

Abacus College

Victory House, 116-120 London Road, Oxford OX3 9AX.

Inspection dates

17 September 2013

Context of the inspection

This inspection was undertaken 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. The last inspection of Abacus College took place on 1 and 2 May 2013. The action plan was accepted on 5 July 2013. This is the first visit to the school to follow up its progress.

Summary of the progress made in implementing the action plan

Regulations not met

Quality of curriculum

The college has not ensured that all curriculum areas are supported by appropriate plans and schemes of work. This is because the schemes of work for art, drama and physical education (PE) lack sufficient detail for immediate implementation should the need arise. In contrast, the college has made good progress with its plans and schemes of work for history. The planned weekly timetable for students of compulsory school age is appropriate and covers all the required areas of learning.

Good progress has been made in implementing the college's action plan related to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of students. There is an appropriately planned programme of personal, social and health education (PSHE) to promote personal development.

Good progress has been made in preparing students for adult life. Plans have been initiated to ensure all students are more involved in the community life of the college and Headington. This includes voluntary work in a local charity shop and having a greater voice through the imminent development of an elected student council. The adaptation of a politics course has the capacity to give all students the opportunity to learn about life in Britain and to learn about mutual respect and tolerance in a coherent way.

Welfare, health and safety of students

The college has not ensured that the single central record (SCR) shows that all of the appropriate checks have been made on all staff. Progress has been too slow on obtaining confirmation on all staff who have worked abroad of good conduct from the police service in the country where they were residing. However, good progress has been made in ensuring that all staff have either had a criminal record check or have not been barred from working with children whilst residing in the United Kingdom. This is now effectively recorded on an updated SCR and the safer recruitment policy has been updated to reflect

the additional checks needed.

Good progress has been made in ensuring all staff have received appropriate training in child protection. The college has also increased the number of trained first aiders and ensured that the first aid policy has all the information required.

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

Ensure that all curriculum areas are supported by appropriate plans and schemes of work. 2(1)

Ensure that the curriculum for compulsory school age pupils gives experience of the humanities and aesthetic and creative activities. 2(2)(a)

Ensure that the college can verify, where appropriate, that staff who have lived outside the United Kingdom are suitable to work with children. 19(2)(d)

Ensure that the single central register shows that appropriate checks have been made on all appointed staff after 1 May 2007. 22(3)

Inspection team

Steffi Penny HMI, Lead inspector

Her Majesty's Inspector

Information about this school

- Abacus College opened in March 2012. It is registered for 160 students aged from 13 to 18 years of age.
- There are currently 12 students on roll..
- The college is located in Headington, which is an area of Oxford.
- Nearly all students are from overseas and speak English as an additional language.
- Students come from a wide range of countries.
- No students have a statement of special educational needs.
- Most students lodge with host families and a few with foster families.
- The college aims to provide students with appropriate qualifications to access courses in universities in the United Kingdom.
- The college recently moved to new premises and had a change of Principal a month ago. It uses the additional provisions at the local sports centre and local parks.

School details

Unique reference number	138363
Inspection number	429214
DfE registration number	931/6007
<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>	
Type of school	Secondary
School status	Independent School
Age range of pupils	13–18
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number of pupils on the school roll	12
Number of part time pupils	None
Proprietor	Dr Roy Carrington
Headteacher	Dr Paul Quinn
Date of previous school inspection	1-2 May 2013
Annual fees (day pupils)	£12,500 - £14,500
Telephone number	01865 240111
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Email address	info@abacuscollege.co.uk

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