

Bellerbys College London

Bounty House, Stowage, London, SE8 3DE

Inspection date

16 October 2013

Context of the inspection

The last full inspection by Ofsted of the education provision was in February 2011. A monitoring visit was made in November 2011 to check the progress that the college had made in implementing its action plan to address the regulations that were not met. An unannounced inspection visit in June 2013 checked the progress made by the college in implementing the requirements of the November 2011 inspection concerning checks made on the suitability of staff. The inspection visit of June 2013 also looked at the quality of education, teaching and assessment. As a result of that inspection visit, the college was required to make further improvements to its checks on the suitability of staff. The college drew up an action plan for improvement in response to the report of the visit. The plan was evaluated as satisfactory in August 2013. This latest inspection visit was made to judge the college's progress in implementing that action plan and, at the request of the Department for Education, to examine the quality of education, teaching and assessment.

Summary of the progress made in implementing the action plan

Good progress

The inspection of June 2013 found a number of instances where the college had not undertaken and/or recorded the checks made on staff. In particular, these related to confirmation of the individual's qualifications, where required. There were also instances where information about the receipt of references and checks to verify the authenticity of these were not shown on the single central register.

The college has made good progress in implementing the action plan to meet the regulations which were failed at the emergency inspection in June 2013. The college has now checked all staff files. All staff with missing records supplied evidence of qualifications. Copies of these qualifications and certificates have been taken and the date on which the check was completed has been recorded in the staff file and on the single central register. References have been checked and the date of the check recorded in the staff file and on the single central register. All appropriate checks have been made, and recorded prior to appointment, for staff employed since the previous inspection.

At the request of the Department for Education, this monitoring inspection visit also examined the quality of education, teaching and assessment.

The college offers a good curriculum which meets statutory requirements. It includes a wide range of academic courses matched to the age and aptitudes of the students. A good range of extra-curricular enrichment activities is offered and tutorials provide a suitable range of personal, health and social education. Students achieve equally well across subjects. The majority of post-16 students progress to British universities. Students are well supported in their university applications and have opportunities to attend a range of open days and information sessions. Students currently applying for university have researched their chosen courses and universities carefully, and have a very good

understanding of the process, including writing their personal statements. Students of compulsory school age taking GCSEs or English language preparation courses are able to progress to higher-level courses in the college or at one of the other colleges owned by Study Group.

The evidence from this inspection monitoring visit indicates that the quality of teaching and assessment is good. Teachers use their good subject knowledge to structure lessons that closely match the requirements of the different courses. As a result, students' learning moves on briskly. Teachers have a good understanding of the linguistic and cultural needs of students, many of whom are new to the country. Students are extremely well motivated and keen to learn. Occasionally, when students' conceptual understanding moves on quickly, they find it difficult to express their ideas fluently in English. They develop a range of personal strategies to develop their language skills and are well supported by the college and the use of new technology.

Assessment regularly informs students of their progress. Tests and practice papers are used frequently in lessons and for homework. Students value these opportunities to become familiar with the British examination system. GCSE and A-level courses follow course requirements and are marked externally. The Foundation courses are developed within the college and shared across the Bellerby colleges to prepare students for study at British universities. Course content is matched to aspects of AS- and A-level study programmes and adapted to develop knowledge skills and understanding at a fast pace. The courses are marked internally and moderated across the four Bellerby centres and accredited by the University of Lancaster. International English Language Testing System (IELTS) tests are used to assess students' proficiency in English in order to place them on the most appropriate courses.

Inspection team

Anne Wellham, Lead inspector

Her Majesty's Inspector

Information about this school

- Bellerbys College in Greenwich is one of four colleges of this name in the UK, and is owned by Study Group, which owns 'English as a foreign language' schools and international colleges in the UK, 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, an associated institution offering language training. The aim of Bellerbys College is to prepare students for admission to British universities.
- There are 353 students currently on roll aged from 14 years upwards. This includes 18 students of compulsory school age and 57 post-16 taking A-level courses. Most of the remaining students are taking Foundation, diploma and English language courses prior to starting undergraduate courses; 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 50 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.
- There are a total of 110 boarders. 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.

School details

Unique reference number	134827
Inspection number	492658
DfE registration number	203/6736
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.	
Type of school	Independent
School status	Independent day and boarding tutorial college
Age range of pupils	14–25
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number of pupils on the school roll	535
Number of part time pupils	0
Number of boarders on roll	110
Proprietor	Bellerbys Education Services
Chair	N/A
Principal	Andy Quin
Date of previous school inspection	28 November 2011
Annual fees (day pupils)	£11,000–£19,000
Annual fees (boarders)	£18,000–£28,000
Telephone number	020 8694 7000
Fax number	020 8694 7001
Email address	aquin@studygroup.com

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