection visit confirms that the dress code is consistently implemented. The behaviour of students on and off the premises during the college day is closely monitored. It is very good. The college has a small dining room where students can sit to eat the food they bring with them. On the day of the visit, the dining room was in a clean and tidy state, with bins available for discarded packaging. There was no sign of food being stored or consumed in other parts of the premises.

Concerns were raised about the appointment of staff; these mostly relate to employment matters which lie outside the scope of the independent school regulations. The single central record of checks on staff was scrutinised on this visit and found to be correctly completed. The record includes the qualifications of teaching staff, many of whom have higher degrees and teaching qualifications in addition to first degrees. The failings in the school's procedures for checking and recording the suitability of the staff and proprietors, identified at the time of the previous emergency inspection visit, have been addressed.

Concerns were expressed about the way in which the premises and accommodation are maintained. No such concerns were evident during this inspection visit. No health and safety issues were noted and the accommodation was clean and tidy throughout. One set of student washrooms has already been refurbished to a high standard, and these are well maintained. Contractors have just started the refurbishment of another set of washrooms. Facilities for staff, visitors and disabled people are suitable. The college meets the latest regulations regarding the provision of hot and cold water supplies.

This inspection visit finds that the college has implemented its complaints procedure correctly. There have been no formal complaints in the latest reporting period.

The college is not registered to provide boarding accommodation. However, accommodation for a small number of students has been arranged by the school, at the instigation of parents and through the school's International Student Advisor. This arrangement comes under the definition of lodgings (long term) as described in national minimum standard number 20 for boarding schools. The Principal acknowledges that this arrangement implies the provision of boarding facilities. All relevant parties have already been made aware that at the end of this college year, all current lodging arrangements will cease. The college intends to continue to be registered as a day school only.

### **Compliance with regulatory requirements and national minimum standards for boarding schools**

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

Ensure that suitable changing accommodation and showers are provided for 23(A)(1)(c) students aged 11 years or over at the start of the school year who receive physical education.

#### **The school must meet the following national minimum standards (NMS) for boarding schools**

The provision is unregistered for boarding. The college should ensure that the current provision of lodgings for students ceases at the end of this term. NMS 20

## Inspection team

Michael Best, Lead inspector

Additional Inspector

Seka Graovac

Social Care Inspector

## Information about this school

- Regent College is a non-selective, co-educational college situated in Harrow in the north-western suburbs of London. It is housed in a modern building formerly used as commercial offices. The college opened in 1998 and is registered as a day school for 11–19-year-olds.
- There are currently 116 male and female students between the ages of 14 and 19 years on roll. Seven of these students, all post-16, attend on a part-time basis. Provision for students of compulsory age is distinctive and, in most respects, separate from the older students. The college's mission statement emphasises its aim of 'unlocking the potential of each individual student'.
- The college was inspected in January 2009 when it met all the independent school regulations and provided a good quality of education for its students. An emergency inspection visit in October 2010, made in response to a complaint about the college's staff recruitment procedures, found that a number of regulations relating to the suitability of the staff and proprietors were not met.
- Since the last inspection visit, a headteacher has been appointed to take overall responsibility for teaching and learning.

## School details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	134891
<b>Social care unique reference number</b>	Not registered
<b>Inspection number</b>	424526
<b>DfE registration number</b>	310/6080
<p>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.</p> <p>The inspection of boarding provision was carried out under the Children Act 1989, as amended by the Care Standards Act 2000, having regard to the national minimum standards for boarding schools.</p>	
<b>Type of school</b>	Secondary and sixth form college
<b>School status</b>	Independent School
<b>Age range of pupils</b>	11–19 years
<b>Gender of pupils</b>	Mixed
<b>Number of pupils on the school roll</b>	116
<b>Number of part time pupils</b>	7
<b>Number of boarders on roll</b>	3
<b>Proprietor</b>	RTC Education Ltd
<b>Chair</b>	Selva Pankaj
<b>Headteacher</b>	Stephen Hurl
<b>Date of previous school inspection</b>	15 October 2010
<b>Annual fees (day pupils)</b>	£9,000 pro-rata
<b>Annual fees (boarders)</b>	£9,000 pro-rata plus accommodation charges paid to landlord
<b>Telephone number</b>	020 8966 9900
<b>Fax number</b>	020 8429 5639
<b>Email address</b>	<a href="mailto:selva@regentcollege.uk.com">selva@regentcollege.uk.com</a>

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